

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO
THE PUBLIC PROCESSIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) ACT 1998
(PROCEDURAL RULES) ORDER 2005

2005 No. 903

1. This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by the Northern Ireland Office and is laid before Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

2. Description

2.1. The instrument brings into force on 15 April 2005 the revised procedural rules prepared by the Northern Ireland Parades Commission which were laid before Parliament on 24 March 2005.

3. Matters of special interest to the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments.

3.1. None.

4. Legislative Background

4.1. The order is made under paragraph 8 of Schedule 2 to the Public Processions (Northern Ireland) Act 1998, which enables the Secretary of State to bring into force the Parades Commission's procedural rules after they have been laid before Parliament.

4.2. It is being laid with:

the Public Order (Prescribed Forms) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005,

the Public Processions (Northern Ireland) Act 1998 (Guidelines) Order 2005, and

the Public Processions (Northern Ireland) Act 1998 (Code of Conduct) Order 2005

all of which concern documents revised by the Parades Commission following changes to their powers made by the Public Processions (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 2005

5. Extent

5.1. The order applies to Northern Ireland.

6. European Convention on Human Rights

6.1. Not applicable

7. Policy Background

7.1. The Public Processions (Northern Ireland) Act 1998, under which the Parades Commission regulates public processions in Northern Ireland, was amended by the Public Processions (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 2005. That order gave the Commission power to impose conditions on supporters of a public procession and power to impose conditions on public protests.

7.2. The Parades Commission is required to keep under review a set of rules dealing with the practice and procedure they and people dealing with them must follow in mediating between parties to disputes about processions and issuing determinations on proposed public processions and protest meetings.

7.3. The Commission have revised these rules to take account of the changes made by the amending Order.

8. Impact

8.1. A regulatory impact assessment has not been prepared for this instrument as it has no impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies. There is no impact on the public sector.

9. Contact

9.1. David McCann in the Northern Ireland Office –
David.McCann@nio.x.gsi.gov.uk can answer queries on this instrument.