

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

The Coronavirus Act 2020 (Registration of Deaths and Still-Births) (Extension) Order (Northern Ireland) 2024

SR 2024 No. 29

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department of Finance to accompany the Statutory Rule (details above) which is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.
- 1.2. The Statutory Rule is made under section 90(2) of the Coronavirus Act 2020 and is subject to the confirmatory resolution procedure.

2. Purpose

- 2.1. The purpose of the Order is to provide for the continued extension of the expiry date of Section 18(3) and Part 3 of Schedule 13, paragraphs 18 - 22 and 27 - 29 of the Coronavirus Act 2020 to 24 March 2024.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Act put in place provisions which allowed for temporary changes to the death registration process. The provisions allow for the registration of deaths and still-births by telephone without the in-person signature of the informant and enables the electronic transfer of documents between stakeholders.
- 3.2. The Coronavirus Act 2020 (Registration of Deaths and Still-Births) (Extension) (No.2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2023 (S.R. 2023 No. 137) extended the expiry date of the following provisions of the Coronavirus Act 2020 to 24th March 2024 - (a) paragraphs 18 - 22 and 27 - 29 of Schedule 13; paragraph 17 of that Schedule so far as it relates to those paragraphs; (c) section 18(3) so far as it relates to the provisions mentioned in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) of this article, but that Order has not been approved by the Assembly.
- 3.3. The Department, however, wishes to ensure that these provisions are extended to 24 March 2024 so makes this Order. The making of this Order renders the continued operation of S.R. 2023 No. 137 unnecessary and so is revoked by this Order.

4. Consultation

- 4.1. This Order has been drafted using the provisions provided for under the Coronavirus Act 2020. There is no statutory requirement for subordinate legislation made under section 90 of the Coronavirus Act to be consulted on.

5. Equality Impact

- 5.1. No equality impact assessment or screening has been completed on this Order.

6. Regulatory Impact

- 6.1. A Regulatory Impact Assessment is not considered necessary. There will be no impact on businesses, charities, social enterprises or voluntary bodies.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. None

8. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

- 8.1. The Department is satisfied that these regulations comply with section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

9. EU Implications

- 9.1. Not applicable.

10. Parity or Replicatory Measure

- 10.1. Not applicable.

11. Additional Information

- 11.1. Not applicable.