

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

THE WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS (DESIGNATION OF BODIES) ORDER (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2016 S.R. 2016 No. 87

1. General

- 1.1 This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by the Department of Finance and Personnel and is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.
- 1.2 This memorandum contains information for the Departmental Committee.

2. Powers and Assembly control

- 2.1 This Order is made under the Government Resources and Accounts Act (Northern Ireland) 2001 [2001 (c.6)] and is subject to negative resolution.

3. The “21 day Rule”

- 3.1 This Order was made on 1st March 2016 and comes into operation on 1st April 2016. The 21 day rule has not been breached.

4. Legislative Background

- 4.1 The legislation is being made to designate bodies, for the financial year ended 31 March 2016, for the purposes of section 15 of the Government Resources and Accounts Act (Northern Ireland) 2001. The designation enables the Department to require those bodies to provide financial information in relation to that financial year and consequently an Order must be made annually for the relevant accounting period. The Department of Finance and Personnel intends to pass the information provided by bodies designated in the Schedule to this Order, to HM Treasury for use in the preparation of the Whole of Government Accounts (WGA).

Like departmental resource accounts, WGA will be produced on an accruals basis and will use generally accepted accounting principles, adapted where necessary for government. These consolidated accounts will show the position of the UK Public Sector as if it were a single entity, by eliminating all significant transactions between public sector entities. The purpose of eliminating such transactions is to remove intra-group transactions that would otherwise misstate the financial position of the single entity i.e. the UK Public Sector.

5. Policy background

- 5.1 The list of designated bodies in the Schedule to the Order has been agreed in consultation with departments and the NI Audit Office. For 2016, there have been 8 additions:

Education Authority
Belfast Metropolitan College
Northern Regional College
North West Regional College
South Eastern Regional College
Southern Regional College
South West College
Stranmillis University College

Thirty- three bodies have also been removed from the list:

Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission
Belfast Education and Library Board
North Eastern Education and Library Board
South Eastern Education and Library Board
Southern Education and Library Board
Western Education and Library Board
Staff Commission for Education and Library Boards
Antrim Borough Council
Ards Borough Council
Armagh City and District Council
Ballymena Borough Council
Ballymoney Borough Council
Banbridge District Council
Belfast City Council
Carrickfergus Borough Council
Castlereagh Borough Council
Coleraine Borough Council
Cookstown District Council
Craigavon Borough Council
Derry City Council
Down District Council

Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council
Fermanagh District Council
Larne Borough Council
Limavady Borough Council
Lisburn City Council
Magherafelt District Council
Moyle District Council
Newry and Mourne District Council
Newtownabbey Borough Council
North Down Borough Council
Omagh District Council
Strabane District Council

Minor amendments have been made to the names of eight bodies:

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
Belfast City Council
Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council
Derry and Strabane City Council
Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council
Mid and East Antrim Borough Council
North Down and Ards Borough Council

6. Description of provisions

- 6.1 Regulation 1 contains the citation and commencement provisions.
- 6.2 Regulation 2 designates the bodies listed in the Schedule to the Order in respect of the financial year ending with 31st March 2016.
- 6.3 The Schedule lists the bodies designated for 2015/16 for the purposes of providing financial information for that financial year. This information will be used by HM Treasury in the preparation of the Whole of Government Accounts (WGA).

7. Territorial Extent and Application

- 7.1 This Order applies to Northern Ireland only.

8. Equality Impact

8.1 There are no equality impact implications.

9. Regulatory Impact

9.1 The order has no direct impact on Departments and their bodies.

10. Financial Impact

10.1 The order has no direct financial impact on Departments and their bodies.

11. European Convention on Human Rights

11.1 As the Order is subject to negative resolution procedure and does not amend primary legislation, no statement is required.

12. Contact

12.1 Alison Caldwell at the Department of Finance and Personnel Tel: 028 91 858 249 or e-mail: Alison.Caldwell@dfpni.gov.uk can answer any queries regarding this Order.