



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Room 357
Parliament Buildings
Stormont
BT4 3XX

18th November 2015

Proposed Amendments to Justice (No. 2) Bill: The regulation of the flying of flags on lampposts

Dear Christine,

The committee have asked for sight of the actual amendments to be presented. Unfortunately this has not been possible at this time, though a significant amount of consultation and discussion has taken place. In attempting to assist in drafting amendments the Bill office have asked a number of pertinent questions to which I have not been able to provide without taking the mind of the Committee and other stakeholders.

I am able to set out in layman's terms the specifics of what the proposed amendments are intended to achieve. I do believe that it is possible to get cross party support for the amendments and to see these amendments entered into legislation in this mandate. This is something I believe would be very well perceived by the general public.

Should I be able to get cross party agreement, I would be happy to work with committee to present competent amendments.

Here is what is the position to date

1. There is widespread dissatisfaction with the flying of flags from lampposts on arterial routes and in mixed areas. The flying of paramilitary flags and flags in a distressed state is opposed in all areas. Nobody knows who puts these flags up; nobody is responsible for taking them down. Flags are left to rot on lampposts. Such a situation would not be tolerated anywhere else.
2. Whilst polls suggest that there is a section of the community who do not wish to see any flags on lampposts, there is another section that views it as a legitimate and traditional form of cultural expression.
3. I am not attempting to prevent the flying of flags from lampposts, but to regularise it. I believe that a significant proportion of the population would accept the flying of flags from lamp posts provided: -
 - a. There is some form of community engagement
 - b. The identity and provenance of those putting up the flags is known
 - c. The flags do not represent illegal organisations
 - d. The flags are not used to intimidate
 - e. The flags are flown for a limited period
 - f. The process is regulated by an independent and impartial body appointed the Assembly ("the licensing authority") that enjoys cross party support and to which representations can be made

4. There is a substantial body of academic work including consultation with the PSNI, Chief Executives of Councils, community groups and those who put up flags produced by Dominic Walsh and Paul Nolan of Queen's University. This work has yet to be published but I believe the authors would be keen to present to the Committee. What I can tell you from this information is that resolving this matter would be very popular with a very large section of the community. In any case there is information from the life and time survey

5. The PSNI inform me that that the presence of flags on lampposts can be problematic. They acknowledge that flying of flags in such a manner does result in complaints, does undermine legitimate community groups by paramilitary organisations and can be a source of intimidation. However,
 - a. The legislative basis for removing flags is weak and the operational issues in such action is challenging.
 - b. The PSNI are clear that they do not want to be the arbiter of what flies where. They want an independent body that enjoys cross party support and a legislative framework to arbitrate.
 - c. Despite the acknowledged limitations to existing legislation the PSNI are reluctant to ask for legislation believing that this is a political matter that requires cross party support.
 - d. However, they would welcome clarification of the legislation if brought forward by others and would engage fully to ensure that any such legislation is drafted in a manner that is enforceable and addresses the current deficiencies in the law.
 - e. Although operational difficulties can be anticipated they will enforce legislation.

6. Many organisations notably Local Councils have tried to reach voluntary agreements but these have failed to produce lasting solutions. Each year community organisations with paramilitary links ask, "what will you give us to take the flags down." Such an approach undermines genuine community organisations and legitimises paramilitary representatives. This cannot be what we want, particularly in light of the Agreement published by the Executive yesterday, which wants to tackle the scourge of paramilitaries.

7. Every organisation I have spoken to wants the issue resolved but they do not want it resolved by them. They fear that any action to remove flags will provoke reprisals, which they do not have the capacity to deal with. Paramilitary groupings have learnt to exploit this fear by creating problems that they are then asked to resolve. Local councils are intimidated into funding such initiatives and thereby undermining legitimate community groups. Nor is such intimidation restricted to corporate bodies; council officials, community groups and elected representatives will also be wary of challenging such issues. There is a better way of addressing these issues including those paramilitary organisations that wish to play a constructive part in their communities.

8. The Minister for Justice has expressed some support for my proposed amendments. He was careful to separate his party position from that of the department. His party colleague Mr Chris Lyttle MLA was contemplating introducing a private member's bill on the issue of Flags but this is likely to run into time constraints. As I understand it Mr Lyttle's intention was to ban the flying of flags from lampposts. My proposed amendments will not take this approach. I would prefer to recognise that that flying of flags from lampposts is a legitimate and established form of cultural expression and to provide legislation to regulate such activities. The Minister for Justice also indicated that the current political talks may deal with such issues, but once these talks had concluded he was prepared to revisit the matter.

9. The Minister for the Environment has indicated his desire to introduce a licensing scheme for bonfires. Many of challenges facing interactions between local

authorities and community groups in this regard are common to both flags and bonfires. Such activities should be regulated to address health and safety concerns, support genuine community groups and prevent such events being hijacked by paramilitaries organisations.

10. The Minister for Regional Development has not yet been engaged in this process, however a meeting is to be confirmed. Roads Service is known to be reluctant to permit the flying of flags from lampposts. Yet this of course is exactly what is happening at the moment. There is a current legal impediment to the removal of flags from lampposts as they are owned by DRD and any attempt at removal by the PSNI or other body would constitute trespass. The amendments would need to address this issue.

Purpose of amendments:

- Introduce regulations regarding the flying of Flags on Lampposts. It is deliberately narrow in its scope.
- The amendments will create a licensing authority to regulate such matters. As a creation of the Northern Ireland Assembly it is hoped that the independent body will enjoy significant cross party support.
- The legislation will draw from the erection of election posters in planning regulations
- Police powers should be clarified and strengthened to ensure that any illegal flags i.e. flags of prescribed organisations are removed promptly.

Background information:

Flags represent, for some, an important expression of cultural identity; however they have also become symbols of what divide us in Northern Ireland.

75% of people don't support flags flying on lampposts in their own neighbourhood.¹ 66% of people think that Paramilitaries are responsible for putting up Union Flags on lampposts.²

According to the most recent Northern Ireland Life and Times survey, 32% of people are *annoyed* by Loyalist murals, paintings and flags, with 27% being *annoyed* by Republican murals, paintings and flags.

More worryingly however, is that **19% have felt *intimidated*** by Loyalist murals, paintings and flags, and 11% by Republican murals, paintings and flags. Clearly there is a significant problem with these emblems being used to mark territory and intimidate people as opposed to being a true expression of cultural heritage and celebration.

Northern Ireland is a divided society. Even 17 years on from the Good Friday Agreement we have developed a separate, but equal approach to public space as opposed to having truly shared space. Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998³

¹ http://www.ark.ac.uk/nilt/2013/Community_Relations/FLAGLAMP.html

² http://www.ark.ac.uk/nilt/2008/Community_Relations/ULAMP.html

³ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/47/section/75>

puts a duty on public authorities to promote equality and good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group. In this context, I believe the Assembly needs to show some leadership on the thorny issue of flags.

It is absolutely not my intention to prohibit the flying of flags on lampposts. While 42% believe that flags on lampposts should be removed⁴, it is often too problematic and provokes a negative reaction, which is unhelpful.

I believe we should establish a licensing authority to regulate the flying of flags on street furniture. An independent body to adjudicate on the permissibility of flags in public spaces, based on guidance given from the Assembly, or failing that the Department of Justice, would go some way in empowering communities to feel that their right to cultural expression is being honoured while also giving those who feel aggrieved or intimidated a method of resolution.

The role and Responsibilities of the Independent Licensing Authority:

- To establish a protocol on flying flags with appropriate respect and dignity
- To promote and facilitate mediation as a means of resolving disputes in terms of licensing arrangements.
- To liaise with the PSNI and communities to remove unlicensed flags

Financing of amendments:

The financing of the licensing authority depends somewhat on the structures adopted. "The estimated cost to PSNI incurred in policing flag protests and related civil unrest from 3 December 2012 to 31 March 2013 is £21.9m"⁵

Answers to AOs make clear that the police will act where there is a breach of the law. Expenditure on Twaddell and other flag related matters is already extensive. This is not a trivial issue and so warrants a budget to really tackle the issue.

Together: Building a United Community⁶

Funding could well be established under OFMDFM's Together: Building a United Community Strategy. TBUC notes the difficulty that flags can pose in the community, yet the APG and subsequent failed talks processes have led to this area not being addressed. Establishing a licensing authority through this fund would go some way to showing tangible progress in dealing with flags.

⁴ http://www.ark.ac.uk/nilt/2014/Community_Relations/FLAGDOWN.html

⁵ AQO 5402/11-15

⁶ <http://www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/together-building-a-united-community-strategy.pdf>

The Social Investment Fund⁷ (Due to end in March 2016)

Dealing with inappropriate and intimidating flags will enhance areas economically and so fits in with the focus of the social investment fund in tackling the ability of communities to work together and making areas more appealing for investment.

Given that the Parades Commission operates with a budget of around £1 million per annum⁸ and I would consider the licensing authority for flags to be significantly less, it does not seem unreasonable that it could be funded from this pot.

A Fresh Start

Tackling paramilitaries has now been allocated a dedicated budget. Yesterday's announcement appears to fit well with my intention to clarify and strengthen the PSNI's approach to Paramilitary flags and so this may be an option.

Who enforces the decision in the event that flags must be removed?

The licensing authority may be the Justice Minister, local councils or a bespoke body. What is absolutely clear is that the licensing body should be independent of any enforcement body such as the PSNI.

It is anticipated that those that put up flags should be responsible for taking them down within an agreed time frame. Where this does not happen, the licensing authority will order the removal of such flags. Although every effort will be made to work with local communities, the potential for civil unrest and/or the erection of many more flags is acknowledged.

However, without enforcement capabilities, these amendments would be likely to be a toothless wonder.

A penalty for non-compliance with the licensing regime will need to be established. I believe this should be a fine of no more than £500 and/or a maximum of 6 months imprisonment. Obviously it would be for the judiciary to determine the appropriate penalty on evaluation of the individual circumstances.

In conclusion, I believe there is a real need to address the issue of flags in the community. Flags are for many a legitimate expression of cultural identity; for those people, complying with the "Licensing Authority" should pose no issue.

For those who are using flags to mark sectarian territory and intimidate communities, I wish to give police a thorough and effective legislative framework to remove these flags; which are nothing other than an attempt to challenge our democracy and undermine the rule of law.

⁷ <http://www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/index/delivering-social-change/social-investment-fund.htm>

⁸ <https://www.paradescommission.org/getmedia/13073306-be1b-4787-ad3a-508d2f507e57/NorthernIrelandParadesCommission.aspx>

I will of course provide the Committee with my amendments following further consultation with the Bill office.

I trust this is useful in the Committee's scrutiny of the Bill.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Basil McCrea". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Basil McCrea MLA
07736 499311
basil.mccrea@mla.niassembly.gov.uk

Year: 2013

Module: Community_Relations

Variable: FLAGLAMP

In general, would you, or do you support flag flying on lampposts in your own neighbourhood?

Yes	14
No	75
Other (please specify)	6
Don't know	5

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Go to results for men and women, people of different religions, and people of different ages.
Go to technical notes

Results for men and women

	%	
	Male	Female
Yes	15	13
No	73	76
Other (please specify)	5	6
Don't know	7	4

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Results for people of different ages

	%					
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Yes	23	18	10	14	9	13
No	67	61	79	76	83	80
Other (please specify)	4	12	4	7	4	4
Don't know	5	10	7	3	4	3

View Bar Chart Hide Bar Chart

Results for people of different religions

	%		
	Catholic	Protestant	No religion
Yes	7	22	13
No	83	67	76
Other (please specify)	5	7	4
Don't know	5	4	7

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**Year:** 2008**Module:** Community Relations**Variable:** ULAMP1 - ULAMP7

Thinking about flags being flown on lampposts in Northern Ireland, in your opinion, who usually puts Up Union flags on lampposts?

This table shows the percentage of respondents identifying each group.

	% identifying each group
Town councils	9
Political parties	20
Cultural groups	20
Paramilitary groups	66
Other community groups	13
Isolated individuals	27
Don't know	6

Go to results for men and women, people of different ages and people of different religions.
Go to technical notes

Results for men and women

	%	
	Male	Female
Town councils	8	11
Political parties	20	19
Cultural groups	22	19
Paramilitary groups	69	64
Other community groups	12	14
Isolated individuals	28	26
Don't know	5	7

Results for people of different ages

	%					
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Town councils	11	7	13	7	10	8
Political parties	25	17	23	15	18	22
Cultural groups	28	25	24	18	14	17
Paramilitary groups	60	67	70	69	70	59
Other community groups	16	11	13	15	9	14
Isolated individuals	30	26	26	32	31	17
Don't know	7	10	2	7	4	7

Results for people of different religions

	%		
	Catholic	Protestant	No religion
Town councils	9	9	12
Political parties	23	16	20
Cultural groups	19	21	21
Paramilitary groups	66	66	73
Other community groups	12	11	20
Isolated individuals	28	27	24
Don't know	5	6	3

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Northern Ireland Act 1998

1998 c. 47 Part VII Equality of opportunity Section 75

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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](#)

75 Statutory duty on public authorities.

- (1) A public authority shall in carrying out its functions relating to Northern Ireland have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity—
- between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
 - between men and women generally;
 - between persons with a disability and persons without;
- and
- between persons with dependants and persons without.
- (2) Without prejudice to its obligations under subsection (1), a public authority shall in carrying out its functions relating to Northern Ireland have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.
- (3) In this section "public authority" means—
- any department, corporation or body listed in Schedule 2 to the **M1** Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1967 (departments, corporations and bodies subject to investigation) and designated for the purposes of this section by order made by the Secretary of State;
 - any body (other than the Equality Commission) listed in Schedule 2 to the **M2** Commissioner for Complaints (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 (bodies subject to investigation);
 - any department or other authority listed in Schedule 2 to the **M3** Ombudsman (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 (departments and other authorities subject to investigation);
- [F1(cc)** the Northern Ireland Policing Board, the Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland;]
- [F2(cd)** the Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland;]
- [F3(ce)** the Chief Inspector of Criminal Justice in Northern Ireland;
- the Northern Ireland Law Commission;]
 - any other person designated for the purposes of this section by order made by the Secretary of State.
- (4) Schedule 9 (which makes provision for the enforcement of the duties under this section) shall have effect.
- [F4(4A)** The references in subsections (1) and (2) and Schedule 9 to the functions of the Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland do not include any of his functions relating to the prosecution of offences **[F5** or any of the functions conferred on him by, or in relation to, Part 5 or 8 of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (c. 29) (civil recovery of the proceeds etc. of unlawful conduct, civil recovery investigations and disclosure orders in relation to confiscation investigations).]
- (5) In this section—
- "disability" has the same meaning as in the **M4** Disability Discrimination Act 1995; and
- "racial group" has the same meaning as in the **M5** Race Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1997.

Annotations:

Amendments (Textual)

- F1 S. 75(3)(cc) inserted (4.11.2001) by 2000 c. 32, s. 78(1), Sch. 6 para. 24(2); S.R. 2001/396, art. 2 Sch.
- F2 S. 75(3)(cd) inserted (1.6.2006) by 2002 c. 26, ss. 38(2), 87(1); S.R. 2005/281, art. 5
- F3 S. 75(3)(ce)(cf) inserted (1.1.2005 for certain purposes and otherwise 16.4.2007) by 2002 c. 26, ss. 85, 87(1), Sch. 12 para. 63; S.R. 2004/502, art. 2(b); S.R. 2007/237, art. 2, Sch. para. 6(c)
- F4 S. 75(4A) inserted (1.6.2006) by 2002 c. 26, ss. 38(3), 87(1); S.R. 2005/281, art. 5
- F5 Words in s. 75(4A) inserted (1.4.2008) by Serious Crime Act 2007 (c. 27), ss. 74(2), 94, Sch. 8 para. 158(1); S.I. 2008/755, art. 2(1)(a) (subject to arts. 3-14))

Modifications etc. (not altering text)



Year: 2014

Module: Community_Relations

Variable: FLAGDOWN

If flags appear on lampposts I would like them all taken down straightaway, even if this causes trouble.

	%
Strongly agree	15
Agree	27
Neither agree nor disagree	23
Disagree	25
Strongly disagree	6
Don't know	3
It depends on the flag	2

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[Go to results for men and women, people of different religions, and people of different ages.](#)
[Go to technical notes](#)

Results for men and women

	%	
	Male	Female
Strongly agree	15	15
Agree	26	28
Neither agree nor disagree	25	21
Disagree	22	28
Strongly disagree	7	6
Don't know	2	3
It depends on the flag	3	1

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Results for people of different ages

	%					
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Strongly agree	9	12	19	15	18	15
Agree	17	18	27	34	36	27

NI Life and Times Survey - 2014 : FLAGDOWN

Neither agree nor disagree	33	29	16	21	13	26
Disagree	28	27	26	22	26	23
Strongly disagree	6	7	8	5	6	6
Don't know	3	5	3	2	1	2
It depends on the flag	4	2	1	1	1	2

[View Bar Chart](#) [Hide Bar Chart](#)

Results for people of different religions

	%		
	Catholic	Protestant	No religion
Strongly agree	22	9	10
Agree	30	24	29
Neither agree nor disagree	22	23	25
Disagree	16	35	24
Strongly disagree	6	6	7
Don't know	3	2	3
It depends on the flag	2	1	3

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Northern Ireland Assembly

AQO 5402/11-15

Mr Basil McCrea
NI21
Lagan Valley

Tabled Date: 16/01/2014
Answered On Date: 28/01/2014
Priority Written: No

Question:

To ask the Minister of Justice how much the flag protests and civil unrest have cost his Department to date.

Answer:

The flag protests and civil unrest have placed, and continue to place, a financial, and indeed a more general, burden or cost on many different sectors. The estimated cost to PSNI incurred in policing flag protests and related civil unrest from 3 December 2012 to 31 March 2013 is £21.9m (this includes opportunity costs, in other words duty time, of £9.7m). There is also the ongoing cost to police the protest at Twaddell which until 31 December 2013 stands at £5.45m (this includes opportunity costs of £1.6m). These costs impact significantly on the PSNI's ability to undertake other work on behalf of the community.

In terms of the cost to my Department, there are a number of costs which have been incurred in processing and detaining individuals through the court and prison system. These include court time, remand costs and the additional costs associated with those individuals sent to prison. However identifying these costs could only be achieved at a disproportionate cost to the public purse. Other costs would include the cost to the legal aid budget. Given that nearly 400 people have been charged in connection with the protests and associated disorder the cost will be significant.

Compensation Services has advised that they have paid in the region of £250,000, to date, in terms of criminal damage claims associated with the flags protests. This sum is expected to increase as further claims are resolved.

There are also wider costs to local businesses, especially in Belfast, where uncertainty around protests have impacted heavily, particularly in the run up to Christmas 2012. Images of the flags protests and associated disorder were seen across the United Kingdom and Ireland and further afield. The potential damage that such scenes can cause, the related impact to the economy should not be underestimated.

But the greatest cost of all is arguably to our community. As I have said before, everyone has the right to protest peacefully but there can be no excuse for the scenes of violence we have witnessed. The vast majority of the community are committed to democracy and the rule of law and it is essential that we continue to work together to tackle underlying issues and build a truly shared society for all.

Our Cultural Expression

In dealing with issues around cultural expression, we will:

- Establish an All Party Group, with an independent chair, to consider and make recommendations on matters including parades and protests; flags; symbols, emblems and related matters; and the past;
- Use the restructured District Council Good Relations Programme to examine ways in which culture can be celebrated in a shared and mutually inclusive way. Options for joint activities, shared learning and respect of diversity will be key features of district council led cultural events;
- Develop, through the Arts Council, options around a new annual shared community relations/Cultural Awareness week, to encourage cultural celebration and exploration for cultures and identities; and
- Encourage the continued use of the arts and sports as a means of improving good relations.

1.58 In support of these headline strategic interventions, we make a range of commitments throughout the Strategy that over the longer-term will lead to sustainable improvements in good relations. This is not intended to be a closed list, and suggestions for actions received through the Ministerial Panel will be considered in the context of the overall aims of this Strategy. The commitments are summarised below:



Office of the
**First Minister and
Deputy First Minister**

www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk

[\[index.htm\]](#)

[Delivering Social Change\[index/delivering-social-change.htm\]](#)

- [Delivering Social Change - Introduction\[index/delivering-social-change/delivering-social-change-introduction.htm\]](#)
- [Delivering Social Change Signature Programmes\[index/delivering-social-change/signature-programmes.htm\]](#)
- [Delivering Social Change for Children and Young People\[index/delivering-social-change/dsc-children-young-people.htm\]](#)
- Social Investment Fund

Social Investment Fund

The Social Investment Fund (SIF) was set up to deliver social change. It aims to make life better for people living in targeted areas by reducing poverty, unemployment and physical deterioration. The fund will run until March 2016 and has been allocated £80 million by the Northern Ireland Executive.

About the fund

The Social Investment Fund is focused on supporting communities to:

- ▣ increase employment opportunities by addressing things such as educational underachievement, lack of skills, access to jobs and making it appealing for businesses to start up in areas which have suffered deprivation
- ▣ tackle issues such as mental and physical health, use of drugs and alcohol, becoming a young mother, young people's involvement in antisocial behaviour and the ability of communities to work together which can all be associated with deprivation
- ▣ increase services in the community by improving existing facilities, making the environment better and providing additional facilities where needed and possible
- ▣ address dereliction in order to make areas more appealing for investment and for those living there

The following pre discussion paper was published in March 2011 and outlines the high level strategic concept, objectives and overall methodology of the Fund.

- ▣ [Strategic paper on the Social Investment Fund \(PDF 38KB\) \[strategic-paper-on-the-social-investment-fund.pdf\]](#)

Operation of the fund

Following consideration of the issues emerging from the consultation final proposals on the operation of the Fund were brought to the Executive and agreed on 17 May 2012.

Steering Groups

The fund is being delivered in partnership with communities across nine social investment zones. Each zone has a steering group with up to 14 members from the business, political, statutory and voluntary and community sectors. The steering groups developed plans for each social investment zone. They will manage the plans.

Information on the Steering group membership can be found at the link below.

- [Social Investment Fund Steering Groups \[index/delivering-social-change/social-investment-fund/sif-steering-groups.htm\]](http://www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/index/delivering-social-change/social-investment-fund/sif-steering-groups.htm)

How the investment zones were decided

Four zones identified outside Belfast are broadly the same as the areas where the health and social care trusts operate. Four zones are in the Greater Belfast area and are based on Northern Ireland Assembly constituencies. One zone is aligned with the Derry City Council boundary.

Eligibility for funding

The steering groups for each zone were asked to identify areas eligible to seek funding to take forward projects related to poverty, unemployment, increasing services and dereliction. It was agreed that the following measures would be used to decide which areas were eligible:

- areas within the top 10 per cent of most deprived Super Output Areas on the Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010
- areas within the top 20 per cent of most deprived Super Output Areas on the key indicators of income, employment, education and health
- areas which could provide independently verified and robust evidence of objective need linked to the four strategic objectives of the Social Investment Fund (as detailed above)

Current Position

The Steering Groups submitted a total of 89 Projects within their plans from across the nine zones.

The projects are now going through a quality assurance review. This will ensure that only the most robust projects and those that will have the most positive impact within their communities are recommended to go through to the next stage.

Following this, decisions will then be made on the final projects and how they will be funded and delivered. The projects will then start in communities soon afterwards.

[] Social Investment Fund projects - funding announced for first SIF projects

The First Minister and deputy First Minister have announced the first projects to be funded through the Social Investment Fund (SIF) programme. £33million will be invested in 12 capital projects and 11 revenue projects, aimed at tackling poverty and deprivation through improved community based services and facilities.

You can find out more about the projects and the funding they will receive by clicking on the link below.

- ☞ [Social Investment Fund projects \[index/delivering-social-change/social-investment-fund/sif-projects.htm\]](#)

Contact Social Investment Project Team

If you would like more information about the Social Investment Project you can contact the project team:.

*SIF Project Team
Room E4.15
Block E Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast BT4 3SR*

☞ [mail: sif@ofmdfmni.gov.uk \[mailto:sif@ofmdfmni.gov.uk\]](mailto:sif@ofmdfmni.gov.uk)
telephone 028 9052 8591 / 028 9052 2048 / 028 9052 3160

More useful links...

- ☞ [Social Investment Fund - nidirect website \[http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/sif\]](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/sif)
- ☞ [Consultation document - Proposed operation of the Social Investment Fund \(PDF 501KB\) \[sif-consultation-document.pdf\]](#)
- ☞ [Overview of responses - Consultation on the proposed operation of the Social Investment Fund \(PDF 159KB\) \[sif-consultation-overview-of-responses.pdf\]](#)
- ☞ [Central Anti-Poverty \[index/equality-and-strategy/equality-human-rights-social-change/poverty-and-social-inclusion.htm\]](#)

**Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure
for the year ended 31 March 2015**

		2014-15	2013-14
	Notes	£	£
Expenditure			
Staff costs	2	555,013	531,157
Other Expenditures	3	383,268	374,398
Depreciation and amortisation	3	24,834	6,973
Revaluation	5	(165)	1,766
(Gain) / Loss on disposal	5	1,071	-
Net Expenditure		964,021	914,294
Other Comprehensive Expenditure			
Items that will not be reclassified to net operating costs:			
Net (gain)/loss on revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment	5	(291)	1,278
Net (gain)/loss on revaluation of Intangibles	6	(765)	255
Total Comprehensive Expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2015		962,965	915,827

The above expenditure is derived from continuing operations.

The notes on pages 43 - 56 form part of these accounts.