



2008 CHAPTER 12

PART 6

**APPLICATION OF PROPERTY CY-PRÈS AND ASSISTANCE AND
SUPERVISION OF CHARITIES BY COURT AND COMMISSION**

Additional powers of Commission

Power to give directions about dormant bank accounts of charities

48.—(1) Where the Commission—

- (a) is informed by a relevant institution—
 - (i) that it holds one or more accounts in the name of or on behalf of a particular charity (“the relevant charity”), and
 - (ii) that the account, or (if it so holds two or more accounts) each of the accounts, is dormant, and
- (b) is unable, after making reasonable inquiries, to locate that charity or any of its trustees,

it may give a direction under subsection (2).

(2) A direction under this subsection is a direction which—

- (a) requires the institution concerned to transfer the amount, or (as the case may be) the aggregate amount, standing to the credit of the relevant charity in the account or accounts in question to such other charity as is specified in the direction in accordance with subsection (3); or
- (b) requires the institution concerned to transfer to each of two or more other charities so specified in the direction such part of that amount or aggregate amount as is there specified in relation to that charity.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, Section 48. (See end of Document for details)

(3) The Commission may specify in a direction under subsection (2) such other charity or charities as it considers appropriate, having regard, in a case where the purposes of the relevant charity are known to the Commission, to those purposes and to the purposes of the other charity or charities; but the Commission shall not so specify any charity unless it has received from the charity trustees confirmation that those trustees are willing to accept the amount proposed to be transferred to the charity.

(4) Any amount received by a charity by virtue of this section shall be received by the charity on terms that—

- (a) it shall be held and applied by the charity for the purposes of the charity, but
- (b) it shall, as property of the charity, nevertheless be subject to any restrictions on expenditure to which it was subject as property of the relevant charity.

(5) Where—

- (a) the Commission has been informed as mentioned in subsection (1)(a) by any relevant institution, and
- (b) before any transfer is made by the institution in pursuance of a direction under subsection (2), the institution has, by reason of any circumstances, cause to believe that the account, or (as the case may be) any of the accounts, held by it in the name of or on behalf of the relevant charity is no longer dormant,

the institution shall forthwith notify those circumstances in writing to the Commission; and, if it appears to the Commission that the account or accounts in question is or are no longer dormant, they shall revoke any direction under subsection (2) which has previously been given by them to the institution with respect to the relevant charity.

(6) The receipt of any charity trustees or trustee for a charity in respect of any amount received from a relevant institution by virtue of this section shall be complete discharge of the institution in respect of that amount.

(7) No obligation as to secrecy or other restriction on disclosure (however imposed) shall preclude a relevant institution from disclosing any information to the Commission for the purpose of enabling them to discharge their functions under this section.

(8) For the purposes of this section—

- (a) an account is dormant if no transaction, other than—
 - (i) a transaction consisting in a payment into the account, or
 - (ii) a transaction which the institution holding the account has itself caused to be effected,

has been effected in relation to the account within the period of 5 years immediately preceding the date when the Commission is informed as mentioned in paragraph (a) of subsection (1);

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- (b) “relevant institution” means—
- (i) a person who has permission under [^{F1}Part 4A] of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (c. 8) to accept deposits,
 - (ii) an EEA firm of the kind mentioned in paragraph 5(b) of Schedule 3 to that Act which has permission under paragraph 15 of that Schedule (as a result of qualifying for authorisation under paragraph 12(1) of that Schedule) to accept deposits,
- and this definition must be read with section 22 of and Schedule 2 to that Act and any relevant order under that section; and
- (c) references to the transfer of any amount to a charity are references to its transfer—
- (i) to the charity trustees, or
 - (ii) to any trustee for the charity,
- as the charity trustees may determine (and any reference to any amount received by a charity shall be construed accordingly).

(9) For the purpose of determining the matters in respect of which any of the powers conferred by section 22 or 23 may be exercised it shall be assumed that the Commission has no functions under this section in relation to accounts to which this subsection applies (with the result that, for example, a relevant institution shall not, in connection with the functions of the Commission under this section, be required under section 22(3)(a) to [^{F2}provide] any statements, or answer any question or inquiries, with respect to any such accounts held by the institution).

This subsection applies to accounts which are dormant accounts by virtue of subsection (8)(a) but would not be such accounts if sub-paragraph (i) of that provision were omitted.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 48(8)(b)(i) substituted (1.4.2013) by [Financial Services Act 2012 \(c. 21\)](#), s. 122(3), [Sch. 18 para. 143\(2\)](#) (with [Sch. 20](#)); S.I. 2013/423, art. 3, Sch.
 - F2** Word in s. 48(9) substituted (19.1.2013) by [Charities Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2013 \(c. 3\)](#), s. 10(1), [Sch. 1 para. 6\(1\)\(c\)](#)
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Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 48 modified (18.2.2011) by [Charities Act 2008 \(Transitional Provision\) Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2011 \(S.R. 2011/12\)](#), [art. 2](#), Sch.

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, Section 48.