

*Draft Regulations laid before the Assembly under section 68(6) of The Offensive Weapons Act 2019 and subject to affirmative resolution procedure of the Assembly.*

STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN  
IRELAND

**2026 No.**

CRIMINAL LAW

COMPENSATION

**The Surrender of Offensive Weapons (Compensation)  
Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026**

*Made* xx

*Coming into operation in accordance with regulation 1* xx

The Department of Justice makes these Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 49(6), (7) and (11) and 68(8) of the Offensive Weapons Act 2019<sup>(1)</sup>.

PART 1

**Citation, commencement and interpretation**

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Surrender of Offensive Weapons (Compensation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 and come into operation on xxx

(2) In these Regulations—

“the Act” means the Offensive Weapons Act 2019;

“the Department” means the Department of Justice;

“officer” means any person authorised to accept surrender of weapons in accordance with arrangements made under section 48(3) of the Act;

“the required period” means the period of three months beginning with the day on which these Regulations come into operation;

“standard level of compensation” means the level of compensation specified as payable for a surrendered weapon in the values list published under regulation 2.

### **Publication of values list**

2. The Department must publish, in such manner as the Department considers appropriate, a document to be known as the Offensive Weapons Act Values List which must contain a list of categories of weapon to be surrendered in accordance with arrangements made under section 48(3) of the Act and standard levels of value for the categories of weapon.

## **PART 2**

### **Eligibility for compensation**

3.—(1) Compensation is payable in accordance with this Part for offensive weapons surrendered in accordance with arrangements made under section 48(3) (surrender of prohibited offensive weapons) of the Act.

(2) Compensation may be claimed by a person—

(a) in respect of a weapon, possession of which will become unlawful by virtue of—

(i) section 44 (prohibition on the possession of certain dangerous knives) of the Act (by itself or in combination with section 43 (amendments to the definition of “flick-knife”) of the Act), or

(ii) section 46 (prohibition on the possession of offensive weapons) of the Act (by itself or in combination with section 47 (prohibition on the possession of offensive weapons: supplementary) of the Act);

(b) who, in the case of a weapon other than a cyclone knife—

(i) owned the weapon on XXX, or

(ii) on or before XXX had contracted to acquire the weapon;

(c) who, in the case of a cyclone knife—

(i) owned the cyclone knife on XXX, or

(ii) on or before XXX had contracted to acquire the cyclone knife;

(d) who has surrendered the weapon in accordance with arrangements made under section 48(3) of the Act within the required period; and

(e) who has made a declaration, in a form approved by the Department, that the person is the legal owner of the weapon and that it was lawfully acquired.

(3) In paragraph (2), “cyclone knife” means the weapon sometimes known as a “cyclone knife” or “spiral knife” being a weapon with—

- (a) a handle;
- (b) a blade with two or more cutting edges, each of which forms a helix; and
- (c) a sharp point at the end of the blade.

### **Receipt for weapon surrendered**

4.—(1) An officer receiving a weapon must, if satisfied that the criteria in regulation 3(2) have been met, issue a receipt containing a unique reference number to the person who surrendered the weapon.

(2) The officer must ensure that a copy of the receipt is retained with the weapon surrendered.

### **Claims for compensation**

5.—(1) The Department must publish, in such manner as the Department considers appropriate, a claim form to be used for the purposes of this regulation.

(2) A person who has surrendered a weapon in accordance with arrangements made under section 48(3) of the Act may make a claim to the Department on the claim form published under paragraph (1).

(3) The claim form, to be forwarded by the officer to the Department, must be submitted at the same time as the weapon is surrendered.

(4) The claim form must contain—

- (a) the claimant’s full name, date of birth and address;
- (b) details of the bank account into which any compensation is to be paid;
- (c) the unique reference number contained on the receipt issued under regulation 4(1); and
- (d) the amount of compensation sought.

(5) If no standard level of compensation is specified for the weapon surrendered or if the amount of compensation sought is higher than any standard level of compensation the claimant must provide sufficient evidence of valuation of the weapon to enable the Department to determine the claim.

(6) Evidence of valuation of a weapon may include—

- (a) a valuation from an auction house;

(b) evidence of the price paid for the purchase of the weapon and the date of purchase; or

(c) published evidence of the value of the weapon.

(7) If not satisfied that the evidence of valuation supplied under paragraph (5) is sufficient to enable a determination of the claim to be made, the Department may request additional evidence to be supplied.

### **Determination and payment of claims**

**6.—**(1) The Department must determine a claim made under regulation 5 as soon as reasonably practicable.

(2) No compensation is payable in respect of a claim which amounts to less than £30, but subject to that, the amount payable is to be determined in accordance with paragraphs (3) and (4).

(3) Where a standard level of compensation is specified, the amount of compensation payable for a weapon, if any, is the standard level of compensation, unless the claimant has indicated that a higher amount of compensation is sought.

(4) Where no standard level of compensation is specified, or the claimant has sought a higher amount of compensation than the standard level of compensation, the amount payable, if any, is to be determined by the Department taking account of the valuation evidence supplied.

(5) If satisfied that compensation is payable under this Part, the Department must—

(a) notify the claimant in writing of the amount of compensation that the Department considers is payable and give reasons for the decision; and

(b) make payment of the amount determined into the bank account nominated for this purpose on the claim form submitted by the claimant.

(6) If not satisfied that compensation is payable under this Part, the Department must notify the claimant in writing that no compensation is to be paid and give reasons for the decision.

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Regulations)*

Sections 44 and 46 of the Offensive Weapons Act 2019 amend various pieces of legislation with the effect that it becomes an offence to possess certain dangerous knives and offensive weapons which it was previously lawful to possess. Section 48 of that Act provide for the surrender of such items.

These Regulations provide for a scheme of compensation to be payable to persons surrendering items with a value of £30 or more. Part 2 provides for compensation in respect of certain prohibited knives and offensive weapons which are surrendered in Northern Ireland.

Regulation 3 makes provision as to eligibility for compensation. Regulation 4 provides for officers accepting the surrendered items to issue a receipt. Regulation 5 provides for claims to be submitted where the items have been surrendered and for the forms to be transmitted to the Department. Regulation 6 provide for determination of claims and payment by the Department.

Where a standard level of compensation for an item is specified in a document published by the Department under regulation 2, that is the amount of compensation payable unless the person claiming the compensation contends that the value exceeds the standard level of compensation payable. If no standard level of compensation is specified, or if the person claims that the value exceeds the standard level, valuation evidence must be submitted and the level of compensation payable is to be determined by the Department.

The surrender arrangements, claim form and values list referred to in this instrument may be obtained at [\(include link\)](#) or by application to [\(insert address\)](#)

An impact assessment relating to the Offensive Weapons Act 2019, including the provisions relating to the prohibition of certain offensive weapons by virtue of sections 44 and 46 of the Act is available at [\(include link\)](#)

(1) [2019 c. 17](#).