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## State Intelligence

### NORTHERN IRELAND ORDERS IN COUNCIL

The following Orders in Council have been made and are available at H.M.S.O.:

1. *Roads and Road Traffic (NI) Order 1978*

1978 No. 1051 (NI 21) Price 70p.

This Order amends the law in Northern Ireland on roads and road traffic. Part II deals with the placing of builders' skips on roads. Under Article 3 it is an offence to place a skip in such a position on a road as to cause an obstruction or danger.

Part III contains various amendments to the Road Traffic Act (Northern Ireland) 1970. Article 6 amends the law relating to the licensing of drivers of vehicles and includes a provision extending to ten years the period for which a driving licence may remain in force. Article 7 prohibits the fitting and sale of defective or unsuitable vehicle parts. Under Article 9 the Department of the Environment is empowered in certain circumstances to prohibit the driving of foreign vehicles in order to ensure compliance with road traffic and transport legislation. Article 13 and Schedule 1 provide for the variation of certain penalties under the Act of 1970.

2. *Payment for Debt (Amendment) (NI) Order 1978*

1978 No. 1046 (NI 16) Price 10p

This Order empowers the Department of Commerce, with the approval of the Department of Finance, to make an order requiring the payment of interest or costs of collection on sums recoverable under the Payments for Debt (Emergency Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 1971 in respect of debts and charges due for electricity or gas.

3. *Rent (NI) Order 1978*

1978 No. 1050 (NI 20) Price £1.00

This Order repeals the Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Acts (Northern Ireland) 1920 to 1967. Where those Acts applied to a dwelling-house immediately before the commencement of this Order, a tenancy in that house is classified as a regulated tenancy (if the house meets the regulated tenancy standards - see Schedule 3) or a restricted tenancy (if, on application within one year from the Order's commencement, it is not or the net annual value of the dwelling-house is, before that commencement, less than

£60). Tenants under regulated and restricted tenancies enjoy security of tenure, subject to Schedule 4. Rents under restricted tenancies are restricted to the rents payable before the Order's commencement. Rents under regulated tenancies are 2.5 times the net annual value of the dwelling-house unless a rent assessment committee determines otherwise. However, until a rent assessment committee determines the rent for a dwelling-house let under a regulated tenancy, the maximum weekly rent is £8 and the maximum monthly rent is £35. In determining rents, rent assessment committees are to have regard to the rents payable for tenancies of comparable dwelling-houses let by the Housing Executive (Article 27 (2) and (3)). Rents under regulated and restricted tenancies may be registered. Article 33 requires the Department of the Environment to review the level of registered rents for regulated tenancies and, if appropriate, to vary them.

Articles 41 to 45 specify the terms to be implied in regulated tenancies (Article 40). Articles 46 to 48 set out procedures for the enforcement, by the landlord or the tenant under a regulated tenancy, of the repairing obligations (whether express or implied) which apply to that tenancy. Part VIII prohibits premiums or loans being required for the grant or assignment of certain tenancies. Part IX affords protection to tenants against unlawful eviction and harassment. Article 59 allows schemes to be made granting rent allowances to private tenants. Article 62 requires 4 weeks' notice for valid notices to quit under tenancies of dwelling-houses.

4. *Education (NI) Order 1978*

1978 No. 1040 (NI 10) Price 40p

This Order makes amendments to the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1972 the principal of which are -

- (1) to enable education and library boards to appoint committees not all the members of which are members of the board;
- (2) further provision as to payment of grants to voluntary primary, intermediate and special schools which are not maintained schools towards expenditure incurred on maintenance of equipment and in payment of insurance premium;
- (3) provision for the establishment of new grant-aided schools, recognition of existing schools as grant-aided, and discontinuance or making of significant change in character and size of existing grant-aided schools;
- (4) new provision regarding awards by Department of