EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The Police Trainee (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025

S.R 2025 No. 35

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 36 and 41 of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000, and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.

2. Purpose

The Statutory Rule will lapse the Police Trainee (Amendment) (Coronavirus) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020, which provided the Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) with the ability to early attest trainee police officers, as a response to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic at that time.

The Rule comes into operation on 24th March 2025.

3. Background

An amendment to the Police Trainee Regulations (NI) 2001 to maximise the PSNI's operational capacity during the pandemic was put in place in April 2020. A commitment was given at the time that its use would be kept under review, and the amendment would only be utilised for as long as was necessary in response to the pandemic. Following review, it was agreed that the regulations should be lapsed.

4. Consultation

In accordance with sections 36 and 41 of the enabling legislation the Department has undertaken consultation with the Northern Ireland Policing Board, the PSNI and the Police Association for Northern Ireland.

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

The financial impact is negligible, lapsing the 2020 regulations will see a return to the normal procedure prior to the pandemic. The ability to attest officers early has never been invoked and therefore no financial impact has occurred.

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 police officers in Northern Ireland.

11. Additional Information

Not applicable.