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The Planning (General Development) (Amendment No. 2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2011

This short briefing note is to provide an explanation on the Statutory Rule entitled, 'The Planning (General Development) (Amendment No. 2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2011', which came into force on 30 December 2011.

The purpose of this Statutory Rule is to amend the Planning (General) Development Order (Northern Ireland) 1993 (S.R. 1993 No. 278). The amendment adds paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Schedule to the Caravans Act (NI) 1963 to Part 5 of Schedule 1 of the Order. This amendment means that **no specific planning permission is required for land to be used as a caravan site if it is deemed for recreational purposes and has a maximum of 5 caravans on site**. Paragraphs 4 and 5 are summarised below.

Paragraph 4: Sites occupied and supervised by exempted organisations

- A site licence is not required for land to be used as a caravan site if the land has been granted a certificate of exemption by an 'exempted organisation'¹;

¹ Further information on the certification of exempted organisations is detailed in paragraph 12 of the Schedule to the Caravans Act (NI) 1963.

- An exempted organisation is granted a certificate by the Department of the Environment if it is deemed as encouraging/promoting recreational activity as defined in paragraph 12; and
- The land must be used for recreation and supervised by the organisation.

Paragraph 5: Sites approved by exempted organisation

- A maximum of 5 caravans can be on the land at any time;
- A certificate confirming the land has been approved for recreational purposes may be issued by the organisation to the occupants;
- Copies of all certificates should be sent to the Department of the Environment;
- Certificates should include a start and expiry date and should not be granted for longer than one year; and
- Certificates can be withdrawn at any time if the occupant does not comply with the conditions laid out in the certificate.