# EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

# The Civil Legal Services (General) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

# SR 2015 No. 195

## 1. Introduction

1.1. This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department of Justice to accompany the Statutory Rule (details above) which is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.

1.2. The Statutory Rule is made under Articles 12(3), 13, 14(6), 15 and 34(1) of the Access to Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 ("the 2003 Order") and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.

## 2. Purpose

2.1. These Regulations make provision about applications for civil legal services; and for the making, and withdrawal, of determinations that an individual qualifies for such services. The Regulations impose conditions which must be satisfied by an individual applying for funding. They also establish procedures for the review of decisions and the withdrawal of funding.

## 3. Background

3.1. With effect from 1 April 2015, civil legal services will be commenced under the 2003 Order. A suite of subordinate legislation is required to implement civil legal services, including this set of Regulations.

## 4. Consultation

4.1. The Department launched a four week targeted consultation with key stakeholders on these Regulations in December 2014. A substantive response was received from the Law Society.

## 5. Equality Impact

5.1. The Regulations have been screened for their equality impact and none was found.

## 6. Regulatory Impact

6.1. The Regulations largely replicate the current provision and will not impose any restriction on business. Consequently, an Impact Assessment is not required.

## 7. Financial Implications

7.1. There are no financial implications.

## 8. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

8.1. These Regulations are compliant with section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

## 9. EU Implications

9.1. Not applicable.

## 10. Parity or Replicatory Measure

10.1. Similar provisions apply in Scotland, England and Wales.

## 11. Additional Information

11.1. Not applicable.