



Local Government (Boundaries) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008

2008 CHAPTER 7

An Act to provide for 11 local government districts in Northern Ireland, for the division of those districts into wards, for the appointment of a Local Government Boundaries Commissioner to recommend the boundaries and names of those districts and wards and the number of wards in each district; and for connected purposes. [23rd May 2008]

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

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** [Act](#) power to make supplementary and transitional provisions conferred (20.5.2014) by [Local Government Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2014 \(c. 8\)](#), **ss. 124(1)(b)**, 129 (with s. 124(4)); [S.R. 2014/142](#), art. 2(c)
- C2** [Act](#): transfer of functions (8.5.2016) by [The Departments \(Transfer of Functions\) Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2016 \(S.R. 2016/76\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. 5 Pt. 1** (with art. 9(2))

Local government districts and wards

1.—(1) For the purposes of local government, Northern Ireland shall be divided into 11 districts (to be known as “local government districts”).

(2) The 11 local government districts shall incorporate, respectively, the whole or the major part of the following former local government districts—

- (1) Antrim; Newtownabbey.
- (2) Ards; North Down.
- (3) Armagh City and District; Banbridge; Craigavon.
- (4) Ballymena; Carrickfergus; Larne.
- (5) Ballymoney; Coleraine; Limavady; Moyle.
- (6) Belfast.
- (7) Castlereagh; Lisburn City.
- (8) Cookstown; Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough; Magherafelt.
- (9) Derry; Strabane.
- (10) Down; Newry and Mourne.
- (11) Fermanagh; Omagh.

(3) Each local government district shall be divided into wards.

(4) The boundaries and names of the local government districts and the number, boundaries and names of the wards into which each of those districts is divided shall be such as are prescribed by an order made under section 50(10) of the principal Act.

(5) Reference in subsection (2) to a former local government district is to that district as constituted on the date on which this Act receives Royal Assent.

Commencement Information

- I1** S. 1 partly in force; s. 1 in force at 31.5.2008 for specified purposes, see s. 5(2)
- I2** S. 1 in operation at 3.10.2013 for specified purposes by [S.R. 2013/238](#), [art. 2](#)
- I3** S. 1 in operation at 3.10.2013 for specified purposes by [S.R. 2013/238](#), [art. 3\(1\)](#) (with [art. 3\(2\)](#))
- I4** S. 1 in operation at 26.5.2014 for specified purposes and with effect in accordance with art. 4(1) of the amending S.R. by [S.R. 2013/238](#), [art. 4\(1\)](#) (with [art. 4\(2\)](#))
- I5** [S. 1](#) in operation at 1.4.2015 in so far as not already in operation by [S.R. 2013/238](#), [art. 5\(1\)](#) (with [art. 5\(2\)](#))

Local Government Boundaries Commissioner

2.—(1) The principal Act is amended as follows.

(2) In section 50 (local government boundaries) for subsections (1) and (2) substitute—

“(1) The Department shall appoint a Local Government Boundaries Commissioner—

(a) in the year 2008; and

***Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Local Government (Boundaries) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. (See end of Document for details)*

- (b) thereafter, during the period not less than 8 or more than 12 years from the date of the submission under subsection (6) of the final report of the last previous Commissioner appointed under this subsection.
- (2) The function of a Commissioner appointed under subsection (1)(a) shall be to make recommendations regarding—
 - (a) the boundaries and names of the 11 districts mentioned in section 1 of the Local Government (Boundaries) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008; and
 - (b) the number, boundaries and names of the wards into which each district is to be divided.”.
- (3) In Schedule 4 (provisions relating to the Commissioner)—
 - (a) for paragraph 3(2)(c) substitute—
 - “(c) the Chief Survey Officer of Land and Property Services; and”;
 - (b) for paragraph 6(2)(b) substitute—
 - “(b) that he will in due course publish provisional recommendations and cause a public hearing to be held in each of the 11 districts mentioned in section 1 of the Local Government (Boundaries) Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.”;
 - (c) for paragraph 18 substitute—
 - “**18.**—(1) Subject to sub-paragraphs (2) and (3)—
 - (a) in the district of Belfast the number of wards shall be 60;
 - (b) in each other district the number of wards shall be 40.
 - (2) Where, having regard to the matters mentioned in paragraph 17, the Commissioner considers it desirable that the number of wards in any district should be more than that specified in sub-paragraph (1), the number of wards in that district may be increased by not more than 5.
 - (3) Where, having regard to the matters mentioned in paragraph 17, the Commissioner considers it desirable that the number of wards in any district should be fewer than that specified in sub-paragraph (1), the number of wards in that district may be decreased by not more than 5.”.