STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2026 No. 126 (C. 12)

DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

The Digital Economy Act 2017 (Commencement No. 2) (Northern Ireland) and Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 (Commencement No. 7) Regulations 2026

Made - - - - 11th February 2026

The Secretary of State makes these Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by section 118(4) of the Digital Economy Act 2017(**a**) and section 142(1) of the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025(**b**).

Citation and interpretation

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Digital Economy Act 2017 (Commencement No. 2) (Northern Ireland) and Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 (Commencement No. 7) Regulations 2026.

(2) In these Regulations—

"the 2017 Act" means the Digital Economy Act 2017;

"the 2025 Act" means the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025.

Provisions of the 2017 Act coming into force on 12th February 2026

2. The following provisions of the 2017 Act come into force on 12th February 2026, in relation to Northern Ireland only—

(a) section 35 (disclosure of information to improve public service delivery)(**c**);

(b) section 40 (further provisions about disclosures under any of sections 35 to 39)(**d**);

(c) section 41 (confidentiality of personal information)(**e**);

(d) section 42 (information disclosed by the Revenue and Customs);

(e) section 43 (code of practice)(**f**);

(**a**) 2017 c. 30.
(**b**) 2025 c. 18.
(**c**) Section 35 was amended by paragraph 18(2) of the Schedule to S.I. 2023/424.
(**d**) Section 40 was amended by paragraph 216(2) and (3) of Schedule 19 to the Data Protection Act 2018 (c. 12).
(**e**) Section 41 was amended by paragraph 443(1) of Schedule 24 to the Sentencing Act 2020 (c. 17), regulation 5(1) and Part 1 of the Schedule to S.I. 2022/500 and regulation 2(1) and Part 1 of the Schedule to S.I. 2023/149.
(**f**) Section 43 was amended by article 6(2) of S.I. 2018/526, paragraph 217(2) and (3) of Schedule 19 to the Data Protection Act 2018, article 6(2) of S.I. 2020/940 and section 92(9)(a) of the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025.

(f) section 44 (regulations under Chapter 1 of Part 5)(**a**);

(g) section 45 (interpretation of Chapter 1 of Part 5 etc)(**b**);

(h) section 48 (disclosure of information to reduce debt owed to the public sector)(**c**);

(i) section 49 (further provisions about power in section 48)(**d**);

(j) section 50 (confidentiality of personal information)(**e**);

(k) section 51 (information disclosed by the Revenue and Customs);

(l) section 52 (code of practice)(**f**);

(m) section 54 (regulations under Chapter 3 of Part 5);

(n) section 55 (interpretation of Chapter 3 of Part 5);

(o) section 56 (disclosure of information to combat fraud against the public sector)(**g**);

(p) section 57 (further provisions about power in section 56)(**h**);

(q) section 58 (confidentiality of personal information)(**i**);

(r) section 59 (information disclosed by the Revenue and Customs);

(s) section 60 (code of practice)(**j**);

(t) section 62 (regulations under Chapter 4 of Part 5);

(u) section 63 (interpretation of Chapter 4 of Part 5);

(v) Schedule 4 (public service delivery: specified persons for the purposes of section 35)(**k**);

(w) Schedule 7 (specified persons for the purposes of the debt provisions)(**l**);

(x) Schedule 8 (specified persons for the purposes of the fraud provisions)(**m**).

Provision of the 2025 Act coming into force on 12th February 2026

3. Section 123 of the 2025 Act (disclosure of information to improve public service delivery to undertakings) comes into force, so far as not already in force(**n**), on 12th February 2026.

(**a**) Section 44 was amended by article 6(2) and (3) of S.I. 2018/526, article 6(3) of S.I. 2020/940 and article 9(2) of S.I. 2025/557.

(**b**) Section 45 was amended by article 6(4) of S.I. 2018/526 and article 6(4) of S.I. 2020/940.

(**c**) Section 48 was amended by paragraph 18(3) of the Schedule to S.I. 2023/424 and article 9(3) of S.I. 2025/557.

(**d**) Section 49 was amended by paragraph 218(2) and (3) of Schedule 19 to the Data Protection Act 2018.

(**e**) Section 50 was amended by paragraph 443(1) of Schedule 24 to the Sentencing Act 2020, regulation 5(1) and Part 1 of the Schedule to S.I. 2022/500 and regulation 2(1) and Part 1 of the Schedule to S.I. 2023/149.

(**f**) Section 52 was amended by paragraph 219(2) and (3) of Schedule 19 to the Data Protection Act 2018 and section 92(9)(b) of the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025.

(**g**) Section 56 was amended by paragraph 18(4) of the Schedule to S.I. 2023/424 and article 9(4) of S.I. 2025/557.

(**h**) Section 57 was amended by paragraph 220(2) and (3) of Schedule 19 to the Data Protection Act 2018.

(**i**) Section 58 was amended by paragraph 443(1) of Schedule 24 to the Sentencing Act 2020, regulation 5(1) and Part 1 of the Schedule to S.I. 2022/500 and regulation 2(1) and Part 1 of the Schedule to S.I. 2023/149.

(**j**) Section 60 was amended by paragraph 221(2) and (3) of Schedule 19 to the Data Protection Act 2018 and section 92(9)(c) of the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025.

(**k**) Schedule 4 was amended by paragraph 6(a) of the Schedule to S.I. 2017/979, paragraph 19(a) of the Schedule to S.I. 2018/378, paragraph 1 of the Schedule to S.I. 2018/551 (W. 93), regulation 2 of S.S.I. 2018/243, paragraph 15 of Schedule 3 to the Health and Social Care (Quality and Engagement) (Wales) Act 2020 (asc 1), paragraph 26(a) of Schedule 2 to S.I. 2021/1265, paragraph 18(5) of the Schedule to S.I. 2023/424, paragraph 214 of Schedule 4 to the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 (c. 55), regulation 2 of S.I. 2024/64 and paragraph 13(a) of the Schedule to S.I. 2024/991.

(**l**) Schedule 7 was amended by paragraph 4 of the Schedule to S.I. 2018/551 (W. 93), regulation 2 of S.S.I. 2022/91 and paragraph 28(7) of the Schedule to S.I. 2023/424.

(**m**) Schedule 8 was amended by paragraph 6(b) of the Schedule to S.I. 2017/979, paragraph 19(d) of the Schedule to S.I. 2018/378, paragraph 5 of the Schedule to S.I. 2018/551 (W. 93), regulation 14 of S.I. 2019/1027, paragraph 26(d) of Schedule 2 to S.I. 2021/1265, regulation 3 of S.S.I. 2022/91, paragraph 18(8) of the Schedule to S.I. 2023/424, regulation 2 of S.I. 2024/805 (W. 129) and paragraph 13(d) of the Schedule to S.I. 2024/991.

(**n**) Section 123 came into force on the day on which the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 received Royal Assent so far as it confers power to make regulations or is otherwise necessary for enabling the exercise of such a power (see section 142(2)(h) of the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025).

Ian Murray
Minister of State
11th February 2026 Department for Science, Innovation and Technology

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations bring into force specified provisions in the Digital Economy Act 2017 ("the 2017 Act") and the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 ("the 2025 Act").

Regulation 2 brings into force, in relation to Northern Ireland only, specified provisions in Part 5 (Digital Government) of the 2017 Act that relate to information-sharing powers for public authorities and other persons.

Regulation 3 brings into force section 123 of the 2025 Act, which amends the power in section 35 of the 2017 Act (disclosure of information to improve public service delivery) so that it may additionally be exercised to support businesses and bodies established for charitable purposes.

NOTE AS TO EARLIER COMMENCEMENT REGULATIONS

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

The following provisions of the Digital Economy Act 2017 have been brought into force, to the extent indicated below, by commencement regulations made before the date of these Regulations.

Provision	*Date of Commencement*	*S.I. No.*
Section 4 (partially)	31st July 2017	2017/765
Section 4 (further purposes)	22nd November 2017	2017/1136
Section 4 (remaining purposes)	28th December 2017	2017/1286
Section 5	31st July 2017	2017/765
Section 6	31st July 2017	2017/765
Section 8	31st July 2017	2017/765
Section 14 (partially)	31st July 2017	2017/765
Section 15 (partially)	31st July 2017	2017/765
Section 16	31st July 2017	2017/765
Section 17	31st July 2017	2017/765
Section 21(5) (partially)	31st July 2017	2017/765
Section 22 (partially)	31st July 2017	2017/765
Section 25	31st July 2017	2017/765
Section 26(2)	31st July 2017	2017/765
Section 27	31st July 2017	2017/765
Section 30(1) and (2) (partially)	31st July 2017	2017/765
Section 31 (partially)	30th June 2018	2018/690
Section 31 (remaining purposes)	30th June 2021	2021/680
Section 32	1st October 2017	2017/765
Section 33	1st October 2017	2017/765
Section 34	31st July 2017	2017/765
Section 35 (partially)	1st October 2017	2017/765
Section 35 (further purposes)	9th March 2018	2018/342 (W. 62)
Section 35 (further purposes)	1st April 2018	2018/342 (W. 62)
Section 35 (further purposes)	1st May 2018	2018/382
Section 36 (partially)	1st October 2017	2017/765

Section 36 (remaining purposes)	1st May 2018	2018/382
Section 37	1st May 2018	2018/382
Section 38 (partially)	9th March 2018	2018/342 (W. 62)
Section 38 (further purposes)	1st April 2018	2018/342 (W. 62)
Section 38 (remaining purposes)	1st May 2018	2018/382
Section 39 (partially)	1st April 2018	2018/342 (W. 62)
Section 39 (remaining purposes)	1st May 2018	2018/382
Section 40 (partially)	1st April 2018	2018/342 (W. 62)
Section 40 (further purposes)	1st May 2018	2018/382
Section 41 (partially)	1st April 2018	2018/342 (W. 62)
Section 41 (further purposes)	1st May 2018	2018/382
Section 42 (partially)	1st April 2018	2018/342 (W. 62)
Section 42 (further purposes)	1st May 2018	2018/382
Section 43 (partially)	1st October 2017	2017/765
Section 43 (further purposes)	1st April 2018	2018/342 (W. 62)
Section 44 (partially)	1st October 2017	2017/765
Section 44 (further purposes)	9th March 2018	2018/342 (W. 62)
Section 44 (further purposes)	1st April 2018	2018/342 (W. 62)
Section 44 (further purposes)	1st May 2018	2018/382
Section 45 (partially)	1st April 2018	2018/342 (W. 62)
Section 45 (further purposes)	1st May 2018	2018/382
Section 46 (partially)	31st July 2017	2017/765
Section 46 (further purposes)	1st May 2018	2018/382
Section 47 (partially)	31st July 2017	2017/765
Section 47 (further purposes)	1st May 2018	2018/382
Section 48 (partially)	1st October 2017	2017/765
Section 48 (further purposes)	1st May 2018	2018/382
Section 49 (partially)	1st May 2018	2018/382
Section 50 (partially)	1st May 2018	2018/382
Section 51 (partially)	1st May 2018	2018/382
Section 52 (partially)	1st October 2017	2017/765
Section 53 (partially)	1st May 2018	2018/382
Section 54 (partially)	1st October 2017	2017/765
Section 54 (further purposes)	1st May 2018	2018/382
Section 55 (partially)	1st May 2018	2018/382
Section 56 (partially)	1st October 2017	2017/765
Section 56 (further purposes)	1st May 2018	2018/382
Section 57 (partially)	1st May 2018	2018/382
Section 58 (partially)	1st May 2018	2018/382
Section 59 (partially)	1st May 2018	2018/382
Section 60 (partially)	1st October 2017	2017/765
Section 61 (partially)	1st May 2018	2018/382
Section 62 (partially)	1st October 2017	2017/765
Section 62 (further purposes)	1st May 2018	2018/382
Section 63 (partially)	1st May 2018	2018/382
Section 64 (partially)	1st April 2018	2018/342 (W. 62)
Section 64 (remaining purposes)	1st May 2018	2018/382
Section 65 (partially)	1st April 2018	2018/342 (W. 62)
Section 65 (remaining purposes)	1st May 2018	2018/382
Section 66 (partially)	1st April 2018	2018/342 (W. 62)
Section 66 (remaining purposes)	1st May 2018	2018/382
Section 67 (partially)	1st April 2018	2018/342 (W. 62)
Section 67 (remaining purposes)	1st May 2018	2018/382
Section 68 (partially)	1st April 2018	2018/342 (W. 62)
Section 68 (remaining purposes)	1st May 2018	2018/382
Section 69 (partially)	1st April 2018	2018/342 (W. 62)
Section 69 (remaining purposes)	1st May 2018	2018/382
Section 70 (partially)	1st October 2017	2017/765
Section 70 (further purposes)	1st April 2018	2018/342 (W. 62)
Section 70 (remaining purposes)	1st May 2018	2018/382

Section 71 (partially)	1st April 2018	2018/342 (W. 62)
Section 71 (remaining purposes)	1st May 2018	2018/382
Section 72 (partially)	1st April 2018	2018/342 (W. 62)
Section 72 (remaining purposes)	1st May 2018	2018/382
Section 73 (partially)	1st April 2018	2018/342 (W. 62)
Section 73 (remaining purposes)	1st May 2018	2018/382
Section 74	31st July 2017	2017/765
Section 75 (partially)	1st April 2018	2018/342 (W. 62)
Section 76	31st July 2017	2017/765
Section 77	31st July 2017	2017/765
Section 78	31st July 2017	2017/765
Section 79 (partially)	31st July 2017	2017/765
Section 79 (remaining purposes)	1st May 2018	2018/382
Section 80 (partially)	1st October 2017	2017/765
Section 80 (remaining purposes)	1st May 2018	2018/382
Section 81 (partially)	31st July 2017	2017/765
Section 81 (remaining purposes)	1st May 2018	2018/382
Section 87	31st July 2017	2017/765
Section 92	31st July 2017	2017/765
Section 93 (partially)	31st July 2017	2017/765
Section 95	31st July 2017	2017/765
Section 98	31st July 2017	2017/765
Section 99	29th October 2021	2021/1170
Section 100	31st July 2017	2017/765
Section 101	31st July 2017	2017/765
Section 102	1st October 2018	2017/765
Section 104	31st July 2017	2017/765
Section 105 (partially)	6th April 2018	2018/382
Section 106 (partially)	31st July 2017	2017/765
Section 108	31st July 2017	2017/765
Section 109	31st July 2017	2017/765
Section 110	31st July 2017	2017/765
Section 111(8) and (9)	25th May 2018	2018/624
Section 114	1st August 2020	2020/70
Schedule 1 (partially)	31st July 2017	2017/765
Schedule 1 (further purposes)	22nd November 2017	2017/1136
Schedule 1 (remaining purposes)	28th December 2017	2017/1286
Schedule 2	28th December 2017	2017/1286
Schedule 3 (partially)	31st July 2017	2017/765
Schedule 3 (remaining purposes)	28th December 2017	2017/1286
Schedule 4 (partially)	1st April 2018	2018/342 (W. 62)
Schedule 4 (further purposes)	1st May 2018	2018/382
Schedule 5	1st May 2018	2018/382
Schedule 6 (partially)	1st April 2018	2018/342 (W. 62)
Schedule 6 (remaining purposes)	1st May 2018	2018/382
Schedule 7 (partially)	1st May 2018	2018/382
Schedule 8 (partially)	1st May 2018	2018/382

NOTE AS TO EARLIER COMMENCEMENT REGULATIONS

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

The following provisions of the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 have been brought into force, so far as they were not already in force (see section 142(2)(h) of that Act), to the extent indicated below, by commencement regulations made before the date of these Regulations. On the date

these Regulations are made, the commencement date of the provisions marked * have not been reached.

Provision	*Date of Commencement*	*S.I. No.*
Part 1	20th August 2025	2025/904
Part 2 (partially)	1st December 2025	2025/1213
Section 67	5th February 2026	2026/82
Section 68	5th February 2026	2026/82
Section 70	5th February 2026	2026/82
Section 71	5th February 2026	2026/82
Section 72 (partially)	20th August 2025	2025/904
Section 72 (remaining purposes)	5th February 2026	2026/82
Section 73	5th February 2026	2026/82
Section 74	20th August 2025	2025/904
Section 75	5th February 2026	2026/82
Section 76	5th February 2026	2026/82
Section 77	5th February 2026	2026/82
Section 79	5th September 2025	2025/996
Section 80	5th February 2026	2026/82
Section 81	5th February 2026	2026/82
Section 83	5th February 2026	2026/82
Section 84	20th August 2025	2025/904
Section 85	5th February 2026	2026/82
Section 86	5th February 2026	2026/82
Section 87	5th February 2026	2026/82
Section 88	5th September 2025	2025/996
Section 89	17th November 2025	2025/996
Section 90	17th November 2025	2025/996
Section 91	20th August 2025	2025/904
Section 92	20th August 2025	2025/904
Section 93	20th August 2025	2025/904
Section 94	5th February 2026	2026/82
Section 95	20th August 2025	2025/904
Section 98	5th February 2026	2026/82
Section 99	5th February 2026	2026/82
Section 100	5th February 2026	2026/82
Section 101	5th February 2026	2026/82
Section 102	20th August 2025	2025/904
*Section 103	19th June 2026	2026/82
Section 104	20th August 2025	2025/904
Section 105	5th February 2026	2026/82
Section 106	20th August 2025	2025/904
Section 107	20th August 2025	2025/904
Section 108	20th August 2025	2025/904
Section 109	20th August 2025	2025/904
Section 110 (partially)	20th August 2025	2025/904
Section 110 (remaining purposes)	5th February 2026	2026/82
Section 111	20th August 2025	2025/904
Section 112	5th February 2026	2026/82
Section 113	20th August 2025	2025/904
Section 114	5th February 2026	2026/82
Section 115	5th February 2026	2026/82
Section 116	5th February 2026	2026/82
Section 117 (partially)	20th August 2025	2025/904
Section 120	5th February 2026	2026/82
Section 121	5th February 2026	2026/82
Section 124	30th September 2025	2025/982
Section 125	20th August 2025	2025/904
Section 129	20th August 2025	2025/904
Section 130	5th February 2026	2026/82

Section 132	5th February 2026	2026/82
Section 133 (partially)	5th February 2026	2026/82
Section 134	20th August 2025	2025/904
Section 135	20th August 2025	2025/904
Section 136	20th August 2025	2025/904
Section 137	20th August 2025	2025/904
Section 138	6th February 2026	2026/31
Schedule 4	5th February 2026	2026/82
Schedule 5	5th February 2026	2026/82
Schedule 6	5th February 2026	2026/82
Schedule 7	5th February 2026	2026/82
Schedule 8	5th February 2026	2026/82
Schedule 9	5th February 2026	2026/82
*Schedule 10	19th June 2026	2026/82
Schedule 11 (partially)	20th August 2025	2025/904
Schedule 11 (further purposes)	5th February 2026	2026/82
Schedule 12	5th February 2026	2026/82
Schedule 13	5th February 2026	2026/82
Schedule 14	20th August 2025	2025/904
Schedule 15	5th February 2026	2026/82

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