

NORTHERN IRELAND (ST ANDREWS AGREEMENT) ACT 2006

DIRECTION DÉTERMINED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND NOTIFIED TO THE PRESIDING OFFICER UNDER PARAGRAPH 9(3) OF SCHEDULE 1 TO THE NORTHERN IRELAND (ST ANDREWS AGREEMENT) ACT 2006

1. I hereby direct that the initial standing orders of the Transitional Assembly be amended in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3:

2. For Standing Order 20 substitute:

“(a) Nominations of persons who are members of the Assembly to hold office as First Minister and deputy First Minister on the restoration of devolved government in Northern Ireland shall be made by applying paragraphs (b) to (e).

(b) When invited to do so by the Secretary of State

(i) the nominating officer of the largest political party of the largest political designation shall nominate a person to hold office as First Minister on the restoration of devolved government in Northern Ireland; and

(ii) the nominating officer of the largest party of the second largest designation shall nominate a person to hold office as deputy First Minister on the restoration of devolved government in Northern Ireland.

(c) Each person nominated under paragraph (b) must indicate acceptance of his/her nomination to the Secretary of State.

(d) The Secretary of State shall notify the Speaker when persons have accepted nomination to hold the offices of First Minister and deputy First Minister on the restoration of devolved government in Northern Ireland.

(e) This Standing Order shall be construed in accordance with, and is subject to, Standing Order 22.”

3. In Standing Order 21 (Vacancies – nominations of persons to hold office as First Minister and deputy First Minister) for paragraph (a)(i) substitute:

“(i) May at any time resign as nominee by notice in writing to the Secretary of State;”

PP Fiana McCoy
Private Secretary
(Approved by the Secretary of State and signed in his absence).

**RT HON PETER HAIN MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND**

14 March 2007