EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

The Period Products (Executive Office Specified Public Service Bodies) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026
S.R. 2026 No.0000

1. Introduction

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

1.2. The Statutory Rule is made under subsections 2(1), (2)(b), and (13) of the Period Products (Free Provision) Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (The Act) and is subject to the draft affirmative resolution procedure.

2. Purpose

2.1. Regulation 1 provides the name of the Regulations, that is The Period Products (Executive Office Specified Public Service Bodies) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026. It also provides that the Regulations will come into force on 31st December 2026.

2.2. Regulation 2 substitutes the schedule to the Period Products (the Executive Office Specified Public Service Bodies) Regulations 2024 for the schedule set out in these regulations.

2.3. The schedule specifies Public Service Bodies for the purposes of subsection 2(1) of the Act to which subsection 2(3) of the Act applies (Specified Public Service Bodies).

2.4. Subsection 2(3) of the Act requires that each Specified Public Service Body must make and maintain arrangements for period products to be made available, free of charge on their premises, in line with the requirements set out in the Act.

3. Background

3.1. Section 2 of the Act requires each Department to specify, by regulations the public service bodies within its functions that are under a duty to make period products available free of charge to users while on their premises.

3.2. Section 9 of the Act defines a 'public service body' as a body; (a) constituted by or under a statutory provision; and (b) having functions that consist of or include providing public services or otherwise serving the public interest.

3.3. Specified Public Service Bodies, having had regard to Departmental guidance, and having consulted with product users, must make and maintain arrangements to ensure free period products are available for use on their premises as soon as practicable.

3.4. The amendments made by this Rule are limited in scope and technical in nature, extending the application of existing period product provision arrangements to additional public service bodies.

4. Consultation

4.1. Engagement with the Department's additional Arm's Length Bodies (ALB) was undertaken on the proposals for these Regulations.

5. Equality Impact

5.1. Consideration has been given to compliance with section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 however the update to the legislation is purely statutory and administrative.

6. Regulatory Impact

6.1. A regulatory impact assessment was not considered necessary.

7. Financial Implications

7.1. There is no significant cost to making the Regulations and funding for the provision will be bid for in line with normal financial planning procedures.

8. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

8.1. The proposed legislation is considered compatible with section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

9. EU Implications

9.1. Not applicable.

10. Parity or Replicatory Measure

10.1. This measure does not replicate, nor is there a requirement to maintain parity with, legislation in other administrations.

11. Additional Information

11.1. Not applicable.

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