EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

The Electronic Monitoring Requirements (Responsible Officer) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2025

S.R. 2025 No. 80

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 The Electronic Monitoring Requirements (Responsible Officer) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2025 and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.

2. Purpose

2.1. The Criminal Justice (Sentencing) (Licence Conditions) (Northern Ireland) Rules 2009 (the "2009 Rules") details the organisation who is designated as the Response Officer for delivery of electronic monitoring services EM Service provision is currently delivered by G4S.

2.2. This amendment is required to confirm in statute a change to the electronic monitoring service provider following an open procurement competition. The amendment will ensure that Buddi Ltd are added as a new service provider, while also permitting G4S Secure Solutions to remain as an alternative provider until such time as service transition is completed.

3. Background

3.1. Under Article 35 of the Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 2008, the Department is required to make Electronic Monitoring services available as a condition of: court bail; post-release licences; and a range community supervision orders for both adults and young persons. EM provision has been in place since 2009.

3.2. G4S has been the provider of this service from the outset, however a new provider has been secured through an open procurement competition.

4. Consultation

4.1. Consultation was undertaken with the Probation Board for Northern Ireland, the Police Service of Northern Ireland, and Northern Ireland Prison Service and Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunal Service to ensure due consideration was given to existing service delivery and the operational functions of each organisation.

5. Equality Impact

5.1. Consideration was given to compliance with section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. The Department considers that this matter will not have a differential impact on any of the section 75 categories and, on this basis, the measure was screened out.

6. Regulatory Impact

6.1. This measure supports the operational delivery of the Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 2008. A regulatory impact assessment was not considered necessary.

7. Financial Implications

7.1. Not applicable

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.