

1999 No. 664

**NORTHERN IRELAND
CONSTITUTIONAL LAW**

The Northern Ireland (Royal Assent to Bills) Order 1999

Made - - - - 10th March 1999

Coming into force in accordance with Article 1(1)

At the Court at Buckingham Palace, the 10th day of March 1999

Present,

The Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in Council

Her Majesty, in exercise of the powers conferred on Her by section 49(1) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998^(a), is pleased, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, to order, and it is hereby ordered, as follows:

Citation, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) This Order may be cited as the Northern Ireland (Royal Assent to Bills) Order 1999 and shall come into force on the appointed day^(b).

(2) In this Order, references to Letters Patent are to Letters Patent signed with Her Majesty's own hand signifying Her Assent to a Bill passed by the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Form and manner of preparation

2.—(1) Letters Patent are to take the form set out in the Schedule to this Order, subject only to such variations as are specified in the Schedule itself or are necessitated by circumstances to be referred to in the Letters Patent on a particular occasion.

(2) They may be prepared on paper or parchment, and may be printed or written or partly printed and partly written.

Publication

3. Letters Patent are to be published in the Belfast Gazette.

A.K. Galloway
Clerk of the Privy Council

^(a) 1998 c. 47.

^(b) "the appointed day" is defined in section 3(1) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

SCHEDULE

Article 2(1)

FORM OF LETTERS PATENT(a)

“ELIZABETH THE SECOND by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Our other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith, To the Members of the Northern Ireland Assembly GREETING:

WHEREAS you the Members of the Northern Ireland Assembly have passed a Bill the short title of which is set out in the Schedule hereto but the said Bill does not become an Act of the Northern Ireland Assembly without Our Royal Assent;

AND WHEREAS pursuant to the Northern Ireland Act 1998 the said Bill has been submitted to Us by *[insert name of Secretary of State]* one of Our Principal Secretaries of State for Our Royal Assent;

We have therefore caused these Our Letters Patent to be made and have signed them and by them We give Our Royal Assent to the said Bill COMMANDING *[insert name of Clerk of the Crown for Northern Ireland]* the Clerk of the Crown for Northern Ireland to seal these Our Letters with the Great Seal of Northern Ireland AND ALSO COMMANDING that these Our Letters be notified to the Presiding Officer of the Northern Ireland Assembly;

AND FINALLY WE declare that, in accordance with the Northern Ireland Act 1998, at the beginning of the day on which Our Royal Assent has been notified as aforesaid the said Bill shall become an Act of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

In Witness whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent

WITNESS Ourselves at the day of in the year of Our Reign

By the Queen Herself Signed with Her Own Hand”

(a) Where the Royal Assent is given to more than one Bill this form shall be modified accordingly.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order)

Under section 5(3) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, a Bill becomes an Act at the beginning of the day on which Letters Patent signifying Royal Assent are notified to the Presiding Officer of the Assembly. This Order in Council prescribes a standard form for the Letters Patent.

The Order also requires the Letters Patent to be published in the Belfast Gazette.

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