



Department for
Communities
www.communities-ni.gov.uk

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19/10/2026

Dear Consultee,

CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT LOCAL GOVERNMENT STAFF COMMISSION DISSOLUTION ORDER

I am writing to invite your views on the draft Local Government Staff Commission (Dissolution) Order (Northern Ireland) 2027 ("the draft Dissolution Order"). The draft Dissolution Order is attached at **Annex A**, and its purpose is to give effect to the decision taken by the Executive on 6 November 2025 to dissolve the Local Government Staff Commission (LGSC) with effect from 1 April 2027.

The draft Dissolution Order would repeal seven of the nine functions of the Local Government Staff Commission. It is proposed that two functions will be transferred to the Department for Communities, these are: -

- the publishing of a Code of Procedure for securing fair and equal consideration of applications in relation to council recruitment; and
- the publishing of a Code of Conduct for council officers.

It is proposed that the Department will issue both a Code of Procedure on recruitment and selection, and a Code of Conduct for council officers on 1 April 2027. It is not envisaged that the Department will have any enforcement or monitoring role.

The Department would welcome any comments you may have on the draft Dissolution Order. We are interested in your views on whether the draft Dissolution Order adequately addresses the arrangements required following dissolution and whether there are any other issues that should be considered before the legislation is finalised.

The consultation will run from **19 October to 16 November**. Responses should be submitted by **5pm on 16 November**.

Responses can be submitted by:

LGFinanceBranch@communities-ni.gov.uk

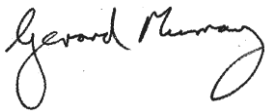
Following the consultation period, the Department will consider all responses received and publish a summary of the consultation findings.

If you require this document in an alternative format please contact;

LGFinanceBranch@communities-ni.gov.uk

Thank you for taking the time to consider and respond to this consultation.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerard Murray', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gerard Murray

Director, Local Government and Housing Regulation.

Version 7- 14 October 2026

Draft Order laid before the Assembly under section 40 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972, for approval by resolution of the Assembly.

DRAFT STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2027 No.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Local Government Staff Commission (Dissolution) Order (Northern Ireland) 2027

Made - - - - ***

Coming into operation - 1 April 2027

The Department for Communities (1), in exercise of the powers conferred by section 40(9) and (10) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972(2) and now vested in it(3), makes the following Order:

General

Citation and commencement

1. — This Order may be cited as the Local Government Staff Commission (Dissolution) Order (Northern Ireland) 2027.
- (2) Subject to paragraph (3) this Order shall come into operation on 1 April 2027.
- (3) The repeals specified in the Schedule shall come into operation in accordance with Article 11.

Interpretation

2.-In this Order—

- “1972 Act” means the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972;
- “council” means a district council constituted under section 1 (district councils) of the 1972 Act(4);
- “the Department” means the Department for Communities;
- “the dissolution date” means 1 April 2027; and
- “the Staff Commission” means the Local Government Staff Commission for Northern Ireland (5).

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- 1) The Department for Social Development was renamed the Department for Communities in accordance with section 1(7) of the Departments Act (Northern Ireland) [2016 \(c. 5 N.I.\)](#)
 - 2) 1972 c. 9 (N.I.) as amended by 2014 c.8 (N.I.).
 - 3) S.R. 2016 No. 76, Article 8 of and Schedule 5 to the Departments (Transfer of Functions) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016 transferred functions to the Department for Communities which were previously exercisable by the Department of the Environment
 - 4) 1972 c. 9 (N.I.); section 1 was amended by 2008 c. 7 (N.I.), section 1.
 - 5) Established by 1972 c.9 (N.I.), section 40

Dissolution of the Staff Commission

3. The Staff Commission shall be dissolved.

Transfer of functions

4. The functions of the Staff Commission under section 40(4)(b) and (cc) of the 1972 Act insofar as they relate to councils are transferred to the Department on the dissolution date.

Code of procedure for recruitment and selection

5. The Department shall, on the dissolution date, establish a code of procedure for securing fair and equal consideration of applications to councils by persons seeking to be employed by it as officers, and fair and equal treatment of persons who are so employed.

Code of conduct for officers

6. The Department shall, on the dissolution date, establish and issue a code of recommended practice to councils as regards the conduct of its officers.

Transfer of assets and liabilities

7. On the dissolution date all the assets and liabilities of the Staff Commission shall be transferred to the Department.

(2) Paragraph (1) does not apply in relation to contracts of employment.

Legal proceedings

8. Any legal proceedings to which the Staff Commission is party immediately before the dissolution date shall be continued after that date by or in relation to the Department in its own name.

Accounts

9. (1) The Department shall prepare a statement of accounts for the financial year beginning 1st April 2026 and ending on 31 March 2027 to present the financial position of the Staff Commission.

(2) Within 4 months of the dissolution date, and before the statement of accounts is submitted to the local government auditor, the Department shall make arrangements for the statement of accounts to be signed, dated and certified that it presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Staff Commission's income and expenditure for the year.

(3) A copy of the statement of accounts shall be sent to the local government auditor.

(4) The statement of accounts shall be audited by the local government auditor and the provisions of Part II of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005(6) with respect to audit shall apply to that audit subject to such modifications as the Department, after consultation with the local government auditor, considers necessary.

Investigation of complaints by the Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman

10. (1) A complaint made under the Public Services Ombudsman Act (Northern Ireland) 2016(7) in relation to the Staff Commission, whether made before, on or after the dissolution date may be investigated by the Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman notwithstanding the dissolution of the Staff Commission as if the complaint had been made in relation to the Department.

(2) Where the Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman conducts such an investigation, a report of the result of that investigation shall be sent to the Department.

6) S.I. 2005/1968 (N.I. 18)

7) 2016 c. 4 (N.I.)

Repeals

11. -(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3) the statutory provisions mentioned in the Schedule are repealed on the dissolution date to the extent specified in the second column of the Schedule.

(2) The repeal of section 40(4)(b) of the 1972 Act shall come into operation on []

(3) The repeal of section 40(4)(cc) of the 1972 Act shall come into operation on []

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department for Communities on *** 2027

(L.S.)

A senior officer of the Department for Communities

SCHEDULE

Article 11

REPEALS

<i>Short Title</i>	<i>Extent of repeal</i>
The Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 (c. 9)	Subsections (1) to (8) of section 40. In section 41, subsections (4), (5) and (7). [In section 41(3A) the words “Without prejudice to any code of procedure established by the Staff Commission”]. Section 41A. In section 148, the definition for “the Staff Commission”. Schedule 3. In Schedule 7, the entry relating to section 40.
The House of Commons Disqualification Act 1975 (c. 24)	In Part III of Schedule 1, the entry relating to Chairman or Chief Executive of the Local Government Staff Commission for Northern Ireland.
The Northern Ireland Assembly Disqualification Act 1975 (c. 25)	In Part III of Schedule 1, the entry relating to Chairman of the Local Government Staff Commission for Northern Ireland.
The Housing (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 (N.I. 3)	Article 5(5) [and Schedule 3].
Freedom of Information Act 2000 (c. 36)	In Part VII of Schedule 1, the entry relating to The Local Government Staff Commission.
Public Services Ombudsman Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 (c. 4)	In Schedule 3, the entry relating to The Local Government Staff Commission for Northern Ireland.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order)

This Order provides for the dissolution of the Local Government Staff Commission for Northern Ireland (“the Staff Commission”) on 1 April 2027.

The Staff Commission was established under section 40 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 (“the 1972 Act”), as amended by section 120 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014. Section 40(9) of the 1972 Act provides that the Department, by order, may make provision for, and in connection with, the dissolution of the Staff Commission.

Article 3 makes provision for the dissolution of the Staff Commission.

Article 4 provides for the transfer of the function to the Department to establish a code of procedure for securing fair and equal consideration of applications to councils by persons seeking to be employed by them as officers and fair and equal treatment of persons who are so employed. This Article also provides for the transfer of the function to the Department to establish and issue a code of recommended practice as regards the conduct of officers of councils.

Article 5 provides that the Department shall establish a code of procedure on the dissolution date.

Article 6 provides that the Department shall establish and issue a code of conduct on the dissolution date.

Article 7 provides for all assets and liabilities of the Staff Commission to transfer to the Department.

Article 8 makes provision for the continuity of legal proceedings.

Article 9 makes provision for the production of final accounts in respect of the Staff Commission.

Article 10 makes provision in respect of the investigation of complaints by the Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman.

Article 11 makes provision in respect of repeals.