FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER

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[redacted]

FROM: **FIONA SCULLION**
DALO

DATE: **28 OCTOBER 2026**

TO: **KATHY O'HANLON**
CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE FOR JUSTICE

SL1: THE POLICE (CONDUCT) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2026

Summary: The Police (Conduct) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026

Business Area: Police Human Resources Policy Branch.

Issue: SL1 - Statutory Rule by negative resolution procedure.

Restrictions None.

Action Required: To seek Members' agreement to an SL1 regarding a Statutory Rule to amend the Police (Conduct) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 under negative resolution.

Background

The Department of Justice intends to make a Statutory Rule (SR) under powers conferred by sections 25, 26 and 59(8) of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 1998 and to reflect the Code of Ethics as per section 52 of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000. The Statutory Rule is subject to negative resolution procedure before the Assembly.

Purpose of the Statutory Rule

The Statutory Rule will amend the Police (Conduct) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016, with twelve changes that will constitute improvements to the police misconduct procedures and processes. The SR will also reflect the recently revised Code of Ethics in statute as a schedule to the Conduct Regulations.

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Consultation

In accordance with sections 25 and 26 of the enabling legislation the Department consulted with the Northern Ireland Policing Board, the PSNI and the Police Associations for Northern Ireland.

Position in Great Britain (if appropriate)

Ten out of twelve of the amendments maintain parity with conduct process provisions in England and Wales.

Equality Impact

Consideration has been given to compliance with section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and no equality issues have been identified by the Department.

Regulatory Impact

The Department does not consider that there is a need for a regulatory impact assessment for these instruments as they have no impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies.

Financial Implications

The financial impact should be negligible. The changes do not result in significant financial implications. Costs are anticipated to be minimal or will result in longer term savings through improved processes. All costs should be manageable from existing PSNI budgets.

EU Implications

There are no EU implications.

Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

The proposed instrument is considered compatible with section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

Operational Date

It is proposed that the Rule will come into operation in December 2026.

I ask that you bring this matter to the attention of the Justice Committee.

[redacted]

Fiona Scullion
DALO

Enc.

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cc Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission
Equality Commission