



# Northern Ireland Constitution Act 1973

## CHAPTER 36

### NORTHERN IRELAND CONSTITUTION ACT 1973

#### PART I

##### PRELIMINARY

###### *Status of Northern Ireland*

- 1 Status of Northern Ireland as part of United Kingdom.

###### *Devolution orders*

- 2 Initial devolution of legislative and executive responsibility.
- 3 Alterations in devolved responsibilities.

#### PART II

##### LEGISLATIVE POWERS AND EXECUTIVE AUTHORITIES

###### *Legislative powers*

- 4 Measures of Northern Ireland Assembly.
- 5 Secretary of State's consent for proposed Measures dealing with excepted or reserved matters.
- 6 Parliamentary control of Measures dealing with excepted or reserved matters.

###### *Executive authorities*

- 7 Executive authorities in Northern Ireland.
- 8 The Northern Ireland Executive.
- 9 Remuneration and pensions of members of Northern Ireland Executive etc.

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Northern Ireland Constitution Act 1973. (See end of Document for details)*

---

- 10 Attorney General for Northern Ireland.
- 11 Agency arrangements between United Kingdom and Northern Ireland departments.

#### *Relations with Republic of Ireland*

- 12 Consultation, agreements and arrangements with Republic of Ireland.

#### *Financial provisions*

- 13 Consolidated Fund of Northern Ireland.
- 14 Proceedings in Assembly for imposing charge on public funds or for imposing taxation.
- 15 Payment to Northern Ireland of share of United Kingdom taxes.
- 16 Grants to Northern Ireland out of moneys provided by Parliament.

### PART III

#### PREVENTION OF RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL DISCRIMINATION

- 17 Discrimination in legislation.
- 18 Special procedure for determining validity of legislation.
- 19 Discrimination by public authorities.
- 20 The Standing Advisory Commission on Human Rights.
- 21 Unlawful oaths, undertakings and declarations.
- 22 Removal of restrictions on investigation into maladministration.
- 23 Interpretation and supplemental.

### PART IV

#### THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY

- 24 Presiding officer and Clerk of the Assembly.
- 25 Procedure.
- 26 Privileges, remuneration, etc.
- 27 Dissolution and prorogation.
- 28 Constituencies and number of members.
- 29 Elections and franchise.
- 30 .....

### PART V

#### MISCELLANEOUS AND SUPPLEMENTARY

- 31 Abolition of Parliament of Northern Ireland.
- 32 Abolition of office of Governor and provisions as to Privy Council of Northern Ireland.
- 33 Preservation of pension rights of former members of Parliament of Northern Ireland and former Ministers.
- 34 Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland.
- 35 Crown Solicitor for Northern Ireland.
- 36 Provisions as to other Northern Ireland officers.
- 37 Provisions as to Joint Exchequer Board and other financial matters.
- 38 Power to legislate by Order in Council for certain matters relating to Northern Ireland.
- 39 Power to legislate by Order in Council for purposes consequential on this Act or on Orders under s. 3.

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Northern Ireland Constitution Act 1973. (See end of Document for details)*

---

- 40 General adaptation of references to institutions and offices abolished by this Act.
- 41 Repeals.
- 42 Saving for existing laws.
- 43 Short title, interpretation and commencement.

## SCHEDULES

### SCHEDULE 1 — Polls for Purposes of Section 1

- 1 The Secretary of State may by order direct the holding...
- 2 Any order under this Schedule directing the holding of a...
- 3 The power to make orders under this Schedule includes power...

### SCHEDULE 2 — Excepted Matters

- 1 The Crown, including the succession to the Crown and a...
- 2 The Parliament of the United Kingdom; parliamentary elections, including the...
- 3 International relations, including treaties, the making of peace or war...
- 4 The armed forces of the Crown but not any matter...
- 5 Dignities and titles of honour.
- 6 Treason and treason felony but not powers of arrest or...
- 7 Nationality; immigration; aliens as such.
- 8 Taxes for the time being levied under any law applying...
- 9 The appointment and removal of judges of the Supreme Court...
- 10 The appointment and office of the Director and deputy Director...
- 11 Elections, including the franchise, in respect of the Northern Ireland...
- 12 Coinage, legal tender and bank notes.
- 13 The National Savings Bank.
- 14 Special powers and other provisions for dealing with terrorism or...
- 15 Without prejudice to paragraphs 10 and 11 above, any matter...

### SCHEDULE 3 — Minimum Reserved Matters on Appointed Day

- 1 Any such property as is mentioned in paragraph 1(b) of...
- 2 All matters, other than those specified in paragraph 9 of...
- 3 Without prejudice to paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 below, the...
- 4 The following matters— (a) the criminal law, including the creation...
- 5 The establishment, organisation and control of the Royal Ulster Constabulary...
- 6 Firearms and explosives.
- 7 Disqualification for membership of the Northern Ireland Assembly; privileges, powers...
- 8 The exercise of legislative powers so far as required for...
- 9 Trade with any place outside the United Kingdom but not—...
- 10 Navigation, including merchant shipping, but not harbours or inland waters....
- 11 The foreshore and the sea bed and subsoil and their...
- 12 Civil aviation but not aerodromes.
- 13 Postal services, including . . . the issue, transmission and...
- 13A Telecommunications.
- 14 Wireless telegraphy, and the provision of programme services (within the...
- 15 Domicile.

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Northern Ireland Constitution Act 1973. (See end of Document for details)*

---

- 16 Nuclear installations.
- 17 Trade marks, designs, copyright and patent rights.
- 18 Units of measurement and United Kingdom primary standards.
- 19 Oaths, undertakings in lieu of oaths and declarations other than...
- 20 .....
- 21 Civil defence.
- 22 The Emergency Powers Act (Northern Ireland) 1926 or any enactment...

SCHEDULE 4 — Form of Oath or Affirmation under Section 8

SCHEDULE 5 — General Adaptation of References to Institutions and Offices  
Abolished by this Act

- 1 (1) Any reference to an Act or enactment of the...
- 2 (1) Any reference to moneys provided by the Parliament of...
- 3 (1) Any reference to a resolution of the Senate or...
- 4 (1) Any reference to the Governor of Northern Ireland, as...
- 5 Any reference to the Prime Minister of Northern Ireland shall,...
- 6 Any reference to the Executive Committee for Northern Ireland shall...
- 7 (1) Any reference to a Minister of Northern Ireland identified...
- 8 (1) Any reference to a specified Ministry of Northern Ireland...

SCHEDULE 6 — Repeals

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Northern Ireland Constitution Act 1973.