

*Order made by the Department for Communities and laid before the Assembly under section 96(2) of the Coronavirus Act 2020 for approval of the Assembly before the expiration of 40 days from the date of being made*

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STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

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**2023 No. 140**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

The Coronavirus Act 2020 (Extension of  
Provisions Relating to Local Authority  
Meetings) (No. 3) Order (Northern Ireland) 2023

*Made - - - - 21st September 2023*

The Department for Communities makes the following Order in exercise of the powers conferred by section 90(2) of the Coronavirus Act 2020(1).

**Citation**

1. This Order may be cited as the Coronavirus Act 2020 (Extension of Provisions Relating to Local Authority Meetings) (No. 3) Order (Northern Ireland) 2023.

**Extension of expiry date**

2. Section 78 of the Coronavirus Act 2020(2) does not expire at the time when it would otherwise expire and expires instead on 24th March 2024.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department for Communities on 21st September 2023.

(L.S.)

*Anthony Carleton*  
A senior officer of the Department for  
Communities

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(1) 2020 c. 7  
(2) As amended by 2021 c. 8 (N.I.) (section 1(1))

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## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Order)*

Section 78 of the Coronavirus Act 2020 (“the Act”) contains provision relating to Local Authority Meetings.

Section 89(1) provides for the Act to expire at the end of the period of 2 years beginning with the day on which it was passed (25th March 2020). This is subject to limited exceptions. Section 90(2) allows expiring provisions to be extended and section 90(3) limits extensions to not more than 6 months.

The Coronavirus Act 2020 (Extension of Provisions Relating to Local Authority Meetings) Order (Northern Ireland) 2022 ([S.R. 2022 No. 108](#)) extended the expiry date of section 78 of the Act to 24th September 2022. The Coronavirus Act 2020 (Extension of Provisions Relating to Local Authority Meetings) (No 2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2022 ([S.R. 2022 No. 226](#)) extended the expiry date of section 78 of the Act to 24th March 2023, however, that Order was not approved by the Assembly so the Department made the Coronavirus Act 2020 (Extension of Provisions Relating to Local Authority Meetings) Order (Northern Ireland) 2023 ([S.R. 2023 No. 48](#)) to ensure that section 78 of the Act was extended to 24th March 2023. The Coronavirus Act 2020 (Extension of Provisions Relating to Local Authority Meetings) (No. 2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2023 ([S.R. 2023 No. 51](#)) extended the expiry date of section 78 of the Act to 24th September 2023

The Department makes this Order to extend the expiry date of section 78 of the Act to 24th March 2024.