

Departments Bill

[AS INTRODUCED]

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Departments

A

BILL

TO

Rename the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, the Department of Finance and Personnel, the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, the Department for Regional Development and the Department for Social Development; to dissolve the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, the Department of the Environment and the Department for Employment and Learning; and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by being passed by the Northern Ireland Assembly and assented to by Her Majesty as follows:

The Northern Ireland departments

1.—(1) The Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister is renamed the Executive Office.

(2) The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is renamed the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.

(3) The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment is renamed the Department for the Economy.

(4) The Department of Finance and Personnel is renamed the Department of Finance.

(5) The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety is renamed the Department of Health.

(6) The Department for Regional Development is renamed the Department for Infrastructure.

(7) The Department for Social Development is renamed the Department for Communities.

(8) The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure is dissolved.

(9) The Department of the Environment is dissolved.

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(10) The Department for Employment and Learning is dissolved.

(11) Accordingly, as from the coming into operation of this section, there shall be the departments set out in Schedule 1.

5 (12) The provisions of the Departments (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 apply in relation to the departments set out in Schedule 1.

Consequential amendments and repeals

2.—(1) Schedule 2 contains amendments to the Ombudsman (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 which are necessary in consequence of the amendments made by section 1.

10 (2) The statutory provisions set out in Schedule 3 are repealed to the extent specified in the second column of that Schedule.

Short title and commencement

3.—(1) This Act may be cited as the Departments Act (Northern Ireland) 2015.

15 (2) Sections 1 and 2 and Schedules 1, 2 and 3 come into operation on such day or days as the First Minister and deputy First Minister, acting jointly, may by order appoint.

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SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1

Section 1(12).

THE NORTHERN IRELAND DEPARTMENTS

- 5 The Executive Office
The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
The Department for Communities
The Department for the Economy
The Department of Education
10 The Department of Finance
The Department of Health
The Department for Infrastructure
The Department of Justice

SCHEDULE 2

15

Section 2(1).

AMENDMENTS

The Ombudsman (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 (NI 8)

1. In Schedule 2—
- 20 (a) for “Department of Agriculture and Rural Development” substitute
“Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs”;
- (b) for “Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment” substitute
“Department for the Economy”;
- (c) for “Department of Finance and Personnel” substitute “Department of
Finance”;
- 25 (d) for “Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety” substitute
“Department of Health”;
- (e) for “Department for Regional Development” substitute “Department for
Infrastructure”;
- (f) for “Department for Social Development” substitute “Department for
30 Communities”;
- (g) for “Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister” substitute “the
Executive Office”;
- (h) the following entries cease to have effect—
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

Department of the Environment

Department for Employment and Learning;

(i) in Note 1 for “Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure” substitute “Department for Communities”;

5 (j) in Note 2 for “Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment” substitute “Department for the Economy”;

(k) in Note 3 for “Department of Finance and Personnel” substitute “Department of Finance”.

SCHEDULE 3

10

Section 2(2).

REPEALS

Short Title	Extent of Repeal
15 The Departments (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 (NI 1)	In Article 3— (a) in paragraph (1), sub-paragraphs (b) and (c); (b) paragraphs (8) and (9). Schedule 1.
20 The Department for Employment and Learning Act (Northern Ireland) 2001 (c. 15)	The whole Act.
The Department of Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2010 (c. 3)	In section 1, subsection (3).