STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2000 No. 347

FLAGS

The Flags Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000

Made - - - -	*8th November 2000*
Coming into force - -	*11th November 2000*

Whereas:

(a) the Secretary of State has referred to the Assembly a draft of the Regulations he proposes to make under Article 3 of the Flags (Northern Ireland) Order 2000(**1**);

(b) the Assembly has reported to the Secretary of State the views expressed in the Assembly on the proposed Regulations;

(c) the Secretary of State has considered the Assembly's Report on the proposed Regulations;

(d) the Secretary of State has had regard to the Belfast Agreement;

(e) a draft of these Regulations has been laid before Parliament, accompanied by a copy of the Assembly's Report on the proposed Regulations no changes having been made to the proposed regulations as a result of that Report;

(f) a draft of these Regulations has been approved by resolution of each House of Parliament;

Now therefore, the Secretary of State, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by Article 3(1) of the Flags (Northern Ireland) Order 2000, hereby makes the following Regulations:

Citation, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Flags Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 and shall come into force on 11th November 2000.

(2) The Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954(**2**) shall apply to these Regulations as it applies to an Act of the Assembly.

Flying of flags at government buildings on specified days

2.—(1) The Union flag shall be flown at the government buildings specified in Part I of the Schedule to these Regulations on the days specified in Part II of the Schedule.

(**1**) S.I. 2000/1347 (N.I. 3)
(**2**) 1954 c. 33 (N.I.)

(2) The Union flag shall be flown on the days specified in Part II of the Schedule at any other government building at which it was the practice to fly the Union flag on notified days in the period of 12 months ending with 30th November 1999.

(3) In paragraph (2), "notified days" means days notified by the Department of Finance and Personnel to other Northern Ireland Departments as days for the flying of the Union flag at government buildings during the period of 12 months ending with 30th November 1999.

(4) Where a government building specified in Part I of the Schedule has more than one flag pole, the European flag shall be flown in addition to the Union flag on Europe Day.

Flying of flags at government buildings on the occasion of a visit by a Head of State other than Her Majesty The Queen

3.—(1) On the occasion of a visit to a government building by a Head of State other than Her Majesty The Queen, the Union flag may be flown at that building.

(2) Where on that occasion the Union flag is flown at that building and the building has more than one flag pole, the national flag of the country of the visiting Head of State may also be flown at that building on that occasion.

Flying of flags at government buildings on the occasion of a visit by Her Majesty The Queen

4.—(1) On the occasion of a visit to a government building by Her Majesty The Queen, the Royal Standard shall be flown at that building.

(2) Where the government building concerned has more than one flag pole, the Union flag shall also be flown at that building on the occasion of Her Majesty's visit.

Manner of flying flags required or permitted to be flown by regulations 2, 3 or 4

5.—(1) Where Regulation 2, 3 or 4 requires or permits the flying of a flag at a government building, the flag in question shall be flown at full mast, provided that:

(a) where Regulation 2(4) or 3(2) requires or permits the flying of a flag in addition to the Union flag, that flag shall not be flown in a superior position to the Union flag; and

(b) where Regulation 4 requires the flying of the Royal Standard and the Union Flag, the Royal Standard shall be flown in a superior position.

(2) Where Regulation 2, 3 or 4(2) requires or permits the flying of a flag at a government building, it shall be flown from 8am until sunset on the day in question.

(3) Where Regulation 4(1) requires the Royal Standard to be flown at a government building, it shall be flown whilst Her Majesty is present in the building.

Flying of flags at half mast

6. Following the death of a member of the Royal Family, or of a serving or former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, the Union flag shall be flown at half mast at the government buildings specified in Part 1 of the Schedule, on such days as may be notified in the Belfast Gazette.

Discretion to fly flags at government buildings

7. Where Regulation 2(1), 2(2), 3(1) or 6 requires or permits the Union flag to be flown at a government building, or where Regulation 4(1) requires the Royal Standard to be flown at such a building, the Union flag may be flown in the same manner on the same day at any other government building.

8. Where Regulation 2(4) or 3(2) requires or permits the flying of a flag in addition to the Union flag at a government building, that flag may be flown in the same manner on the same day at any other government building which has more than one flagpole, provided that the Union flag is also flown.

Prohibition on the flying of flags other than in accordance with the Regulations

9. Except as provided by these Regulations, no flag shall be flown at any government building at any time.

Peter Mandelson
One of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State

Dated 8th November 2000