STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2002 No. 258

POLICE

Police Service of Northern Ireland (Recruitment of Police Support Staff) Regulations 2002

Made - - - -	*29th July 2002*
To be laid before Parliament	
Coming into operation	*20th September 2002*

The Secretary of State, in pursuance of sections 43 and 44 of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000(**1**), and after consulting the Northern Ireland Policing Board, the Chief Constable, the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland and the Police Association for Northern Ireland, hereby makes the following regulations:

Citation and commencement

1.—(1) These regulations may be cited as the Police Service of Northern Ireland (Recruitment of Police Support Staff) Regulations 2002.

(2) These regulations shall come into operation on 20th September 2002.

Interpretation

2. In these regulations –

"the Act" means the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000;

"the agent" means any person appointed under regulation 3(1);

"independent community observers" means the independent community observers appointed by the Board under regulation 10(1) of the police recruitment regulations;

"the police recruitment regulations" means the Police (Recruitment) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2001(**2**);

"police support staff" has the same meaning as in section 4(6) of the Act;

"the vetting panel" means the panel established by the Chief Constable under regulation 12(1) of the police recruitment regulations.

(**1**) 2000 c. 32.
(**2**) S.R. 2001 No. 140

Recruitment agent

3.—(1) The Chief Constable may appoint a person to exercise functions in connection with the selection of qualified candidates for appointment under section 4(3) of the Act to posts in the police support staff; and where such a person ("the agent") is so appointed, he shall exercise such functions as are conferred on the agent by or under these regulations.

(2) The Chief Constable may appoint more than one agent.

(3) The agent shall be appointed on such terms and conditions, including conditions as to payment, as the Chief Constable shall determine.

(4) The Chief Constable shall not require the agent to carry out, in relation to candidates for appointment under section 4(3) of the Act to posts in the police support staff –

(a) assessments of the suitability of such candidates under regulation 7 or under any provision of the police recruitment regulations applied to such candidates by that regulation;

(b) the monitoring of such candidates in accordance with the Fair Employment (Monitoring) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999(**3**).

(5) Without prejudice to paragraph (4), the Chief Constable may require the agent to carry out ancillary functions in relation to the matters specified in that paragraph.

Advertising of vacancies

4.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), where a vacancy in the police support staff is to be filled under section 4(3) of the Act, the Chief Constable or the agent shall publish notice of the vacancy.

(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to a vacancy for any post which is not a relevant post, if it appears to the Chief Constable that it is unnecessary to publish notice of the vacancy.

(3) In publishing notice of vacancies in accordance with paragraph (1) the Chief Constable or (as the case may be) the agent shall have regard to the recommendations contained in paragraph 15.8 of the Report of the Independent Commission on Policing for Northern Ireland ("A New Beginning: Policing in Northern Ireland" published on 9th September 1999).

Information to be provided by applicants

5.—(1) The Chief Constable or, subject to regulation 3(4) and paragraph (2), the agent, shall request each candidate for appointment under section 4(3) of the Act to a post in the police support staff to provide such information as may be appropriate to establish whether the candidate is qualified for the post.

(2) Candidates shall not be asked to send information about criminal convictions other than to the Chief Constable.

Tests and assessments

6.—(1) Where it appears to the Chief Constable that tests or assessments are necessary to determine whether a candidate is qualified for appointment under section 4(3) of the Act to a post in the police support staff, he shall –

(a) subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), carry out, or

(b) ask the agent to carry out,

the tests or assessments.

(2) In the case of medical tests or assessments, the Chief Constable or the agent shall arrange for them to be carried out by a registered medical practitioner approved by the Chief Constable.

(**3**) S.R. 1999 No. 148