STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2026 No. 124

DOGS

The Dangerous Dogs (Compensation and Exemption Schemes) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026

Made - - - - 25th June 2026

Coming into operation in accordance with Article 1

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs(**a**), in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 25A(3), (5) and (6) of the Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983(**b**), makes the following Order.

Citation and Commencement

1.—(1) This Order may be cited as the Dangerous Dogs (Compensation and Exemption Schemes) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.

(2) Subject to paragraph (3) this Order comes into operation on 1st July 2026.

(3) Articles 2(4)(b) and 3(2)(b) come into operation on 1st November 2026.

Amendment of the Dangerous Dogs Compensation and Exemption Schemes Order 1991

2.—(1) The Dangerous Dogs Compensation and Exemption Schemes Order 1991(**c**) shall be amended as follows.

(2) In Article 5 (conditions for adult dogs), omit condition (c) "that there is in force in respect of the dog third party insurance which complies with Article 9;".

(3) Article 9 (third party insurance) is repealed.

(4) In Article 11 (certificate of exemption), in paragraph (2)—

(a) omit (e) "a requirement to satisfy the district council that a policy of insurance which complies with Article 9 continues in force;";

(b) after (f) insert—

"(fa)a requirement to ensure that the dog does not come into close contact with a child under the age of 12 in any place, other than a public place, unless the dog or the child being supervised by a person (whether the holder of the certificate or some other person) who is over the age of 18;"

(**a**) Formerly the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) see Article 3(4) of the Departments (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 (S.I. 1999/283 (N.I. 1)). DARD was renamed the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) by section 1(2) of the Departments Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 (c. 5 (N.I.)).

(**b**) S.I. 1983/764 (N.I. 8) Article 25A was inserted by S.I. 1991/2292 (N.I. 21).

(**c**) S.1. 1991 No. 466

Amendment of the Dangerous Dogs (Compensation and Exemption Schemes) Order (Northern Ireland) 2024

3.—(1) The Dangerous Dogs (Compensation and Exemption Schemes) Order (Northern Ireland) 2024(**a**) shall be amended as follows.

(2) In Article 7 (certificate of exemption), in condition (e)—

(a) omit (ii) "to satisfy the district council that a policy of third-party insurance compliant with Article 8 is in force;";

(b) after (iv) insert—

"(iva) to ensure that the dog does not come into close contact with a child under the age of 12 in any place, other than a public place, unless the dog or the child is being supervised by a person (whether the holder of the certificate or some other person) who is over the age of 18;";

(c) omit (vi) "to produce to an officer confirmation that a policy third-party insurance compliant with Article 8 is in force within five days of being requested to do so by that officer".

(3) Article 8 (third-party insurance) is repealed.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs on 25th June 2026

L.S.

Neal Gartland
A senior officer of the
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

(**a**) S.1. 2024 No. 155

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order)

Article 2 of this Order amends the Dangerous Dogs Compensation and Exemption Schemes Order (Northern Ireland) 1991 by removing the requirement to have in place third-party liability insurance in respect of Pitbull Terrier, Japanese Tosa, Dogo Argentino and Fila Braziliero dogs designated under Article 25A of the Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983 imposing restrictions on these dogs, and introduces a new exemption condition that safeguards children under the age of 12.

Article 3 of this Order amends The Dangerous Dogs (Compensation and Exemption Schemes) Order (Northern Ireland) 2024 to remove the requirement to have in place third-party liability insurance in respect of XL Bully dogs designated under Article 25A of the Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983 imposing restrictions on these dogs, and introduces a new exemption condition that safeguards children under the age of 12.

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£6.40

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/nisr/2026/124

ISBN 978-0-33-802665-1

