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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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1978 No. 1046 (N.I. 16)

NORTHERN IRELAND

**The Payments for Debt (Amendment)  
(Northern Ireland) Order 1978**

*Laid before Parliament in draft*

*Made* 25th July 1978

*Coming into Operation* 8th August 1978

At the Court at Buckingham Palace, the 25th day of July 1978

Present,

The Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in Council

Whereas a draft of this Order has been approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament:

Now, therefore, Her Majesty, in exercise of the powers conferred by paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 to the Northern Ireland Act 1974 (a) and of all other powers enabling Her in that behalf, is pleased, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, to order, and it is hereby ordered, as follows:—

*Title and commencement*

1. This Order may be cited as the Payments for Debt (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 and shall come into operation on the fourteenth day after the day on which it is made.

*Interpretation*

2. The Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954 (b) shall apply to Article 1 and the following provisions of this Order as it applies to a Measure of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

*Interest or costs of collection in respect of debts due for electricity or gas*

3.—(1) In section 2 (1) of the Payments for Debt (Emergency Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 1971 (c) (power to require payment of interest or costs of collection on sums recoverable under the Act) after the word "Development" there shall be inserted the words ", or, in relation to the debts and charges mentioned in paragraph (c), the Department of Commerce," and after paragraph (b) there shall be inserted the following paragraph:—

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(a) 1974 c. 28. (b) 1954 c. 33 (N.I.). (c) 1971 c. 30 (N.I.).

“(c) any outstanding debt for electricity supplied by the Northern Ireland Electricity Service or gas supplied by a district council or any charge in respect of the provision of a meter or other device installed to measure or regulate such supply of electricity or gas;”

and in sub-paragraph (iv) for the words “or rent” there shall be substituted the words “rent, charge or other debt”.

(2) In section 2 (2) of the said Act after the word “rent” there shall be inserted the words “or any charge or other debt”.

(3) In section 16 (1) of the said Act, in the definition of “appropriate authority”, at the end of paragraph (b) there shall be inserted the words “in relation to the debts mentioned in subsection (1) (a) and (b) of that section or the head of the Department of Commerce in relation to the debts and charges mentioned in subsection (1) (c) of that section;”.

*N. E. Leigh,*  
Clerk of the Privy Council.

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This Note is not part of the Order.)*

This Order empowers the Department of Commerce, with the approval of the Department of Finance, to make an order requiring the payment of interest or costs of collection on sums recoverable under the Payments for Debt (Emergency Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 1971 in respect of debts and charges due for electricity or gas.