EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

The Coronavirus Act 2020 (Registration of Deaths and Still-Births) (Extension) Order (Northern Ireland) 2025

S.R. 2025 No. 62

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 September 2025.

3. Background

3.1. The Act put in place provisions which allowed for temporary changes to the death and still-birth registration process. The provisions allow for the registration of deaths and still-births by telephone without the in-person signature of the informant and enable the electronic transfer of documents between stakeholders.

3.2. The Coronavirus Act 2020 (Registration of Deaths and Still-Births) (Extension) (No.3) Order (Northern Ireland) 2024 extended the expiry date of section 18(3) and Part 3 of Schedule 13, paragraphs 18 - 22 and 27 - 29 of the Act to 24 March 2025.

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 2020 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.