EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Police Service of Northern Ireland (Amendment) Regulations 2022

S.R. 2022 No. 129

1. Introduction

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.

The Statutory Rule is made under powers conferred by sections 25(1) and 26(1) of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 1998, and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.

2. Purpose

This Statutory Rule makes provision for changes to public holidays specified for members of the Police Service of Northern Ireland ("PSNI") in Regulations, to reflect a decision by the UK Government to move the last bank holiday in May 2022 from Monday 30th May to Thursday 2nd June, with an additional holiday granted for Friday 3rd June.

This Regulation amends the definition of the last bank holiday in May for 2022 only in:

- Police Service of Northern Ireland Regulations 2005; and
- Police Service of Northern Ireland and Police Service of Northern Ireland Reserve (Injury Benefit) Regulations 2006.

The Regulation comes into operation on 18 April 2022.

3. Background

On the 12th November 2020 the UK Government announced that the last bank holiday in May 2022 would move from Monday 30th to Thursday 2nd June 2022 with an additional bank holiday granted for Friday 3rd June 2022 to celebrate HM Queen's 70th anniversary as monarch.

The amendment is intended to support PSNI operational planning for 2022.

4. Consultation

The Department has completed a targeted consultation process with policing stakeholders. All stakeholders have indicated they are content with this amendment.

5. Equality Impact

This Statutory Rule applies equally to all PSNI officers, regardless of grouping. There is no adverse impact on those listed under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

6. Regulatory Impact

A Regulatory Impact Assessment has not been prepared for this regulatory amendment as it has no impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies.

7. Financial Implications

There is no financial impact of the change to the May bank holiday. The introduction of an additional bank holiday on Friday 3rd June to mark the Platinum Jubilee will incur additional cost. PSNI has advised that it is aware of the additional cost, and has made advance preparation to ensure that rostering for that period is adequate. A service wide notice was issued to its officers in early December 2021.

8. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

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

9. EU Implications

Not applicable.

10. Parity or Replicatory Measure

This instrument introduces legislation governing leave allowances for police officers in Northern Ireland.

11. Additional Information

Not applicable.