
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2003 No. 431

The Health and Personal Social Services (Quality, Improvement and Regulation) (Northern Ireland) Order 2003

PART III

REGULATION OF ESTABLISHMENTS AND AGENCIES

Offences

Failure to comply with conditions

24. If a person registered in respect of an establishment or agency fails, without reasonable excuse, to comply with any condition for the time being in force by virtue of this Part in respect of the establishment or agency, he shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.

Contravention of regulations

25.—(1) Regulations under this Part may provide that a contravention of any specified provision of the regulations shall be an offence.

(2) A person guilty of an offence under the regulations shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 4 on the standard scale.

False descriptions of establishments and agencies

26.—(1) A person who, with intent to deceive any person—

- (a) applies any name to premises; or
- (b) in any way describes such premises or holds such premises out,

so as to indicate, or reasonably be understood to indicate, that the premises are an establishment, or an agency, of a particular description shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale unless registration has been effected under this Part in respect of the premises as an establishment or agency of that description.

(2) References to premises in paragraph (1) shall be taken to include references to an undertaking or organisation.

(3) No person shall, with intent to deceive any person, in any way describe or hold out an establishment or agency as able to provide any service or do any thing the provision or doing of which would contravene a condition in force by virtue of this Part in respect of the establishment or agency.

(4) A person who contravenes paragraph (3) shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.

False statements in applications

27.—(1) Any person who, in an application for registration under this Part or for the variation of any condition in force in relation to his registration, knowingly makes a statement which is false or misleading in a material respect shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) A person guilty of an offence under this Article shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 4 on the standard scale.

Failure to display certificate of registration

28.—(1) A certificate of registration issued under this Part in respect of any establishment or agency shall be kept affixed in a conspicuous place in the establishment or at the agency.

(2) If default is made in complying with paragraph (1), any person registered in respect of the establishment or agency shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 2 on the standard scale.

Proceedings for offences

29.—(1) Proceedings in respect of an offence under this Part or regulations made under it shall not, without the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland, be taken by any person other than the ^{F1}RQIA .

(2) Proceedings for an offence under this Part or regulations made under it may be brought within a period of six months from the date on which evidence sufficient in the opinion of the prosecution to warrant the proceedings came to its knowledge; but no such proceedings shall be brought by virtue of this paragraph more than three years after the commission of the offence.

(3) Until the commencement of section 41(2) of the Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002 (c. 26) the reference in paragraph (1) to the Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland shall be construed as a reference to the Attorney General for Northern Ireland.

F1 Words in [Order](#) substituted (11.4.2014) by [Health and Social Care \(Amendment\) Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2014 \(c. 5\)](#), [Sch. para. 1\(1\)\(b\)](#) (with [Sch. para. 1\(2\)](#))

Changes to legislation:

The Health and Personal Social Services (Quality, Improvement and Regulation) (Northern Ireland) Order 2003, Cross Heading: Offences is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 12 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Order associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Order (including any effects on those provisions):

- art. 15(2)(e)(f) substituted for art. 15(2)(e) by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 62](#)