Northern Ireland Act 1998

1998 CHAPTER 47

PART VI

FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Consolidated Fund

59   Payments out of Fund without appropriation Act

(1) If an Act is not passed at least three working days before the end of a financial year ("year 1") authorising the issue out of the Consolidated Fund of Northern Ireland of sums for the service of the next financial year ("year 2")—

(a)   the authorised officer of the Department of Finance and Personnel may, subject to any Act subsequently passed, authorise the issue of sums out of that Fund for the service of year 2; and

(b)   the sums so issued shall be appropriated for such services and purposes as the officer may direct.

(2) The aggregate of the sums issued under subsection (1) for the service of year 2 shall not exceed 75 per cent of the total amount appropriated by Act for the service of year 1.

(3) If an Act is not passed before the end of July in any financial year authorising the issue out of the Consolidated Fund of Northern Ireland of sums for the service of the year—

(a)   the authorised officer of the Department of Finance and Personnel may, subject to any Act subsequently passed, authorise the issue of sums out of that Fund for the service of the year; and

(b)   the sums so issued shall be appropriated for such services and purposes as the officer may direct.

(4) The aggregate of the sums issued under subsection (3), and (where applicable) the sums issued under subsection (1), for the service of any financial year shall not exceed 95 per cent of the total amount appropriated by Act for the service of the preceding financial year.

(5) In this section—

"Act" means an Act of the Assembly or, in relation to any time before the appointed day, an Order in Council under Schedule 1 to the Northern Ireland Act 1974;

"authorised officer", in relation to the Department of Finance and Personnel, means the Permanent Secretary or such other officer as may be nominated by him for the purpose.