



2016 CHAPTER 2

Miscellaneous

Authorisation of insolvency practitioners

14.—(1) Part 12 of the Insolvency Order (insolvency practitioners and their qualification) is amended as set out in subsections (2) to (5).

(2) In Article 349 (persons not qualified to act as insolvency practitioners), for paragraph (2) substitute—

“(2) A person is not qualified to act as an insolvency practitioner at any time unless at that time the person is appropriately authorised under Article 349A of this Order.”.

(3) After Article 349 insert—

“349A Authorisation

(1) In this Part—

“partial authorisation” means authorisation to act as an insolvency practitioner—

- (a) only in relation to companies, or
- (b) only in relation to individuals;

“full authorisation” means authorisation to act as an insolvency practitioner in relation to companies, individuals and insolvent partnerships;

“partially authorised” and “fully authorised” are to be construed accordingly.

(2) A person is fully authorised under this Article to act as an insolvency practitioner by virtue of being a member of a professional body recognised under Article 350(1) and being permitted to act as an insolvency practitioner for all purposes by or under the rules of that body.

(3) A person is partially authorised under this Article to act as an insolvency practitioner—

- (a) by virtue of being a member of a professional body recognised under Article 350(1) and being permitted to act as an insolvency practitioner in relation only to companies or only to individuals by or under the rules of that body, or
- (b) by virtue of being a member of a professional body recognised under Article 350(2) and being permitted to act as an insolvency practitioner by or under the rules of that body.

349B Partial authorisation: acting in relation to partnerships

(1) A person who is partially authorised to act as an insolvency practitioner in relation to companies may nonetheless not accept an appointment to act in relation to a company if at the time of the appointment the person is aware that the company—

- (a) is or was a member of a partnership; and
- (b) has outstanding liabilities in relation to the partnership.

(2) A person who is partially authorised to act as an insolvency practitioner in relation to individuals may nonetheless not accept an appointment to act in relation to an individual if at the time of the appointment the person is aware that the individual—

- (a) is or was a member of a partnership other than a Scottish partnership, and
- (b) has outstanding liabilities in relation to the partnership.

(3) Subject to paragraph (9), a person who is partially authorised to act as an insolvency practitioner in relation to companies may nonetheless not continue to act in relation to a company if the person becomes aware that the company—

- (a) is or was a member of a partnership, and
- (b) has outstanding liabilities in relation to the partnership,

unless the person is granted permission to continue to act by the High Court.

(4) Subject to paragraph (9), a person who is partially authorised to act as an insolvency practitioner in relation to individuals may nonetheless not continue to act in relation to an individual if the person becomes aware that the individual—

(a) is or was a member of a partnership other than a Scottish partnership, and

(b) has outstanding liabilities in relation to the partnership,

unless the person is granted permission to continue to act by the High Court.

(5) The High Court may grant a person permission to continue to act for the purposes of paragraph (3) or (4) if it is satisfied that the person is competent to do so.

(6) A person who is partially authorised and becomes aware as mentioned in paragraph (3) or (4) may alternatively apply to the High Court for an order (a “replacement order”) appointing in his or her place a person who is fully authorised to act as an insolvency practitioner in relation to the company or (as the case may be) the individual.

(7) A person may apply to the High Court for permission to continue to act or for a replacement order under—

(a) where acting in relation to a company, this Article or, if it applies, Article 143(5B);

(b) where acting in relation to an individual, this Article or, if it applies, Article 276(2C).

(8) A person who acts as an insolvency practitioner in contravention of any of paragraphs (1) to (4) is guilty of an offence under Article 348 (acting without qualification).

(9) A person does not contravene paragraph (3) or (4) by continuing to act as an insolvency practitioner during the permitted period if, within the period of 7 business days beginning with the day after the day on which the person becomes aware as mentioned in the paragraph, the person—

(a) applies to the High Court for permission to continue to act, or

(b) applies to the High Court for a replacement order.

(10) For the purposes of paragraph (9)—

“business day” means any day other than a Saturday, a Sunday, Christmas Day, Good Friday or a day which is a bank holiday in Northern Ireland under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971;

“permitted period” means the period beginning with the day on which the person became aware as mentioned in paragraph (3) or (4) and ending on the earlier of—

(a) the expiry of the period of 6 weeks beginning with the day on which the person applies to the High Court as mentioned in paragraph (9) (a) or (b), and

(b) the day on which the High Court disposes of the application (by granting or refusing it

“replacement order” has the meaning given by paragraph (6).”.”;

(4) For Article 350 (recognised professional bodies) substitute—

“350 Recognised professional bodies

(1) The Department may by order, if satisfied that a body meets the requirements of paragraph (4), declare the body to be a recognised professional body which is capable of providing its insolvency specialist members with full authorisation or partial authorisation.

(2) The Department may by order, if satisfied that a body meets the requirements of paragraph (4), declare the body to be a recognised professional body which is capable of providing its insolvency specialist members with partial authorisation only of the kind specified in the order (as to which, see Article 349A(1)).

(3) Article 350A makes provision about the making by a body of an application to the Department for an order under this Article.

(4) The requirements are that—

- (a) the body regulates (or is going to regulate) the practice of a profession;
- (b) the body has rules which it is going to maintain and enforce for securing that its insolvency specialist members—
 - (i) are fit and proper persons to act as insolvency practitioners; and
 - (ii) meet acceptable requirements as to education and practical training and experience; and
- (c) the body’s rules and practices for or in connection with authorising persons to act as insolvency practitioners, and its rules and practices for or in connection with regulating persons acting as such, are designed to ensure that the regulatory objectives are met (as to which, see Article 350C).

(5) An order of the Department under this Article has effect from such date as is specified in the order.

(6) An order under this Article may be revoked by an order under Article 350L or 350N (and see Article 361A(1)(b)).

(7) In this Part—

- (a) references to members of a recognised professional body are to persons who, whether members of that body or not, are subject to its rules in the practice of the profession in question;
- (b) references to insolvency specialist members of a professional body are to members who are permitted by or under the rules of the body to act as insolvency practitioners.

(8) A reference in this Part to a recognised professional body is to a body recognised under this Article (and see Articles 350L(6) and 350N(5)).

350A Application for recognition as recognised professional body

(1) An application for an order under Article 350(1) or (2) must—

- (a) be made to the Department in such form and manner as the Department may require;
- (b) be accompanied by such information as the Department may require;
- (c) be supplemented by such additional information as the Department may require at any time between receiving the application and determining it.

(2) The requirements which may be imposed under paragraph (1) may differ as between different applications.

(3) The Department may require information provided under this Article to be in such form, and verified in such manner, as the Department may specify.

(4) An application for an order under Article 350(1) or (2) must be accompanied by—

- (a) a copy of the applicant's rules;
- (b) a copy of the applicant's policies and practices; and
- (c) a copy of any guidance issued by the applicant in writing.

(5) The reference in paragraph (4)(c) to guidance issued by the applicant is a reference to guidance or recommendations which are—

- (a) issued or made by it which will apply to its insolvency specialist members or to persons seeking to become such members;
- (b) relevant for the purposes of this Part; and
- (c) intended to have continuing effect,

including guidance or recommendations relating to the admission or expulsion of members.

(6) The Department may refuse an application for an order under Article 350(1) or (2) if the Department considers that recognition of the body concerned is unnecessary having regard to the existence of one or more other bodies which have been or are likely to be recognised under Article 350.

(7) Paragraph (8) applies where the Department refuses an application for an order under Article 350(1) or (2); and it applies regardless of whether the application is refused on the ground mentioned in paragraph (6), because the Department is not satisfied as mentioned in Article 350(1) or (2) or because a fee has not been paid (see Article 361A(1)(b)).

(8) The Department must give the applicant a written notice of the Department's decision; and the notice must set out the reasons for refusing the application.”.

(5) Articles 351 to 354 (authorisation: supplementary provisions) are repealed.

(6) In Article 361A of the Insolvency Order (fees orders (supplementary))—

(a) in paragraph (1)(b) after “Article 350(1)” insert “or (2)”;

(b) after paragraph (1) (fees for grant or maintenance of recognition of professional body) insert—

“(1A) Fees under paragraph (1) may vary according to whether the body is recognised under Article 350(1) (body providing full and partial authorisation) or under Article 350(2) (body providing partial authorisation).”.

(7) An order under Article 350(1) of the Insolvency Order (recognised professional bodies) made before the coming into operation of this section is, following the coming into operation of this section, to be treated as if it were made under Article 350(1) as substituted by subsection (4) of this section.