



2009 CHAPTER 1

The Regional Agency

Functions of the Regional Agency

- 13.—**(1) The Regional Agency shall exercise on behalf of the Department—
- (a) the health improvement functions mentioned in subsection (2); and
 - (b) the health protection functions mentioned in subsection (3).
- (2) The health improvement functions are—
- (a) developing and providing, or securing the provision of, programmes and initiatives designed to secure the improvement of the health and social well-being of, and reduce health inequalities between, people in Northern Ireland; and
 - (b) health promotion, including in particular enabling people in Northern Ireland to increase control over and improve their health and social well-being.
- (3) The health protection functions are the protection of the community (or any part of the community) against—
- (a) communicable disease, in particular by the prevention or control of such disease;
 - (b) other dangers to health and social well-being, including dangers arising on environmental or public health grounds or arising out of emergencies.
- (4) For the purpose of the exercise of the health improvement or health protection functions the Regional Agency may—
- (a) engage in or commission research;
 - (b) obtain and analyse data and other information;

- (c) provide laboratory and other technical and clinical services;
 - (d) provide training in relation to matters in respect of which the Regional Agency has functions;
 - (e) make available to any other body such persons, materials and facilities as it thinks appropriate;
 - (f) provide information, advice and assistance.
- (5) The Department may by order amend subsections (1) to (4) for the purposes of altering the functions of the Regional Agency.
- (6) In the exercise of its functions the Regional Agency must—
- (a) co-operate with other bodies which exercise functions relating to health improvement or health protection; and
 - (b) in particular, provide the Department, the Regional Board and Local Commissioning Groups with such information, advice and assistance as they may reasonably require in connection with the exercise of their functions.
- (7) A body mentioned in subsection (6)(a) must co-operate with the Regional Agency in the exercise by that body of any such functions as are mentioned there.
- (8) The disclosure of information to or by the Regional Agency in pursuance of a duty of co-operation under subsection (6) or (7) does not breach any restriction on the disclosure of information (however imposed); but this subsection does not authorise a disclosure of information which contravenes the Data Protection Act 1998 (c. 29).