



Northern Ireland Assembly

Assembly Members (Remuneration Board) Bill Notice of Amendments tabled on 28 March 2025 for Consideration Stage

Clause 3, Page 2, Line 5

After first ‘to’ insert ‘any reduction in Members’ legislative competence as a result of the application of the provisions of EU law listed in Annexes 1 to 5 of the Windsor Framework (formerly the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland) and’

Mr Timothy Gaston

New Clause

After clause 3 insert -

‘Functions of the panel: review requirement

3A.—(1) In section 2(3)(b) of the 2011 Act (functions of the panel) after “Assembly,” insert “including but not limited to, any reduction in Members’ legislative competence as a result of the application of the provisions of EU law listed in Annexes 1 to 5 of the Windsor Framework (formerly the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland)”

Mr Timothy Gaston

New Clause

After clause 7 insert -

‘Functions of the Commissioner

Functions of the Commissioner

7A. In section 17(1)(d) of the 2011 Act (functions of the Commissioner), after “Ministers” insert “, chairpersons and deputy chairpersons of committees”.

Mr Timothy Gaston

New Clause

After clause 7 insert -

'Consultation

Duty to consult

7A.—(1) The Assembly Commission shall not introduce a Bill making provision for the salaries, pensions or gratuities payable to members and former members of the Assembly unless it has taken the steps in subsections (2) to (4).

(2) The Assembly Commission shall consult—

- (a) members of the Assembly,
- (b) the trustees of any pension scheme established in accordance with a previous determination and still in operation,
- (c) the public, and
- (d) any other persons the Assembly Commission considers it is appropriate to consult.

(3) The Assembly Commission must lay before the Assembly a report of any consultation conducted under subsection (2).

(4) The members of the Assembly Commission in charge of a Bill falling within subsection (1) shall, when submitting the text of the Bill to the Presiding Officer of the Assembly in accordance with Assembly standing orders, also submit a statement in writing to confirm that a consultation has taken place on the Bill in accordance with this section.

(5) The minimum duration of any consultation required by virtue of this section shall be 12 weeks.

(6) This section does not apply where—

- (a) the Assembly Commission proposes to introduce a Bill as a matter of such urgency that it would be inappropriate in the circumstances to conduct a consultation before submitting the Bill for introduction; and
- (b) the Assembly has passed with cross-community support a resolution signifying its agreement to the disapplication of this section in respect of the Bill.'

Mr Timothy Gaston

New Clause

After clause 7 insert -

'Investigation and enforcement

Investigations

7A.—(1) Any claim made by Assembly Members in respect of allowances must be submitted in accordance with—

- (a) any determination made by the Remuneration Board under section 2(1) of the 2011 Act which is in operation at the time the claim is made; and
- (b) the Code of Conduct.

(2) If the Assembly Commission has reason to believe that a Member has—

- (a) acted in contravention of subsection (1), or
- (b) may have been paid an amount that should not have been allowed under any determination made by the Remuneration Board under section 2(1) of the 2011 Act which is in operation at the time the claim is made,

it shall refer the matter to the Commissioner for Standards in accordance with Part 2 of the 2011 Act.

(3) In this section—

“the Code of Conduct” means—

- (a) any code of conduct for members of the Assembly, and
- (b) any guide to the rules relating to the conduct of members of the Assembly, which has been agreed to by the Assembly.

“the Assembly Commission” means the Northern Ireland Assembly Commission.’

Mr Timothy Gaston

New Clause

After clause 7 insert -

‘Offence of providing false or misleading information for claims under determinations

7A.—(1) An Assembly Member commits an offence if the member—

- (a) makes a claim under any determination made by the Remuneration Board under section 2(1) of the 2011 Act which is in operation at the time the claim is made, and
- (b) provides information for the purposes of the claim that the Member knows to be false or misleading.

(2) A person who commits an offence under subsection (1) is liable—

- (a) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to a fine, not exceeding the statutory maximum (or both),
- (b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or a fine (or both).’

Mr Timothy Gaston

Leave out clause 10 and insert-

‘Commencement

10.—(1) Sections 1, 2 and 7 to 11 come into operation on the day after the day on which this Act receives Royal Assent.

(2) Sections 3 to 6 come into operation on the date on which—

- (a) every provision of European Union law which—
 - (i) is listed in Annexes 1 to 5 of the Windsor Framework (formerly the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland), and
 - (ii) deals with a transferred matter within the meaning of section 4(1) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, has ceased to apply in respect of Northern Ireland; and
- (b) the Northern Ireland Assembly has been granted the power to make laws, in accordance with section 5 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, dealing with the subject matter of any provision of European Union law falling within the description specified in paragraph (a).’

Mr Timothy Gaston