



Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2003

2003 CHAPTER 6

PART 1

POLICING

Police functions and service

23 Appointment of constables with special policing skills

- (1) The Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000 (c. 32) is amended as set out in subsections (2) to (5).
- (2) In section 36 (appointments to the Police Service of Northern Ireland) after subsection (3) (training requirements for persons appointed to rank of constable) insert—
 - “(4) Subsection (3) does not apply to a person appointed in pursuance of an authorisation under section 47A(1).”
- (3) After section 47 insert—

“47A Appointments to Police Service of Northern Ireland in special circumstances

- (1) The Board may if requested to do so by the Chief Constable authorise the appointment to the rank of constable in the Police Service of Northern Ireland of a specified number of persons—
 - (a) who have a specified policing skill, but
 - (b) who have not complied with the requirements in paragraphs (a) and (b) of section 36(3).
- (2) The Board shall not give an authorisation under subsection (1) in relation to persons who have a particular policing skill unless it is satisfied—
 - (a) that the requirements of subsection (3) are met;

- (b) that any further requirements which are specified by it under subsection (4) and which apply in relation to the giving of the authorisation are met.
- (3) The requirements are—
 - (a) that there is a need for more persons who have the policing skill to be appointed to the rank of constable in the Police Service of Northern Ireland;
 - (b) that the need cannot be met by the appointment of persons who have complied with the requirements in paragraphs (a) and (b) of section 36(3).
- (4) The Board may specify further requirements which apply in relation to the giving of an authorisation under subsection (1).
- (5) Any requirements specified under subsection (4) may apply in relation to the giving of all authorisations under subsection (1) or to the giving of a particular authorisation or description of authorisation.
- (6) In this section “specified” means specified by the Board.”
- (4) In paragraph 17(4) of Schedule 1 (procedure for Board decisions) for “paragraph 18” substitute “paragraphs 17A and 18”.
- (5) After paragraph 17 of Schedule 1 insert—

“Authorisations under section 47A(1)

17A The Board shall not give an authorisation under section 47A(1) unless a proposal to do so has been approved by each member of the Board present and voting on the question at a meeting of the Board.”
- (6) The preceding provisions of this section expire at the end of a period of two years starting on the day on which this Act is passed.
- (7) The Secretary of State may by order amend subsection (6) by substituting “four years” for “two years”.
- (8) An order under subsection (7) may be made only with the prior authorisation of the Board.
- (9) The Board shall not give an authorisation under subsection (8) unless a proposal to do so has been approved by each member of the Board present and voting on the question at a meeting of the Board.
- (10) In paragraph 17(4) of Schedule 1 to the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000 (c. 32) (procedure for Board decisions) after “18” insert “and section 23(9) of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2003”.
- (11) An order under subsection (7) may not be made after the end of the period of two years specified in subsection (6).