

**Civil Service (Special Advisers)
(Amendment) Bill**

[AS INTRODUCED]

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Civil Service (Special Advisers) (Amendment)

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TO

Amend sections 7 and 8 of the Civil Service (Special Advisers) Act (Northern Ireland) 2013 and Article 3 of the Civil Service Commissioners (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 in relation to special advisers in the Northern Ireland Civil Service.

BE IT ENACTED by being passed by the Northern Ireland Assembly and assented to by Her Majesty as follows:

Amendment of the Civil Service (Special Advisers) Act (Northern Ireland) 2013

1.—(1) The Civil Service (Special Advisers) Act (Northern Ireland) 2013 is amended as follows.

5 (2) In section 7 (Code of Conduct), after subsection (3) insert—
 “(3A) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), the code must provide that special advisers are subject to the processes and procedures of the disciplinary code operative in the Northern Ireland Civil Service and, for the avoidance of doubt, that there can be no ministerial
 10 involvement or interference”.

(3) In section 8 (Code for appointments), after subsection (3)(b), insert—
 “(c) must not be remunerated above the rate within the Senior Civil Service Pay Structure applicable to Assistant Secretary (Grade 5)”.

15 **Amendment of the Civil Service Commissioners (Northern Ireland) Order 1999**

2.—(1) The Civil Service Commissioners (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 is amended as follows.

(2) In Article 3 (Selection on merit), in paragraph (4) the words “up to three persons” shall be replaced with the words “one person”.

20 **Commencement**

3. Sections 1 and 2 come into operation on 6th May 2016.

Civil Service (Special Advisers) (Amendment)

Short Title

4. This Act may be cited as the Civil Service (Special Advisers) (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2015.