STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2026 No. 107

POLICE

The Police and Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1989 (Codes of Practice) Order 2026

Made - - - -	*3rd June 2026*
Coming into operation	*1st July 2026*

The Department of Justice has, in pursuance of Articles 60, 60A, 65 and 66(6) of the Police and Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1989(**a**), prepared and published draft codes of practice in connection with:

(a) the exercise by police officers of statutory powers of stop and search (Code A);

(b) searches of premises by police officers and the seizure of property found by police officers on persons or premises (Code B);

(c) the detention, treatment and questioning of persons by police officers (Code C);

(d) the identification of persons by police officers (Code D);

(e) the audio recording of interviews with suspects at police stations (Code E);

(f) the visual recording with sound of interviews with suspects at police stations (Code F);

(g) the statutory power of arrest by police officers (Code G);

(h) the detention, treatment and questioning by police officers of persons in police detention under Section 41 of, and Schedule 8 to the Terrorism Act 2000, and the detention and treatment by police officers of persons in police detention under Section 43B of and Schedule 8 to the Terrorism Act 2000 (Code H); and

(i) the detention, treatment and questioning by police officers of persons in police detention under section 27 of, and Schedule 6 to, the National Security Act 2023 (Code I)

and has considered representations made in accordance with Article 66(1) of that Order.

In pursuance of Article 66(3) of that Order the Department of Justice has laid a draft of each code of practice before the Assembly.

The Department of Justice, in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 66(4) of that Order, makes the following Order –

(**a**) S.I. 1989/1341 (N.I. 12). The functions of the Secretary of State under Articles 60, 60A, 65 and 66 were transferred to the Department of Justice by paragraph 14 of schedule 1 to the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Devolution of Policing and Justice Functions) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/976).

Citation and commencement

1. This Order may be cited as the Police and Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1989 (Codes of Practice) Order 2026 and shall come into operation on 1st July 2026.

Codes of Practice

2. The codes of practice under Articles 60, 60A and 65 of the Order laid in draft before the Assembly on 8th June 2026 shall come into operation on 1st July 2026.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Justice on 3rd June 2026

L.S.

Naomi Long
Minister of Justice

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order)

This Order appoints 1st July 2026 as the date on which revised codes of practice under Articles 60, 60A and 65 of the Police and Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1989 will come into operation. The revised codes will supersede the corresponding existing codes of practice.

The Order also brings into operation a new code of practice, Code I, which relates to the detention, treatment and questioning by police officers of persons in police detention under section 27 of, and Schedule 6 to, the National Security Act 2023.

The codes of practice are:

(a) the exercise by police officers of statutory powers of stop and search (Code A);

(b) searches of premises by police officers and the seizure of property found by police officers on persons or premises (Code B);

(c) the detention, treatment and questioning of persons by police officers (Code C);

(d) the identification of persons by police officers (Code D);

(e) the audio recording of interviews with suspects at police stations (Code E);

(f) the visual recording with sound of interviews with suspects at police stations (Code F);

(g) the statutory power of arrest by police officers (Code G);

(h) the detention, treatment and questioning by police officers of persons in police detention under Section 41 of, and Schedule 8 to the Terrorism Act 2000, and the detention and treatment by police officers of persons in police detention under Section 43B of, and Schedule 8 to the Terrorism Act 2000 (Code H); and

(i) the detention, treatment and questioning by police officers of persons in police detention under section 27 of, and Schedule 6 to, the National Security Act 2023 (Code I).

The revised codes of practice will be available on the Department of Justice website.

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£6.40

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/nisr/2026/107

ISBN 978-0-33-802649-1

