



Northern Ireland Budget Act 2018

2018 CHAPTER 20

An Act to authorise the issue out of the Consolidated Fund of Northern Ireland of certain sums for the service of the year ending 31 March 2019; to appropriate those sums for specified purposes; to authorise the Department of Finance in Northern Ireland to borrow on the credit of the appropriated sums; to authorise the use for the public service of certain resources (including accruing resources) for the year ending 31 March 2019; and to repeal certain spent provisions. [19th July 2018]

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Issue of sum out of the Consolidated Fund for the year ending 31 March 2019 and appropriation of that sum

- (1) The Department may issue out of the Consolidated Fund and apply to the service of the year ending 31 March 2019 the sum of £8,907,660,000.
- (2) That sum is appropriated for the purposes specified in Schedule 1.

2 Power of the Department of Finance to borrow

- (1) The Department may borrow on the credit of the sum specified in section 1(1) any sum or sums not exceeding in total £4,453,830,000.
- (2) Any money so borrowed is to be repaid, with any interest due on it, out of the Consolidated Fund not later than 31 March 2019.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Northern Ireland Budget Act 2018. (See end of Document for details)

3 Use of resources (other than accruing resources) in the year ending 31 March 2019

- (1) For the purposes of section 6(1) of the 2001 Act, this section authorises the use of resources in the year ending 31 March 2019 by the persons mentioned in subsection (3) to the amount of £9,934,658,000.
- (2) In that year, resources may be used by a person mentioned in that subsection for the purposes specified in relation to that person in column 1 of Schedule 2 up to the amounts specified in the corresponding entries in column 2 of that Schedule.
- (3) The persons are—
 - (a) the Northern Ireland departments;
 - (b) the Food Standards Agency;
 - (c) the Northern Ireland Assembly Commission;
 - (d) the Northern Ireland Audit Office;
 - (e) the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation;
 - (f) the Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman;
 - (g) the Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland.
- (4) In this section “resources” does not include accruing resources within the meaning of section 8(1) of the 2001 Act.

4 Limits on use of certain accruing resources in the year ending 31 March 2019

- (1) For the purposes of section 8(1) of the 2001 Act, this section sets the relevant limits on the accruing resources that may be directed to be used for certain purposes in the year ending 31 March 2019 in addition to resources authorised by this Act or any other statutory provision to be used for those purposes in that year.
- (2) In that year accruing resources not exceeding the amount specified in column 3 of Schedule 2 may be directed to be used for the purposes specified in the corresponding entries in column 1 of that Schedule.

5 Act to take effect as if it were a Budget Act of the Assembly etc

- (1) The authorisations and appropriations in this Act, and the limits set by it, are to take effect as if they were authorisations and appropriations in, and limits set by, an Act of the Northern Ireland Assembly; and accordingly any reference in any statutory provision to a Budget Act of the Assembly is to be regarded as including a reference to this Act.
- (2) The 2001 Act applies in respect of the year ending 31 March 2019 with the following modifications—
 - (a) section 6(4) has effect as if for “if an estimate is approved by the Assembly for that body or person in respect of each financial year” there were substituted “ if an estimate is laid before Parliament for that body or person in respect of the year ending 31 March 2019 ”;
 - (b) section 9(1) has effect as if for “for which an estimate is approved by the Assembly in respect of a financial year” there were substituted “ for which an estimate is laid before Parliament in respect of the year ending 31 March 2019 ”;

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- (c) section 13(1) has effect as if for “where an estimate is approved by the Assembly for any body or person in respect of any financial year” there were substituted “ where an estimate is laid before Parliament for any body or person in respect of the year ending 31 March 2019 ”.
- (3) For the purposes of preparing accounts for the year ending 31 March 2019 for—
- (a) the Northern Ireland Audit Office (as required by Article 6(3) of the Audit (Northern Ireland) Order 1987), or
 - (b) the office of the Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman (as required by paragraph 19 of Schedule 1 to the Public Services Ombudsman Act (Northern Ireland) 2016),
- any estimate of the use of resources for that year that is laid before Parliament is to be treated as if it had been laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly under Article 6(2) of that Order or (as the case may be) under paragraph 18 of Schedule 1 to that Act.

6 Repeal of spent provisions

The following Acts (which are spent) are repealed—

- the Budget Act (Northern Ireland) 2015;
- the Budget (No. 2) Act (Northern Ireland) 2015.

7 Interpretation

In this Act—

- “the 2001 Act” means the Government Resources and Accounts Act (Northern Ireland) 2001;
- “the Consolidated Fund” means the Consolidated Fund of Northern Ireland;
- “the Department” means the Department of Finance in Northern Ireland;
- “Northern Ireland department” has the same meaning as in the Northern Ireland Act 1998;
- “statutory provision” has the same meaning as in section 1(f) of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954.

8 Short title

This Act may be cited as the Northern Ireland Budget Act 2018.

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SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1

Section 1

SUMS GRANTED FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2019

<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Sums Granted</i> <i>(£)</i>
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND RURAL AFFAIRS	
For expenditure by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs on the provision of agricultural and educational services, research and development and grants to societies, associations, institutions and clubs for agri-food purposes and rural development; provision of veterinary services including animal health and welfare, contingency planning and exercising, veterinary public health, international veterinary certification of live animals and animal products, payments of compensation to farmers for animals culled in disease control programmes; developing expertise in wildlife interventions; provision of policy support and legislation for the agri-food and equine industries, veterinary medicines, dog control and rural needs; protection for all aspects of animal, bee and plant health and welfare; protection and conservation of sea fisheries, inland fisheries and aquaculture; grants and grants-in-aid for the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute, the Loughs Agency of the Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission, the Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority, the Livestock and Meat Commission for Northern Ireland and the Agricultural Wages Board for Northern Ireland; grants for scientific services by other bodies; providing hardship assistance; conservation; natural heritage; environmental legislation and protection; operation of the carrier bag levy; payments for Coastal Communities Fund projects; regulation, maintenance, protection, development and conservation of forests and preparation for wind-farm development; payments under European Union Programmes and Funds including the Common Agricultural Policy and disallowance; payments to district councils and other approved delivery bodies; administration costs and severance payments.	180,584,000
DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES	
For expenditure by the Department for Communities on social security administration; payment of social security benefits, other benefits and National Insurance credits to people of working age, to pensioners and customers abroad and to	2,535,377,000

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people with disabilities and their carers, provision of grants, compensation, discretionary grants and loans and repayment of loans; loans for support for mortgage interest and certain home improvement loans; provision of youth and adult employment services programmes and skills training programmes; sums payable into the Social Fund for expenditure on grants, loans and payments; sums payable to the Northern Ireland National Insurance Fund for associated statutory payments; payment of the cash value of European Commission officials transferable state pension rights to the pension scheme of the European Union Institution; employment schemes and services, including those for people with disabilities, and career information, advice and guidance services; promoting and protecting the interests of children, older people, people with disabilities, and other socially excluded groups; Financial Assistance Scheme; child maintenance service; housing services, including discretionary payments, loans and subsidies; housing led regeneration; regulation of the NI Housing Association sector; arts, creativity, museums, libraries, linguistic and cultural diversity, sport, recreation and other services; historic environment and payments to hold or support events; acquisition and preservation of, and provision of access to, archival heritage; residual payments in relation to the wind up of the Northern Ireland Events Company; urban regeneration including services such as property maintenance and events; community and voluntary sector; the cost of services provided to the Syrian Vulnerable Person Relocation Scheme; grants to district councils in support of local services and transferred functions; payments to Local Government Staff Commission Northern Ireland; emergency financial assistance; built heritage; North/South Language Body; payments under European Union Structural Funds Programmes; sums payable under the Fresh Start Agreement; delivering the Programme for Government; the costs of administering services provided to the Department for Work and Pensions, other departments and partner organisations; administration costs, including developmental work on systems; grants and grants-in-aid; severance payments; grant funding for delivery of the All-Island Local Authority Programme.

DEPARTMENT FOR THE ECONOMY

For expenditure by the Department for the Economy 630,399,000 on economic development; Innovation, Research and Development policy including policy evaluation and departmental research; assistance to aircraft and shipbuilding industries (including the residual costs in connection with the privatisation of aircraft and shipbuilding companies); support in relation to air access; economic infrastructure in support of economic development including regulatory reform, mineral and petroleum licensing, geological research and safeguarding abandoned mines; energy policy and legislation; sustainable energy, including energy efficiency measures; assistance to the gas and electricity industries; Renewable