EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

The Period Products (Department for Communities Specified Public Service Bodies) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025

SR 2025 No. 84

1. Introduction

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

1.2. The Statutory Rule is made under section 2(1) 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 The Period Products (Department for Communities Specified Public Service Bodies) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025.

2.2. Regulation 2 provides that the bodies listed in the Schedule to the Regulations are the Department's specified public service bodies for the purposes of section 2(1) of the Act.

3. Background

3.1. Under section 2 of the Act all departments must specify, by Regulations, Public Service Bodies who will be subject to duties under the Act. The Act requires that the Regulations be enacted by 11 May 2023.

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.

4. Consultation

4.1. In accordance with section 2(8)(a) of the Act, the Department carried out a ten week consultation with its Arm's Length Bodies on the proposals for these regulations. These included both the public service bodies it was proposing to specify and not proposing to specify. Of the thirteen organisations who received the consultation, seven consultees responded, which provided useful clarification on points of detail but did not necessitate a change to the policy proposals.

5. Equality Impact

5.1. Consideration has been given to compliance with section 75 of the

5.2. 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. 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.