1977 No. 174

MAGISTRATES' COURTS

Magistrates' Courts (Costs in Criminal Cases) Rules (Northern Ireland) 1977

Made . . . . . *20th June* 1977

Coming into operation . . . *1st September* 1977

To be laid before Parliament

The Secretary of State(a) in pursuance of section 23 of the Magistrates' Courts Act (Northern Ireland) 1964(b) and section 7(3) of the Costs in Criminal Cases Act (Northern Ireland) 1968(c) hereby, upon the recommendation of the Magistrates' Courts Rules Committee and after consultation with the Lord Chief Justice, makes the following rules:

Citation and commencement

1. These rules may be cited as the Magistrates' Courts (Costs in Criminal Cases) Rules (Northern Ireland) 1977 and shall come into operation on 1st September 1977.

Revocation

2. The Magistrates' Courts (Costs in Criminal Cases) Rules (Northern Ireland) 1975(d) are hereby revoked.

Interpretation

3. In these rules—

"the Act" means the Costs in Criminal Cases Act (Northern Ireland) 1968;

"witness" means a person properly attending to give evidence, whether or not he gives evidence, and includes a person accompanying a witness where the court is satisfied that it is reasonable that the witness should be accompanied by that person.

Orders for the payment of costs of prosecution or defence fees for solicitors or counsel

4. Where a magistrates' court makes an order under section 2 of the Act for the payment by a convicted person of the whole or any part of the costs of the prosecution or under section 3 of the Act for the payment by the Secretary of State or, as the case may be, by the prosecutor of the whole or any part of the costs of the defence, the amount ordered to be so paid for the fees of a solicitor or counsel shall be determined by the court in accordance with Schedule 1.

(a) Formerly the Minister of Home Affairs for Northern Ireland; *see* S.I. 1973/2163 (1973 III, p. 7541)
(b) 1964 c. 21 (N.I.)
(c) 1968 c. 10 (N.I.)
(d) S.R. 1975 No. 219 (II, p. 1091)

Sums payable in connection with the attendance of witnesses

5. Where an order is made by a magistrates' court under section 2 or 3 of the Act for the payment of an amount as compensation for the expense, trouble or loss of time properly incurred in, or incidental to, the attendance of a witness to give evidence or of an interpreter such amount shall be determined by the court in accordance with Schedule 2.

Roy Mason
One of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State

Northern Ireland Office
20th June 1977

SCHEDULE 1

Amounts payable for fees of solicitors or counsel

1. The court may order the payment of—

(*a*) such amount not exceeding £30 as the court thinks just, in respect of the remuneration and outlay (other than outlay incurred in connection with witnesses recoverable under rule 5 and Schedule 2) of the solicitor for the prosecution or, as the case may be, the defence in taking instructions, preparing the case, attending in court and where counsel is not instructed conducting the proceedings at the hearing and in respect of all other reasonable charges incidental to the proceedings; and

(*b*) where it is reasonable to instruct counsel, such amount not exceeding £30 as the court thinks just, in respect of counsel's fee.

2. Where the court, having regard to the exceptional length, difficulty or complexity of the proceedings, is satisfied that the amounts prescribed by paragraph 1 are inadequate, it may, notwithstanding that paragraph, make a special order for the payment of a greater sum.

A special order under this paragraph shall contain a full statement of the reasons for making it.