

## 11.— Powers of councils in relation to street names and numbering of buildings

(1) A council may erect at or near each end, corner or entrance of any street in its district, or anywhere in any townland in its district, a nameplate showing the name of the street, townland in which the street is situated, or both; and a nameplate erected under this paragraph—

(a) shall express the name of the street, townland or both in English; and

(b) may express that name such names in any other language.

(1A) A council may, subject to paragraph (1B), allocate to the buildings in a street or a townland in its district such numbers as it thinks fit.

(1B) In exercising its functions under paragraph (1A) a council shall have regard to any guidance issued by the Department.

(2) A council may, immediately adjacent to a nameplate erected under paragraph (1) which expresses the name of a street, townland or both in English only, erect a second nameplate expressing the name of the street, townland or both in a language other than English.

(3) Neither this Article nor anything done by a council thereunder authorises or requires the use of the name of a street or townland expressed in a language other than English as, or as part of—

(a) the address of any person; or

(b) the description of any land;

for the purposes of any statutory provision.

(4) In deciding whether and, if so, how to exercise its powers under paragraph (1)(b) or (2) in relation to any street or townland, a council shall have regard to any views on the matter expressed by the occupiers of premises in that street or townland.

(5) Any person who—

(a) obscures, pulls down or defaces any nameplate erected under paragraph (1) or (2);

(b) erects in any street or townland any nameplate showing as the name of the street, townland or both a name different from that in any nameplate erected in the street or townland under paragraph (1) or (2); or

(c) erects in any street or townland any nameplate purporting to show the name of the street, townland or both, without the authorisation of the council for the district in which the street or townland is situated, shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 2 on the standard scale.

(6) Where a council has exercised its powers under paragraph (1A) in relation to any street or townland, the occupier of each house or other building in that street or townland shall ensure that that house or building is at all times marked with such number as the council may approve-allocate for the purposes of this Article.

(7) Where a person fails to comply with paragraph (6) the council may serve on him a notice requiring him to comply with that paragraph within 7 days from the date of service of the notice.

(8) A person who fails to comply with a notice served on him under paragraph (7) shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 2 on the standard scale.

(9) Where a person fails to comply with a notice served on him under paragraph (7) in respect of any house or other building, the council may itself do anything which he has failed to do and may recover from that person summarily as a civil debt any expenses thereby reasonably incurred by it.

(10) In this Article—

“*nameplate*” includes any means of signifying a name in writing;

“*street*” includes any road, square, court, alley, passage or lane.

(11) The power of a council to erect a nameplate under paragraph (1) or (2) includes power—

- (a) to erect it on any building or in such other manner as the council thinks fit; and
- (b) to cause it to be erected by any person authorised in that behalf by the council.

(12) The following statutory provisions shall cease to have effect, namely—

- (a) sections 64 and 65 of the Towns Improvement Clauses Act 1847;
- (b) in section 38 of the Towns Improvement (Ireland) Act 1854 the words “naming the streets and numbering the houses and also so much thereof as relates to”;
- (c) section 21 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907;
- (d) section 19 of the Public Health and Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 1949; and
- (e) so much of any local Act as relates to the naming of streets or the numbering of houses or buildings;

and any nameplate erected under any such provision shall be taken for the purposes of this Article to have been erected under paragraph (1).

### **11A.— Guidance relating to numbering of buildings in townlands**

The Department may issue guidance relating to the allocation by councils of numbers to buildings in townlands.

### **11B.— Duty of the Department relating to the use of townlands in addresses**

(1) Where a council has under article 11(1A) allocated a number to a building on the basis of the townland rather than the street in which the building is situated then the Department is under a duty to act in relation to that building in accordance with paragraph (2)

(2) Where paragraph (1) applies the Department must so far as it is reasonably practicable to do so in relation to the building concerned—

(a) in exercising any of its land and property functions use an address format that complies with paragraph (3); and

(b) use such an address format when providing to third parties information relating to the address of the building concerned.

(3) An address format complies with this paragraph if the number of the building appears immediately before the townland in which the building is situated, and both the number and townland concerned appear before the street in which the building is situated.

(4) In this article—

(a) “address format” means the order in which the number of a building, the townland in which the building is situated, and the street in which the building is situated, appear in the address of that building; and

(b) “land and property functions” means any of the Department’s functions relating to land and property matters including without limitation—

(i) maintaining the title register;

(ii) providing land information services in Northern Ireland;

(iii) supplying mapping information for Northern Ireland; and

(iv) keeping and providing records and data about place and location in Northern Ireland.