



Northern Ireland Act 1998

1998 CHAPTER 47

PART III

EXECUTIVE AUTHORITIES

Authorities

20 The Executive Committee.

- (1) There shall be an Executive Committee of each Assembly consisting of the First Minister, the deputy First Minister and the Northern Ireland Ministers.
- (2) The First Minister and the deputy First Minister shall be chairmen of the Committee.
- (3) The Committee shall have the functions set out in paragraphs 19 and 20 of Strand One of the Belfast Agreement.
- [^{F1}(4) The Committee shall also have the function of discussing and agreeing upon—
 - [where the agreed programme referred to in paragraph 20 of Strand One of that
 - ^{F2}(a) Agreement has been approved by the Assembly and is in force, any significant or controversial matters that are clearly outside the scope of that programme;
 - (aa) where no such programme has been approved by the Assembly, any significant or controversial matters;]
 - (b) significant or controversial matters that the First Minister and deputy First Minister acting jointly have determined to be matters that should be considered by the Executive Committee.]
- [^{F3}(5) Subsections (3) and (4) are subject to [^{F4}subsections (6) to (9)].
- (6) Quasi-judicial decisions may be made by the Department of Justice or the Minister in charge of that Department without recourse to the Executive Committee.]
- [^{F5}(7) Decisions may be made by the Department for Infrastructure or the Minister in charge of that Department in the exercise of any function under—

Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to Northern Ireland Act 1998. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) [View outstanding changes](#)

- (a) the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (except a function under section 1 of that Act); or
 - (b) regulations or orders made under that Act,
- without recourse to the Executive Committee.
- (8) Nothing in subsection (3) requires a Minister to have recourse to the Executive Committee in relation to any matter unless that matter affects the exercise of the statutory responsibilities of one or more other Ministers more than incidentally.
- (9) A matter does not affect the exercise of the statutory responsibilities of a Minister more than incidentally only because there is a statutory requirement to consult that Minister.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 20(4) inserted (8.5.2007) by [Northern Ireland \(St Andrews Agreement\) Act 2006 \(c. 53\)](#), ss. 2(2), **5(1)**, 27(4)(5) (as amended by [Northern Ireland \(St Andrews Agreement\) Act 2007 \(c. 4\)](#), s. 1(1)) (with s. 1(3)); [S.I. 2007/1397](#), **art. 2**
- F2** S. 20(4)(a)(aa) substituted for s. 20(4)(a) (N.I.) (26.8.2020) by [Executive Committee \(Functions\) Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2020 \(c. 4\)](#), **ss. 1 (2)**, 2,
- F3** S. 20(5)(6) inserted (12.4.2010) by [The Northern Ireland Act 1998 \(Devolution of Policing and Justice Functions\) Order 2010 \(S.I. 2010/976\)](#), arts. 1(2), **23** (with arts. 28-31)
- F4** Words in s. 20(5) substituted (N.I.) (26.8.2020) by [Executive Committee \(Functions\) Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2020 \(c. 4\)](#), **ss. 1(3)**, 2
- F5** S. 20(7)-(9) inserted (N.I.) (26.8.2020) by [Executive Committee \(Functions\) Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2020 \(c. 4\)](#), **ss. 1(4)**, 2

Changes to legislation:

There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to Northern Ireland Act 1998. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

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

- Act amendment to earlier affecting provision 2022 c. 48, s. 1 by [2024 c. 2 s. 1](#)
- Act modified (cond.) by [2006 c. 17 Sch. 2 para. 2\(5\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Conditional amendment never in force)

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

- s. 31(2)-(2D) substituted for s. 31(2) (cond.) by [2006 c. 17 Sch. 3 para. 2\(1\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Conditional amendment never in force)
- s. 31(2)-(2D) substituted for s. 31(2) (cond.) by [2006 c. 53 Sch. 3 para. 2\(1\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk to legislation.gov.uk. It is a conditional amendment that was never brought into force. Sch. 3 repealed (10.5.2007) by Northern Ireland (St Andrews Agreement) Act 2006 (c. 53), s. 2(5) (as amended by 2007 c. 4, s. 1(1)), Sch. 4 para. 3 (with s. 1(3)); S.I. 2007/1397, art. 2)
- s. 31(2E) inserted (cond.) by [2006 c. 17 Sch. 3 para. 3\(1\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Conditional amendment never in force)
- Sch. 2 para. 9B inserted by [2009 c. 8 s. 27](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The amending provision was repealed (16.2.2011) without ever being in force by 2010 c. 36, ss. 2(1), 4(2))