
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1989 No. 2405

The Insolvency (Northern Ireland) Order 1989

PARTS II TO VI COMPANY INSOLVENCY; COMPANIES WINDING UP

PART VII

**MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS APPLYING TO
COMPANIES WHICH ARE INSOLVENT OR IN LIQUIDATION**

Management by administrators, liquidators, etc.

Supplies of water, electricity, etc.

197.—(1) This Article applies in the case of a company where—

- (a) an administration order is made in relation to the company, or
- (b) an administrative receiver is appointed, or
- (c) a voluntary arrangement under Part II, approved by meetings summoned under Article 16, has taken effect, or
- (d) the company goes into liquidation, or
- (e) a provisional liquidator is appointed;

and “the office-holder” means the administrator, the administrative receiver, the supervisor of the voluntary arrangement, the liquidator or the provisional liquidator, as the case may be.

(2) If a request is made by or with the concurrence of the office-holder for the giving, after the effective date, of any of the supplies mentioned in paragraph (3), the supplier—

- (a) may make it a condition of the giving of the supply that the office-holder personally guarantees the payment of any charges in respect of the supply, but
- (b) shall not make it a condition of the giving of the supply, or do anything which has the effect of making it a condition of the giving of the supply, that any outstanding charges in respect of a supply given to the company before the effective date are paid.

(3) The supplies referred to in paragraph (2) are—

- (a) a supply of electricity by Northern Ireland Electricity,
- (b) a supply of water by the Department of the Environment,
- (c) a supply of telecommunication services by a public telecommunications operator,

and in this paragraph “telecommunication services” and “public telecommunications operator” mean the same as in the Telecommunications Act 1984(1), except that the former does not include services consisting in the conveyance of programmes included in cable programme services (within the meaning of the Cable and Broadcasting Act 1984(2)).

(1) 1984 c. 12

(2) 1984 c. 46

(4) “The effective date” for the purposes of this Article is whichever is applicable of the following dates—

- (a) the date on which the administration order was made,
- (b) the date on which the administrative receiver was appointed (or, if he was appointed in succession to another administrative receiver, the date on which the first of his predecessors was appointed),
- (c) the date on which the voluntary arrangement was approved by the meetings summoned under Article 16,
- (d) the date on which the company went into liquidation,
- (e) the date on which the provisional liquidator was appointed.

Getting in the company’s property

198.—(1) This Article applies in the case of a company where—

- (a) an administration order is made in relation to the company, or
- (b) an administrative receiver is appointed, or
- (c) the company goes into liquidation, or
- (d) a provisional liquidator is appointed;

and “the office-holder” means the administrator, the administrative receiver, the liquidator or the provisional liquidator, as the case may be.

(2) Where any person has in his possession or control any property, books, papers or records to which the company appears to be entitled, the High Court may require that person forthwith (or within such period as the Court may direct) to pay, deliver, convey, surrender or transfer the property, books, papers or records to the office-holder.

(3) Where the office-holder—

- (a) seizes or disposes of any property which is not property of the company, and
- (b) at the time of seizure or disposal believes, and has reasonable grounds for believing, that he is entitled (whether in pursuance of an order of the High Court or otherwise) to seize or dispose of that property,

paragraph (4) has effect.

(4) In that case the office-holder—

- (a) is not liable to any person in respect of any loss or damage resulting from the seizure or disposal except in so far as that loss or damage is caused by the office-holder’s own negligence, and
- (b) has a lien on the property, or the proceeds of its sale, for such expenses as were incurred in connection with the seizure or disposal.

Duty to co-operate with office-holder

199.—(1) This Article applies as does Article 198; and it also applies, in the case of a company in respect of which a winding-up order has been made by the High Court, as if references to the office-holder included the official receiver, whether or not he is the liquidator.

(2) Each of the persons mentioned in paragraph (3) shall—

- (a) give to the office-holder such information concerning the company and its promotion, formation, business, dealings, affairs or property as the office-holder may at any time after the effective date reasonably require, and

- (b) attend on the office-holder at such times as the latter may reasonably require.
- (3) The persons referred to in paragraph (2) are—
 - (a) those who are or have at any time been officers of the company,
 - (b) those who have taken part in the formation of the company at any time within one year before the effective date,
 - (c) those who are in the employment of the company, or have been in its employment (including employment under a contract for services) within that year, and are in the office-holder’s opinion capable of giving information which he requires,
 - (d) those who are, or have within that year been, officers of, or in the employment (including employment under a contract for services) of, another company which is, or within that year was, an officer of the company in question, and
 - (e) in the case of a company being wound up by the High Court, any person who has acted as administrator, administrative receiver or liquidator of the company.
- (4) For the purposes of paragraphs (2) and (3), “the effective date” is whichever is applicable of the following dates—
 - (a) the date on which the administration order was made,
 - (b) the date on which the administrative receiver was appointed or, if he was appointed in succession to another administrative receiver, the date on which the first of his predecessors was appointed,
 - (c) the date on which the provisional liquidator was appointed, and
 - (d) the date on which the company went into liquidation.
- (5) If a person without reasonable excuse fails to comply with any obligation imposed by this Article, he shall be guilty of an offence and, for continued contravention, shall be guilty of a continuing offence.

Inquiry into company’s dealings, etc.

- 200.**—(1) This Article applies as does Article 198; and it also applies, in the case of a company in respect of which a winding-up order has been made by the High Court, as if references to the office-holder included the official receiver, whether or not he is the liquidator.
- (2) The High Court may, on the application of the office-holder, summon to appear before it—
 - (a) any officer of the company,
 - (b) any person known or suspected to have in his possession any property of the company or supposed to be indebted to the company, or
 - (c) any person whom the Court thinks capable of giving information concerning the promotion, formation, business, dealings, affairs or property of the company.
 - (3) The High Court may require any such person as is mentioned in paragraph (2)(a) to (c) to submit an affidavit to the Court containing an account of his dealings with the company or to produce any books, papers or other records in his possession or under his control relating to the company or the matters mentioned in sub-paragraph (c) of that paragraph.
 - (4) The following applies in a case where—
 - (a) a person without reasonable excuse fails to appear before the High Court when he is summoned to do so under this Article, or
 - (b) there are reasonable grounds for believing that a person has absconded, or is about to abscond, with a view to avoiding his appearance before the Court under this Article.

(5) The High Court may, for the purpose of bringing that person and anything in his possession before the Court, cause a warrant to be issued to a constable—

(a) for the arrest of that person, and

(b) for the seizure of any books, papers, records, money or goods in that person's possession.

(6) The High Court may authorise a person arrested under such a warrant to be kept in custody, and anything seized under such a warrant to be held, in accordance with the rules, until that person is brought before the Court under the warrant or until such other time as the Court may order.

High Court's enforcement powers under Article 200

201.—(1) If it appears to the High Court, on consideration of any evidence obtained under Article 200 or this Article, that any person has in his possession any property of the company, the Court may, on the application of the office-holder, order that person to deliver the whole or any part of the property to the office-holder at such time, in such manner and on such terms as the Court thinks fit.

(2) If it appears to the High Court, on consideration of any evidence so obtained, that any person is indebted to the company, the Court may, on the application of the office-holder, order that person to pay to the office-holder, at such time and in such manner as the Court may direct, the whole or any part of the amount due, whether in full discharge of the debt or otherwise, as the Court thinks fit.

(3) The High Court may, if it thinks fit, order that any person liable to be summoned to appear before it under Article 200 or this Article shall be examined on oath, either orally or by interrogatories, concerning the company or the matters mentioned in Article 200(2)(c).