



Department of the
Environment

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**The Draft Local Government
(Indemnities for Members and Officers)
Order (Northern Ireland) 2010**

Consultation Document

December 2009

**PROPOSAL TO MAKE THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (INDEMNITIES
FOR MEMBERS AND OFFICERS) ORDER (NORTHERN IRELAND)
2010**

This Consultation Document seeks views on the Department's proposal to make the Local Government (Indemnities for Members and Officers) Order (Northern Ireland) 2010.

Comments should be sent by 31 March 2010 to:

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THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (INDEMNITIES FOR MEMBERS AND OFFICERS) ORDER (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2010

Purpose

1. The Department is seeking views from consultees on its proposal to make an order using powers available in Article 33 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 (the 2005 Order) to enable district councils to provide indemnities to some or all of their members and officers.
2. The background to this matter and details of the Department's proposal are set out in the following paragraphs.

Position in England and Wales

3. Prior to 2004 there had been uncertainty in England and Wales about the extent of the powers of local authorities to indemnify their members and officers for any personal liability arising from actions or decisions taken by them in the course of their official duties. While local authorities had relied on various statutory provisions that either excluded liability or permitted some indemnities to be granted, particular doubts and concerns had arisen where members and officers incurred personal liability for their actions on external bodies to which they had been appointed by their local authorities.
4. Given the importance that Government attaches to local authorities working in partnership with other bodies and using their powers in

innovative ways to ensure delivery of high-quality and cost-effective services, it was important that these matters should be clarified.

Consequently, Government took an order-making power in the Local Government Act 2000 (the 2000 Act) to allow the Secretary of State to provide authorities with the ability to indemnify their members and officers in respect of personal liabilities incurred in connection with their service on behalf of their authorities.

5. Section 101 of the 2000 Act permits the Secretary of State to “...*make provision for or in connection with conferring powers on relevant authorities in England and Wales to provide indemnities to some or all of their members and officers.*” Subsequently, in 2004, the Secretary of State made the Local Government (Indemnities for Members and Officers) Order 2004 (the 2004 Order) which came into force in November 2004. The 2004 Order clarified the circumstances in which local authorities can indemnify some or all of their members and officers (including securing the provision of insurance cover) and enabled local authorities to provide indemnities in a wider range of circumstances than before.

Northern Ireland position

6. The legislation used by local authorities in England and Wales prior to November 2004 to provide indemnities for members and officers does not extend to Northern Ireland. However, section 1(2) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 (the 1972 Act) establishes a district council as a body corporate and applies section 19 of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954 (the 1954 Act) to the council. As a body corporate, section 19(1)(e) of the 1954 Act enables a council

“...to exempt from personal liability for the debts, obligations or acts of that body, such members thereof as do not contravene the provision of the Act under which the body is established.”

7. Section 1(1)(b) of the 1972 Act provides that a council *“...shall have such functions as are conferred on the council by any statutory provision.”* As such therefore, a council can indemnify its members from personal liability in carrying out any functions of the council provided its members do not contravene the provision of the 1972 Act.

8. As regards council officers, section 48 of the 1972 Act states:

“48(1) An officer of a council shall not be personally liable in respect of any act done by him in the execution of any function of the council and within the scope of his employment if he acted reasonably and in the honest belief that his duty required or empowered him to do it; but nothing in this subsection shall be construed-

(a) as relieving a council of any liability in respect of its officers; or

(b) as exempting any officer of a council from the operation of Articles 19 and 20 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005.

(2) Where an action has been brought against an officer of a council in respect of an act done by him in the execution or purported execution of any such function and the circumstances are such that he is not legally entitled to require the council to indemnify him, the council may nevertheless indemnify him against the whole or a

part of any damages or costs which he may have been ordered to pay or may have incurred, if the council is satisfied that he honestly believed that the action complained of was within the scope of his employment and that his duty required or empowered him to do it.”.

9. Therefore, under section 48(1) of the 1972 Act, an officer of a council could not be personally liable for his actions in carrying out any functions of the council that are within the scope of his employment **provided** he acted reasonably and in the honest belief that his duty required him to carry out those actions. Additionally, under section 48(2) of the 1972 Act, a council could indemnify an officer in circumstances where he would not otherwise be legally entitled to be indemnified by his council **provided** the council was satisfied that, in carrying out a particular action, the officer honestly believed that it was within the scope of his employment and that he was required to carry it out.

Doubts about the extent of indemnities for members and officers of district councils

10. Despite the above provisions (see paragraphs 6-9 above), councils have in recent years expressed doubts about the extent to which they can indemnify their members and officers from personal liability arising from actions or decisions taken by them as members of other bodies to which they have been appointed by their councils, e.g. local partnerships, regeneration initiatives, companies that councils have established or participate in, etc.

11. Consequently, the Department included an order-making power, similar to that contained in section 101 of the 2000 Act, in the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 (the 2005 Order). Article 33 of the 2005 Order (see Annex A) is deliberately wide-ranging and permits the Department to “...*make provision for or in connection with conferring power on councils to provide indemnities to some or all of their members and officers.*” Article 33 has not yet been commenced.

Department’s proposal

12. The Department proposes to commence Article 33 of the 2005 Order and, at the same time, make an order to confer powers on councils to indemnify, subject to certain restrictions, some or all of their members and officers in respect of personal liabilities incurred in connection with service on behalf their councils. The powers will be similar to those given to relevant local authorities in England and Wales under the 2004 Order.

The Local Government (Indemnities for Members and Officers) Order (Northern Ireland) 2010

13. A draft copy of the proposed order – the Local Government (Indemnities for Members and Officers) Order (Northern Ireland) 2010 (the 2010 Order) – is attached for consideration as Annex B.

Who should councils be able to indemnify?

14. The 2010 Order will enable councils to provide indemnities to some or all of their members and officers.

15. The Department considers that it should be for councils themselves to determine which members and officers should be granted indemnities. Accordingly, it is proposed that the power to provide indemnities should be widely drafted and should not limit the class of member or officer to whom indemnities can be given. The power will permit councils to grant indemnities to specific individuals, at the discretion of each council.
16. The Department considers that the power to grant indemnities out of public funds should be limited to circumstances in which members or officers act by virtue of membership of, or employment by, their councils and for the purposes of their councils. This specifically allows indemnities to be available where an individual is working in partnership with another organisation, so long as the above conditions are met. It will not extend to members or officers acting in a personal capacity.
17. The Department considers that indemnities should be capable of being provided in relation to any claim made after the indemnities have been given (whatever the date of the action complained of).
18. Only members and officers who are in post at the time the indemnities are granted will be eligible for indemnities but, in relation to action taken while they are members or officers, the indemnities will continue to be effective in respect of claims made after they have ceased to be members or officers, if the terms of the indemnities provide for this (see also paragraph 36 below).

19. Paragraphs 14-18 relate particularly to Articles 2 and 4 of the 2010 Order.

Question 1: Do you agree that councils should be able to indemnify all or such of their members or officers as they determine for liabilities incurred when they are acting by virtue of their membership of, or employment by, their councils and for the purposes of their councils?

What liabilities should councils be able to indemnify?

20. The Department considers that councils should be permitted to indemnify individuals against any personal financial liability that they incur arising from circumstances in which members or officers act by virtue of membership of, or employment by, their councils and for the purposes of their councils. Such indemnities could be in terms of financial support or support in kind (such as legal advice or representation by employees from the councils).

21. Councils' powers should be wide enough to remove any doubts about their ability to indemnify individuals, including:

- where individuals become personally responsible for the debts or other liabilities of bodies to which they have been appointed by their councils; and

- where individuals incur costs defending themselves against legal proceedings brought by third parties in relation to their duties as members or officers - including any in which the individuals are co-joined with their councils.

Question 2: Do you agree with the above circumstances or are there other circumstances in which councils would want to provide indemnities and which should be covered by the 2010 Order?

Should any restrictions be placed on councils' power to provide indemnities?

Restrictions

22. The Department considers that some restrictions should be placed on the provision of indemnities. In particular, the Department proposes that an indemnity should not be available to cover any case in which an individual has acted fraudulently or recklessly. Also, an indemnity should not extend to any liability arising from any action, or failure to act, which constitutes a criminal offence (though this would not exclude the possibility of an indemnity to cover the costs of a defence case in instances in which the defendant was eventually found not guilty of the offence).
23. The Department therefore proposes that members and officers should only be able to rely on indemnities funded directly by their councils if, when taking the actions giving rise to the liabilities, they have acted honestly and

in good faith. It is not proposed that officers or members could rely on indemnities if, when taking the actions giving rise to the liabilities, they acted recklessly.

24. The effect of these restrictions is that indemnities could be offered to cover liabilities that have been incurred by members or officers in connection with their councils' functions, if the individuals concerned had acted honestly and in good faith at all times.

25. Paragraphs 22-24 relate to Article 5 of the 2010 Order.

<p>Question 3: Are the restrictions on councils' power to provide indemnities proposed above appropriate?</p>
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Insurance

26. The Department proposes that, alongside the power to provide indemnities, the 2010 Order should also be used to make clear that councils may also arrange for insurance for members or officers against the risks that may be the subject of indemnities permitted by the 2010 Order. In common with other situations where councils purchase insurance, councils will have to weigh up the respective advantages and disadvantages of purchasing insurance or meeting the cost of indemnities from their own resources. In all cases, councils will need to give due weight to their obligations in relation to financial probity and value for money considerations.

27. Paragraph 26 relates particularly to Article 3 of the 2010 Order.

Libel action

28. The Department proposes expressly to prohibit councils from using the powers to be conferred by the 2010 Order to meet the cost of members and officers taking legal action for slander or libel, either directly or through insurance. The Department does not believe that individuals should be funded at public expense to bring proceedings against third parties as to do so could stifle legitimate public debate. Councils should however be able to provide indemnities to individuals against the costs of defending such actions (where the actions relate to their official functions).
29. A 2003 judgement in the England and Wales High Court¹ indicated that local authorities there may already have the power in some cases to make a decision to fund libel proceedings brought by their officers and to pay the costs of such an action by virtue of section 111(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. However, the judge said:
- “The hazards of defamation exercises are, or should be, notorious. Common sense suggests that the council’s disastrous experience in the present case should be sufficient to warn-off all but the most litigious of local authorities from granting indemnities in respect of the costs of defamation proceeding brought by their officers.”*
30. Northern Ireland councils do not have a directly equivalent power to section 111(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. However, using the power available in section 17(3) of the 1954 Act², NI councils may in

¹ R v Bedford Borough Council, Ex Parte Gregory Comminos (2003) QBD Administrative Court (Sullivan J) 21/1/2003.

² Section 17(3) of the 1954 Act States “Where an enactment empowers any person or authority to do any act or thing, all such powers shall be deemed to be also given as are reasonably necessary to enable that person or authority to do that act or thing or are incidental to the doing thereof.”

particular cases be able to provide indemnities for officers to take slander or libel proceedings against third parties where such provision could be regarded as being reasonably necessary to enable those officers to do any act or thing or is incidental to the doing thereof. Councils would clearly have to consider their positions very carefully, and take appropriate legal advice, before using this power to fund slander or libel proceedings brought by their officers. Councils should also note the above-mentioned judgement and the availability of judicial review as a remedy in cases of irrational or otherwise improper decisions. This will include any use of such a power purely to circumvent the basic rule that a council cannot protect itself by bringing defamation proceedings.

31. Paragraphs 28-30 relate to Article 5 of the 2010 Order.

Question 4: Do you agree that the Department is right to:

- **limit indemnities from council reserves to situations where individuals have acted honestly and in good faith?**
- **permit councils to insure against the risk that indemnities might be called upon?**
- **prohibit councils from providing indemnities, either directly or through insurance, for the cost of starting proceedings for defamation?**

Question 5: Are there other express prohibitions that should be attached to the power to give indemnities?

Actions or guarantees subsequently found to be ultra vires

32. Bodies with which councils do business may at times seek guarantees, opinion letters or letters of comfort from individuals within councils as a way of protecting themselves against the possibility that the commitments being entered into by councils are ultra vires. Should the transactions subsequently prove to be outside the powers of the councils and enforcement against the councils thus impossible, the other bodies may try to claim against the individuals concerned.
33. The Department has considered whether there should be some scope to allow indemnities to be granted in cases where actions are shown to be ultra vires and has concluded that there are limited cases where this may be permissible. The Department therefore would welcome responses to the proposal that councils should be able to provide indemnities to members and officers to cover cases in which individuals are subject to proceedings in relation to matters authorised by their councils but which are later found to be ultra vires if:
- (a) the individual indemnified, at the point at which he or she acted, believed that the action he or she was taking was intra vires or, where the actions consist of providing an opinion letter or letter of comfort, that the contents of that letter were true; and
 - (b) that those beliefs were honestly and reasonably held.
34. The Department proposes that the 2010 Order accompanying this consultation paper should permit councils to purchase insurance or provide

indemnities to cover any liabilities which individuals incur due to actions or decisions that their councils have corporately taken that have subsequently proven to be ultra vires, providing the conditions at (a) and (b) in the preceding paragraph are satisfied.

35. Paragraphs 32-34 relate to Article 6 of the 2010 Order.

Question 6: The Department seeks views on this approach to indemnifying members or officers who provide guarantees, opinion letters or letters of comfort to third parties or become liable through activities that are subsequently found to be ultra vires.

Other issues

36. The Department considers that the exact terms when members and officers can call upon indemnities are for members, officers and councils to decide.

Question 7: Are there any other issues that need to be covered in the 2010 Order?

Human Rights

37. The Department believes that the proposed Order is compatible with the Human Rights Act 1998.

Equality

38. Under the terms of section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the Department carried out screening for equality impact and is satisfied that the proposed Order will not lead to discriminatory or negative differential impact on any of the section 75 groups. A copy of the screening form can be viewed on the Department's website

http://www.doeni.gov.uk/index/information/equality_unit.htm.

Regulatory Impact Assessment

39. Earlier this year, the Department advised councils of its intention to commence Article 33 of the 2005 Order and make an order to enable councils to provide indemnities to some or all of their members and officers. Councils were asked to provide information to assist the Department determine if it was necessary to undertake a regulatory impact assessment in respect of this policy proposal. The information received indicated that the proposal will not impact on businesses, charities, social enterprises or voluntary bodies and the Department has therefore concluded that a regulatory impact assessment is not necessary.

Rural Proofing

40. The Department considers that its proposal will not have a differential impact in rural areas or on rural communities.

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - confidentiality of consultations

41. The Department may publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. Your response, and all other responses to the consultation, may be disclosed on request. The Department can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. Before you submit your response, please read Annex C on the confidentiality of consultations. It gives guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this consultation.

Alternative format

42. Should you require a copy of this Document in an alternative format, it can be made available on request in large print, disc, Braille and audiocassette. The Department's text phone number has also been included below to assist those people who have a hearing impairment. It may also be made available in minority languages for those who are not proficient in English.

Consultation

43. Comments should be sent by 31 March 2010 to me at the address below or by e-mail to jim.stewart@doeni.gov.uk. The following persons will be able to answer queries in relation to the Department's proposal:

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44. This Consultation Document is being circulated to persons and bodies listed in Annex D and is also available to view at http://www.doeni.gov.uk/index/local_government/local_government_consultations.htm.

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**Article 33 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland)
Order 2005**

Indemnification of members and officers of councils

33. - (1) The Department may by order make provision for or in connection with conferring power on councils to provide indemnities to some or all of their members and officers.

(2) Before making an order under this Article the Department shall consult councils and—

- (a) such associations or bodies representative of councils;
- (b) such associations or bodies representative of officers of councils;
- and
- (c) such other persons or bodies,

as the Department considers appropriate.

(3) An order under this Article—

- (a) may include supplementary, incidental, consequential or transitional provisions; and
- (b) shall not be made unless a draft of the order has been laid before, and approved by resolution of, the Assembly.

(4) In this Article “member” in relation to a council, includes—

- (a) a member of any committee of the council;
- (b) a person who is a member of, and represents the council on, any joint committee.

DRAFT STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN
IRELAND

2010 No.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**Draft Local Government (Indemnities for Members and
Officers) Order (Northern Ireland) 2010**

Made - - - - - ***

Coming into operation - - - - - ***

The Department of the Environment makes the following Order in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 33 of the Local Government Order (Northern Ireland) 2005(a).

In accordance with Article 33(2) of that Order, the Department of the Environment has consulted councils and such associations or bodies representative of councils, such associations or bodies representative of officers of councils and such other persons or bodies as it considered appropriate.

Citation, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) This Order may be cited as the Local Government (Indemnities for Members and Officers) Order (Northern Ireland) 2010 and shall come into operation on [] 2010.

(2) In this Order “secure”, in relation to any indemnity provided by means of insurance, includes arranging for, and paying for, that insurance.

Indemnities

2. A council may, in the cases mentioned in Article 4, provide indemnities to any of its members or officers.

Insurance

3. In place of, or in addition to, providing an indemnity under Article 2, a council may, in the cases mentioned in Article 4, provide an indemnity by securing the insurance of any of its members or officers.

Cases in which an indemnity may be provided

4. Subject to Article 5, an indemnity may be provided in relation to any action of, or failure to act by, the member or officer in question, which—

- (a) is authorised by the council; or
- (b) forms part of, or arises from, any functions conferred upon that member or officer, as a consequence of any function being exercised by that member or officer (whether or not

(a) S.I. 2005/1968 (NI 18)

when exercising that function it is done so in the capacity as a member or officer of the council)–

- (i) at the request of, or with the approval of the council, or
- (ii) for the purposes of the council.

Restrictions on indemnities

5.—(1) No indemnity may be provided under this Order in relation to any action by, or failure to act by, any member or officer which–

- (a) constitutes a criminal offence; or
- (b) is the result of fraud, or other deliberate wrongdoing or recklessness on the part of that member or officer.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1)(a), an indemnity may be provided in relation to –

- (a) subject to Article 7, the defence of any criminal proceedings brought against the member or officer; and
- (b) any civil liability arising as a consequence of any action or failure to act which also constitutes a criminal offence.

(3) No indemnity may be provided under this Order in relation to the making by the member or officer indemnified of any claim in relation to an alleged defamation of that member or officer but may be provided in relation to the defence by that member or officer of any allegation of defamation made against the member or officer.

Matters that exceed the powers of the council, member or officer

6.—(1) Notwithstanding any limitation on the powers of a council which grants an indemnity, the council may provide an indemnity to the extent that the member or officer in question–

- (a) believed that the action, or failure to act, in question was within the powers of the council; or
- (b) where that action or failure comprises the issuing or authorisation of any document containing any statement as to the powers of the council, or any statement that certain steps have been taken or requirements fulfilled, believed that the contents of that statement were true,

and it was reasonable for that member or officer to hold that belief at the time when the member or officer acted or failed to act.

(2) An indemnity may be provided in relation to an act or omission which is subsequently found to be beyond the powers of the member or officer in question but only to the extent that the member or officer reasonably believed that the act or omission in question was within the powers of the member or officer at the time at which the member or officer acted.

Terms of indemnity or insurance

7.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the terms of any indemnity given (including any insurance secured) under this Order may be such as a council shall agree.

(2) Where any indemnity given to any member or officer (including any insurance secured for that member or officer) has effect in relation to the defence of any criminal proceedings, the indemnity shall be provided (and any insurance secured) on the terms that, if the member or officer in question is convicted of a criminal offence and that conviction is not overturned following any appeal, the member or officer in question shall reimburse the council or the insurer (as the case may be) for any sums expended by the council or insurer in relation to those proceedings pursuant to the indemnity or insurance.

(3) Where a member or officer is obliged to reimburse a council or insurer pursuant to the terms mentioned in paragraph (2), those sums shall be recoverable by the council or insurer (as the case may be) as a civil debt.

(L.S.)

Wesley Shannon
A senior officer of the Department of the Environment

EXPLANATORY NOTE
(This note is not part of the Order)

This Order provides for circumstances in which a council may provide indemnities to any of its members or officers. These powers are in addition to any existing powers that councils may have.

Article 3 enables a council to provide an indemnity by means of the council securing the provision of an insurance policy for the members or officers.

Article 4 sets out the cases in which indemnities (including those provided by insurance) may be provided. This Article restricts the power to cases in which the member or officer in question is carrying on any function at the request of, with the approval of, or for the purposes of, the council. It extends to cases where, when exercising the function in question, the member or officer does so in a capacity other than that of a member or officer of the council.

Article 5 prevents the provision of an indemnity (or securing of insurance) in relation to criminal acts, any other intentional wrongdoing, fraud, recklessness, or in relation to the bringing of (but not the defence of) any action in defamation.

Article 6 gives a limited power to provide an indemnity (including an indemnity provided by insurance) where the action or inaction in question is outside the powers of the council itself or outside the powers of the member or officer who acts. It also covers cases in which a member or officer makes a statement that certain steps have been taken or requirements fulfilled but it later becomes clear that this is not the case. This provision is limited to cases in which the person indemnified:

- reasonably believed that the matter in question was not outside those powers, or
- where a document has been issued containing an untrue statement as to the council's powers, or as to the steps taken or requirements fulfilled, reasonably believed that the statement was true when it was issued or authorised.

Article 7 provides that the terms of any indemnity (including insurance secured) may be such as a council shall agree. The terms must include provision for re-payment of sums expended by the council or insurer in cases in which a member or officer has been convicted of a criminal offence (if the indemnity or insurance policy would otherwise cover the proceedings leading to that conviction). Any sums recoverable may be recovered as a civil debt.

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 – confidentiality of consultations

1. The Department may publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. Your response, and all other responses to the consultation, may be disclosed on request. The Department can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. Before you submit your response, please read the paragraphs below on the confidentiality of consultations and they will give you guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this consultation.
2. The Freedom of Information Act gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely, the Department in this case. This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. The Department cannot automatically consider as confidential information supplied to it in response to a consultation. However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity, should be made public or be treated as confidential.
3. This means that information provided by you in response to the consultation is unlikely to be treated as confidential, except in very particular circumstances. The Lord Chancellor's Code of Practice on the Freedom of Information Act provides that:
 - the Department should only accept information from third parties in confidence if it is necessary to obtain that information

in connection with the exercise of any of the Department's functions and it would not otherwise be provided;

- the Department should not agree to hold information received from third parties "in confidence" which is not confidential in nature; and
- acceptance by the Department of confidentiality provisions must be for good reasons, capable of being justified to the Information Commissioner.

4. For further information about confidentiality of responses please contact the Information Commissioner's Office (or see website at: <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>).

List of Consultees

Age Concern NI

All Northern Ireland District Councils

An Munia Tober

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Association of British Insurers

Association of Local Government Finance Officers

Association of Public Service Excellence

British Chamber of Commerce

Belfast Solicitors Association

Carers NI

Chief Local Government Auditor

Church of Ireland

Civil Law Reform Division

Coalition on Sexual Orientation

Community Relations Council

Confederation of British Industry

Disability Action

District Judge - Magistrates Court

Equality Commission for NI

Equality Forum NI

Federation of Small Businesses

Food Standards Agency for Northern Ireland

Gingerbread

Help the Aged NI

HM Council of County Court Judges

HM Revenue & Customs

Human Rights Commission

Law Centre (NI)

Local Government Staff Commission

MENCAP

Men's Project

MEPs

Methodist Church in Ireland

Ministry of Defence

MLAs

MPs

National Association of Councillors

NI Assembly / Committee for the Environment

NI Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux

NI Chamber of Commerce and Industry

NI Council of Trade

NI Council for Voluntary Action

NI Gay Rights Association

NI Political Parties

NIC / ICTU

North Western Region Waste Management Group

Northern Ireland Bankers Association

Northern Ireland Court Service

Northern Ireland Finance House Association

Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Commission

Northern Ireland Law Commission

Northern Ireland Local Government Association

Northern Ireland Ombudsman

Participation and the Practice of Rights Project

Presbyterian Church in Ireland

QUB – School of Law

RNIB

RNID

Save the Children

Secretary – Catholic Bishops of Northern Ireland

Society of Local Authority Chief Executives

SWaMP2008

The Executive Council of the Inn of Court Northern Ireland

The General Consumer Council for Northern Ireland

The Law Society of Northern Ireland

The Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities

UU – School of Law

Women's Support Network

Youthnet