

Northern Ireland

Estimates

Addendum to  
Spring Supplementary  
Estimates  
2020-2021

Department of Finance

March 2021

## **Provision sought under the sole authority of Part I of the Spring Supplementary Estimates 2020-21 and of the Budget Act (NI) 2021**

### **Department for Communities**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount of Provision (£'000)</b>
Welfare Reform and Mitigations	40,500

These payments were previously made under the authority of the Welfare Reform (NI) Order 2015 and The Welfare Reform and Work (NI) Order 2016 and 7 sets of subordinate legislation. This power ended on 31 March 2020. Provision is sought under Sole Authority of the Budget Act for expenditure on welfare reform and mitigations until Royal Assent is received for the Welfare Supplementary Payments (Loss of Universal Credit or Housing Benefit) Bill; and until the Welfare Supplementary Payment (Extension) Regulations (NI) 2021 have been approved by a resolution of the Assembly. Due to the ongoing need to prioritise the Department's response to the pandemic it has not yet been possible to progress this legislation. Progressing the necessary legislation to extend Welfare mitigations remains a priority for Minister. The legislation to extend will also require the Executive's support as it is a matter of priority.

### **Department for Economy**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount of Provision (£'000)</b>
Supporting the operation of HMS Caroline (HMSC) as a visitor attraction	750

Provision is sought under Sole Authority of the Budget Act for expenditure on HMS Caroline. Approval was first granted in January 2020 to incur expenditure under Sole Authority of the Budget Act and in total the approval for expenditure under the Sole Authority of the Budget Act for HMSC has been in place for 2 financial years.

The Department is working to identify options for the future of the attraction and these are due to be finalised in the coming weeks. The options being considered should remove the need for the department to rely on the Sole Authority of the Budget Act in future.

### **Department for Infrastructure**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount of Provision (£'000)</b>
Blue Green Funds	500

Provision is sought under Sole Authority of the Budget Act for expenditure on the Blue Green Infrastructure grant schemes. DfI are planning to take forward policy development later this year to consider the most appropriate legislative route which will avoid reliance on sole authority of the Budget Act in future.

## **Department of Justice**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount of Provision (£'000)</b>
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Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service	104
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Provision is sought under Sole Authority of the Budget Act for expenditure on a Recruitment and Retention Allowance to eligible County Court Judges in Northern Ireland in the absence of specific statutory provision. These allowances are one-off and will not form part of ongoing pay arrangements. Expenditure is no more than £1.5m a year and it is expected to last for no more than two years.

## **The Executive Office**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount of Provision (£'000)</b>
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Executive Support and Policy Development	493
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Provision is sought under Sole Authority of the Budget Act expenditure for the Commissioner for Survivors of Institutional Childhood Abuse (COSICA) prior to commencement of the office of Commissioner on 14 December 2020 and other Hart Report Actions in the absence of legislation. COSICA is now formally commenced but a disclosure has been made to reflect total sole authority use in the full year up to the date of formal appointment of the first Commissioner.

Some Hart Report actions which are not covered in the HIA (NI) Act 2019 require provision under sole authority as these are time limited. However, should it appear that the financial or time limits for such will be exceeded, TEO will seek a suitable legislative vehicle. Expenditure has been approved as it is no more than £1.5m a year and it is expected to last for no more than two years.

<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount of Provision (£'000)</b>
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Executive Support and Policy Development	5
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Provision is sought under Sole Authority of the Budget Act for expenditure incurred on the Ministerial Panel on Standards in absence of legislation. Legislation is not planned. Expenditure is to be no more than £1.5m a year and DoF expects TEO to keep expenditure under review to ensure that should it look likely to breach financial or time limits, a suitable legislative vehicle will be sought.

<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount of Provision (£'000)</b>
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Good Relations	7,327
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Provision is sought under Sole Authority of the Budget Act for expenditure incurred by the Social Investment Fund. There is no legislative basis for the powers exercised by the Social Investment Fund in making its grants. Approval was provided to honour the existing Supply approval of the SIF programme case which extends to 31 March 2021 and the commitments to five projects TEO has entered into. Approval for sole authority was provided on the condition that TEO made no commitment to any further capital or resource projects (or engages in any supporting resource spend for them). Should commitments to additional projects be made then TEO will need to re-evaluate the need for legislation.