

SCHEDULE 1

The Rules of the Supreme Court (Northern Ireland) 1980 COMMENCEMENT AND PROGRESS OF PROCEEDINGS

ORDER 20 AMENDMENT

Amendment of pleadings without leave

3.—(1) A party may, without the leave of the Court, amend any pleading of his once at any time before the pleadings are deemed to be dosed and, where he does so, he must serve the amended pleading on the opposite party.

(2) Where an amended statement of claim is served on a defendant—

- (a) the defendant, if he has already served a defence on the plaintiff, may amend his defence, and
- (b) the period for service of his defence or amended defence, as the case may be; shall be either the period fixed by or under these Rules for service of his defence or a period of 14 days after the amended statement of claim is served on him, whichever expires later.

(3) Where an amended defence is served on the plaintiff by a defendant—

- (a) the plaintiff, if he has already served a reply on that defendant, may amend his reply, and
- (b) the period for service of his reply or amended reply, as the case may be, shall be either the period fixed by or under these Rules for service of his reply or a period of 14 days after the amended defence is served on him.

(4) In paragraphs (2) and (3) references to a defence and a reply include references to a counterclaim and a defence to counterclaim respectively.

(5) Where an amended counterclaim is served by a defendant on a party (other than the plaintiff) against whom the counterclaim is made, paragraph (2) shall apply as if the counterclaim were a statement of claim and as if the party by whom the counterclaim is made were the plaintiff and the party against whom it is made a defendant.

(6) Where a party has pleaded to a pleading which is subsequently amended and served on him under paragraph (1), then, if that party does not amend his pleading under the foregoing provisions of this rule, he shall be taken to rely on it in answer to the amended pleading, and Order 18, rule 14(2), shall have effect in such a case as if the amended pleading had been served at the time when that pleading, before its amendment under paragraph (1), was served.