



# Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002

## 2002 CHAPTER 26

### PART 2

#### LAW OFFICERS AND PUBLIC PROSECUTION SERVICE

##### *Attorney General*

#### **24 Removal of Attorney General**

- (1) The Attorney General for Northern Ireland—
  - (a) may be removed from office by the First Minister and deputy First Minister, acting jointly, if a tribunal convened under subsection (3) has reported to them recommending that he be removed on the ground of misbehaviour or inability to perform the functions of the office, and
  - (b) may be suspended from office by them (pending a decision whether to remove him) if the tribunal, at any time when it is considering whether to recommend his removal, has recommended to them that he be suspended.
- (2) If the Attorney General for Northern Ireland is suspended he may not perform any of the functions of the office until the decision whether to remove him has been taken (but his other rights as holder of the office are unaffected).
- (3) A tribunal may be convened by the First Minister and deputy First Minister, acting jointly.
- (4) A tribunal is to consist of—
  - (a) a person who [<sup>F1</sup>holds high judicial office, within the meaning of Part 3 of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005] and does not hold (and has never held) the office of Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice of Appeal or judge of the High Court, and
  - (b) a person who holds, or has held, office as a judge of the High Court in England and Wales or a judge of the Court of Session.

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**Changes to legislation:** *Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002, Section 24 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 19 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

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- (5) The selection of the persons to be the members of a tribunal is to be made by the Lord Chancellor [F2] after consultation with all of the following—
- (a) the President of the Supreme Court;
  - (b) the Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales;
  - (c) the Lord President of the Court of Session;
  - (d) the Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland].
- (6) The chairman of a tribunal is the person mentioned in paragraph (a) of subsection (4).
- (7) The procedure of a tribunal is to be determined by its chairman.
- (8) The First Minister and deputy First Minister, acting jointly, may pay to a member of a tribunal any such allowances or fees as they may determine.

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**Textual Amendments**

- F1** Words in s. 24(4)(a) substituted (1.10.2009) by [Constitutional Reform Act 2005 \(c. 4\)](#), ss. 145, 148, [Sch. 17 para. 33\(2\)](#); S.I. 2009/1604, [art. 2](#)
- F2** Words in s. 24(5) inserted (12.4.2010) by [Constitutional Reform Act 2005 \(c. 4\)](#), s. 148(1), [Sch. 5 para. 120](#) (with [Sch. 5 para. 115\(2\)](#)); S.I. 2010/883, [art. 2\(c\)\(i\)](#)
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**Commencement Information**

- I1** S. 24 in force at 12.4.2010 by [S.R. 2010/113](#), [art. 2](#), [Sch. para. 4](#)

**Changes to legislation:**

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**Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:**

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 31(1A) inserted by [2023 c. 41 Sch. 13 para. 5\(2\)](#)
- s. 31(7) inserted by [2023 c. 41 Sch. 13 para. 5\(4\)](#)