

CCBS – LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

23 November 2018 – 30 November 2018



Northern Ireland
Assembly

The Northern Ireland Assembly was dissolved at 00:01 on Thursday 26 January 2017.



Tuesday 27 November 2018

Department for Public Expenditure and Reform

Brendan Smith asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform if the cross-Border co-ordination group established in 2009 by the OPW and the UK Department of Infrastructure has a particular programme of work underway or planned at present; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Paschal Donohoe: The EU 'Floods' Directive 2007, requires the Member States to undertake a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment to identify the areas of potentially significant flood risk within their territories, to prepare maps of the flood hazard and risk for these areas, and then to prepare Flood Risk Management Plans setting out measures aimed at managing and reducing the flood risk within these areas. The 'Floods' Directive also requires Member States to exchange information and coordinate in undertaking these steps in cross-border river basins.

In 2009 the Office of Public Works and the Department for Infrastructure, Rivers of Northern Ireland agreed to establish a Cross-Border Coordination Group, supported by a Cross-Border Technical

Coordination Group, to facilitate the exchange of information and coordination in the implementation of the Floods Directive. The Group has met on a number of occasions, and exchanged information and developed a strong awareness of and appreciation for the approaches to implementation to the Directive. The Group has also facilitated close liaison for the assessment of flood risk and planned measures to address that risk for those areas near to the border, for example Lifford in Co. Donegal and Strabane in Northern Ireland.

In addition, representatives from the OPW have attended and participated in relevant meetings in Northern Ireland during the implementation of the Directive. Similarly, representatives from the Department for Infrastructure, Rivers have been members of the Steering Groups for the relevant Catchment-based Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Projects, and are also members of the National Floods Directive Coordination Group that is chaired by the OPW. This has further helped ensure coordination and exchange of information on a regular basis at the strategic and operational levels.

More general cross-border coordination has also been ongoing in the field of flood risk management through bilateral meetings of the two organisations for many years, through the Irish National Hydrometric Working Group and Joint National Committee of the International Hydrological Programme and the International Commission for Irrigation and Drainage that the Department for Infrastructure, Rivers are members of. This continued close co-operation has provided the opportunity for co-operation in areas, such as flood forecasting and hydrometric monitoring.

Source <https://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2018-11-27a.66&s=cross+border+2018-11-23..2018-11-30>

Wednesday 28 November 2018

Department for Employment Affairs and Social Protection

Clare Daly asked the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection the legislation that will need to be amended in order to transpose IORP II; and the timeline for transposition.

Regina Doherty: The over-arching objective of IORP II Directive is to facilitate the development of occupational retirement savings in the EU. Many of the provisions contained within the directive will support positive reform of the Irish occupational pension sector. The directive provides for a range of new requirements concerning governance, management standards in schemes, safekeeping of assets, the need for clear and relevant information to members, the removal of obstacles to cross-border provision of pension services and the facilitation of cross border transfer of schemes. There are also provisions that will enhance the powers of the Pensions Authority for effective supervision of occupational pensions. The deadline for transposition is 13 January 2019.

My Department, supported by the Pensions Authority, is managing the transposition process of the IORP II Directive. Regulations under the Pensions Act 1990, as amended, are being drafted to transpose the directive into Irish law. Primary legislation will not be necessary to transpose the

directive. Codes of practice will also be issued by the Pensions Authority following approval of the Minister. The codes will expand on requirements, policies and principles prescribed in the transposing regulations. They will explain in practical detail what the Authority will expect from trustees to demonstrate their commitment to serving the best interests of members, deferred members and other beneficiaries.

I hope this clarifies the matter for the Deputy.

Source: <https://www.kildarestreet.com/wrans/?id=2018-11-28a.657&s=cross+border+2018-11-23..2018-11-30#g659.r>