

*These notes refer to the Budget (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland)  
2010 (c.8) which received Royal Assent on 26 March 2010*

# Budget (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2010

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## **EXPLANATORY NOTES**

### **BACKGROUND**

3. Budget Acts are the legislative means by which Assembly approval will be sought for departments and certain other public bodies to incur expenditure and use resources as detailed in the corresponding Estimates volume and summarised in the Schedules to the Acts. Furthermore, the Budget Acts enable the Assembly to hold departments and public bodies accountable for managing and controlling those resources within the limits authorised.
4. The Budget Act will not only authorise the use of resources but contains powers to authorise the issue of sums of cash from the Northern Ireland Consolidated Fund to departments and other public bodies and appropriate those sums to services. Budget Acts also set the relevant limits on the accruing resources that may be directed to be used for purposes specified in the Schedules to the Act. Accruing resources are divided into two categories: a) operating accruing resources, which is resource income offset against the gross resource expenditure and b) non-operating accruing resources, which is capital income, mainly relating to the sale of assets, and offset against gross capital spend.
5. Estimates volumes and other relevant documents are published so as to be available when Budget Acts are introduced in the Assembly. Separate Budget Acts will be introduced relating to the Main Estimates (initial voted provision for a financial year) and subsequent Supplementary Estimates which revise that initial provision. The Budget Act relating to the final Estimates of departments and public bodies will also provide interim resources and funding (around 45%) for the first few months of the next financial year.