



2011 CHAPTER 17

PART 2

THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY  
COMMISSIONER FOR STANDARDS

*Establishment and functions*

**Functions of the Commissioner**

- 17.—(1) The functions of the Commissioner are—
- (a) where a person has made a complaint or referral to which subsection (2) applies, to investigate the complaint or referral in accordance with the provisions of this Part;
  - (b) to initiate an investigation in accordance with the provisions of this Part if the Commissioner believes that, at a relevant time, a breach of the Code of Conduct may have occurred;
  - (c) to report to the Assembly on the outcome of any investigation under this section; and
  - (d) on the Commissioner's own initiative, or if requested by the Assembly, to give advice on any matter of general principle relating to standards of conduct of members of the Assembly.
- (2) This subsection applies to—
- (a) a complaint to the Commissioner that, at a relevant time, a breach of the Code of Conduct has occurred;
  - (b) a referral to the Commissioner made by any person specified in the standing orders as being a person who may make referrals in relation to

any matter specified in the standing orders as being a matter in respect of which the Commissioner must carry out an investigation.

(3) In this section—

“the Code of Conduct” means—

- (a) any code of conduct for members of the Assembly, and
- (b) any guide to the rules relating to the conduct of members of the Assembly, which has been agreed to by the Assembly; and

a “relevant time” means a time (whether before or after this section comes into operation) when a requirement to comply with the Code of Conduct was in force.