

RPA – Primary Legislation Programme

The main legislation programme consists of seven pieces of primary legislation listed in the table below.

| Primary legislation | Lead Dept | Purpose |
|--|-----------|--|
| Local Government Boundaries | DOE | Makes provision for 7 District Councils and for the appointment of a Local Government Boundary Commissioner. |
| <p>The Local Government Boundaries (NI) Order came into operation on 16 May 2006. It divides Northern Ireland into 7 districts for the purposes of local government and defines these by reference to the former 26 districts. It also enables the appointment of a Local Government Boundaries Commissioner and sets out the procedure to be followed by him in establishing the boundaries of the 7 local government districts and the number of wards.</p> | | |
| Libraries | DCAL | To establish a NI Library Authority. |
| <p>The consultation paper on the draft Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order was published on 22 January 2007. The Order sets out the statutory duties and primary functions of the new Authority, and provides for the transfer of functions and designated property, rights and liabilities from the five regional Education and Library Boards to the new Authority.</p> <p>Consultation closed on Friday 20 April 2007.</p> | | |
| Education restructuring | DE | To implement RPA decisions on Education restructuring, principally the creation of the Education and Skills Authority. |
| Local Government (Restructuring) | DOE | To put in place a revised system of finance, administration and governance for the 7 new councils. |

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|--|-----------------|--|
| HPSS restructuring | DHSS&PS | To implement RPA decisions on Health and Social Services Restructuring, principally the creation of the Health and Social Services Authority. |
| <p>The consultation paper on the draft Health and Social Services (Reform) (Northern Ireland) Order was published on 16 January 2007. The draft Reform Order creates the legislative framework for the new health and social care organisations, including: the new Health and Social Services Authority; seven primary care-led Local Commissioning Groups within the Authority, a new Patient and Client Council; a new 'Duty of Engagement' on all health and social care organisations to ensure that they are listening to the needs of communities; the abolition of seven agencies and the transfer of their functions, staff, assets and liabilities to other health and social care bodies including the Authority, the Trusts and the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority.</p> <p>Consultation closed on 11 April 2007.</p> | | |
| Local Government (Transfer of Functions) | [All] – DoE led | To transfer local roads, planning, regeneration, housing-related and other functions to the new councils. |
| Public Authorities Reform | OFMDFM led | To deal with residual issues relating to public bodies whose functions do not transfer to councils and the removal of nomination rights to boards of bodies. |
| <p>The consultation paper on the draft Public Authorities Reform (Northern Ireland) Order was published on 24 January 2007. The proposed draft Order includes provisions to give effect to some of the decisions on public bodies following the Review of Public Administration.</p> <p>Consultation closed on 20 April 2007.</p> | | |
| <p>The aim is to have all legislation laid at Westminster by summer 2007.</p> | | |