



**Date: 22nd June 2015**

**Welcome to Supporting Communities NI's 38th Edition of E-Zine, bringing you Best Practice from the Community Sector; Funding and Training Updates and Policy Developments in Northern Ireland, Great Britain and Republic of Ireland.**



## **Charity regulator to hold first public meeting in Belfast**

Northern Ireland's independent charity regulator, the Charity Commission, will hold its first public meeting on Monday 21st September 2015 at the Duncairn Centre in Belfast.



The meeting will provide an opportunity for anyone with an interest in charities to catch up on the progress of the Commission over the previous 12 months, as well as meet Northern Ireland's Charity Commissioners.

Attendees will be given an overview of the Commission's activities and future plans by Chief Commissioner, Tom McGrath, and Frances McCandless, Commission Chief Executive.

There will also be a guest lecture by the Attorney General for Northern Ireland, John F Larkin QC. Ms McCandless commented: *"I am delighted to announce that not only are we hosting our first public meeting later this year but that the Attorney General, Mr Larkin QC, will be joining us to deliver the keynote speech."*

*It's very important to us that we engage with the public so everyone can see we are open and transparent, as well as providing a means by which those directly affected by charity regulation can ask questions and share their views and experiences. I hope that anyone with an interest in charities will come along to find out more about our work and join in the debate on charity regulation."*



**The meeting, the first in what will be an annual public meeting for the Commission, will take place on Monday 21st September, from 3pm to 5pm, at the Duncairn Centre, Duncairn Avenue, Belfast, BT14 6BP.**

To confirm your attendance, please email [admin@charitycommissionni.org.uk](mailto:admin@charitycommissionni.org.uk) - spaces are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-serve basis.

## Driving Licence paper counterpart needs to be retained in Northern Ireland

The Driver & Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) in Great Britain has abolished the paper counterpart for Driving Licences issued in England, Scotland and Wales.

**These changes do not apply in Northern Ireland.**



A Driver & Vehicle Agency (DVA) spokesperson said: *“While GB has abolished the paper counterpart, it still very much applies in Northern Ireland, as this is a devolved matter.*

*We therefore are advising drivers here not to throw away the paper counterpart to their driving licence.*

*For driving licences issued by the Driver & Vehicle Agency (DVA) in Northern Ireland, the paper counterpart remains a valid and legal part of the Northern Ireland driving licence and should retained by licence holders.”*



Department of  
**Education**  
www.deni.gov.uk

**Consultation on proposals for the future of the Youth Council extended until 3rd July 2015**

A spokesperson for the Department said: *“The establishment of the Education Authority presents an opportunity to reshape and reform regional and sub-regional youth service delivery to ensure that the service is supported to participate as effectively as possible within the new educational administrative arrangements.*

*A different approach is needed to ensure quality and consistency in delivery of youth services in order to protect front-line services during these difficult financial times. “*

**The consultation on the future of the Youth Council will now end on 3rd July 2015.**

The consultation document and response booklet are available on the Department's website at; <http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/support-and-development-2/youth-service/content-newpage-20.htm>

# Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service is the highest award given to local volunteering groups across the UK to recognise outstanding work done in their own communities.

Any voluntary group doing work that provides a social, economic or environmental service to the local community can be nominated for the Award. The group should have been in existence for at least three years and have two or more volunteers.

If you have been impressed by a group of volunteers (that you know about but do not work or volunteer with) and who you feel deserves recognition for the work they do, you can nominate them for this Award. **Groups cannot nominate themselves; nominations normally come from stakeholders, beneficiaries or other members of the local community.**

You may have come across a group that has given excellent service to their beneficiaries and communities; you, or a family member, may have benefited from the services of the group; the service which the group provides may have been delivered in an innovative way; or the group may have shown examples of selfless voluntary service that distinguishes their work. You, as nominator, can be the one to help them receive this prestigious Award. You will be raising their profile, saying thank you and inspiring them to keep volunteering. Award recipients can use the Queen's Award emblem on websites, stationery and other promotional materials.

Nomination form available at:

Web: <https://qavs.direct.gov.uk>

Tel: 020 7271 6206

Email: [queensaward@cabinet-office.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:queensaward@cabinet-office.gsi.gov.uk)



## More information

If you want to speak to someone in N. Ireland about the Award contact:

Walter Rader NI QAVS Representative Tel: 078 8073 7158 Email: [walterrader44@gmail.com](mailto:walterrader44@gmail.com)

Sandra Adair

Volunteer Now Tel: 028 9081 8304 Email: [sandra.adair@volunteernow.co.uk](mailto:sandra.adair@volunteernow.co.uk)

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# Assembly News



## Assembly Report

At the full meeting of the Assembly held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June the Minister for Social Development, Mr Mervyn Storey MLA responded to questions on Asset Disposal by the DSD, Urban Regeneration Resources, Social Housing New-build Programme, Pavement Furniture and pedestrian access, Independent Advice Sector Funding and Welfare Reform.

The report can be accessed at;

<http://aims.niassembly.gov.uk/officialreport/report.aspx?&eveDate=2015/0615&docID=238195>

# Social Development Committee

The committee has been considering the Regeneration Bill and the final report prepared; minutes of the meetings and the minutes of evidence are available on the Assembly website at: <http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/assembly-business/committees/social-development/>

## Report on the Regeneration Bill (NIA Bill 43/11-16)

### Executive Summary

The Regeneration Bill confers certain regeneration and community development powers on, and transfer of certain functions relating to Laganside, to the new district councils. The Department will continue to exercise policy responsibility for the powers and functions that are proposed to be transferred. Councils will have a statutory duty to have regard to guidance issued by the Department in respect of these powers and functions. The Bill does not confer an obligation on councils to continue delivering any existing DSD programmes.

Central to the Committee's consideration and which became a critical issue, were concerns raised by some members that regeneration should be centred on economic regeneration rather than social need. The Committee divided on a motion but ultimately agreed to ask the Department to amend clause 1 by removing reference to ~~social need~~ and replacing it with ~~economic regeneration~~

The Minister subsequently responded to the Committee rejecting the proposed amendment as he believed it *"would have the effect of ruling out Council's involvement in tackling social need and would leave this responsibility with the Department"*. The Minister proposed an amendment which included reference to economic regeneration.

The Committee rejected the Minister's amendment and agreed, by majority, the following amended clause:

#### Clause 1:

##### Financial assistance to address social need

1. A council may provide financial assistance to any person doing or intending to do, anything which the council considers will promote economic and/or social regeneration in an area in its district.
2. In particular financial assistance may be provided under this section for:
  - (a) the promotion, development or regeneration of commercial, industrial or other economic or social regeneration activities;

- (b) the improvement of the environment;
- (c) the provision of housing;
- (d) the provision of social or community facilities,
- (e) the refurbishment or restructuring of buildings.

3. Financial assistance under this section may include:
  - (a) grants;
  - (b) loans;
  - (c) guarantees;
  - (d) the taking of any interest in property or in a body corporate.



Financial assistance under this section for the provision of housing requires the approval of the Department.

The Committee welcomed the Minister's acceptance of the Committee's recommendation to amend clauses 6(2), 11(2) and 11(6) to include a requirement that councils also publish notices on their websites and that this will also be made clear in guidance from the Department.

The Committee noted that the Department did not provide a delegated powers memorandum and therefore the Examiner of Statutory Rules did not have the opportunity to examine this.

### Recommendations

The Committee recommends that the Department provides guidance to councils in order to encourage them to work together on regionally important schemes rather than the approach, detailed in clause 5(2), of having the Department direct a council to prepare such a development scheme or the Department prepare a development scheme as per clause 13.

That the Department for Social Development establishes a permanent mechanism to discuss with the Department for Agriculture and Rural Development how they can implement a consistent approach to tackle social need across all council areas taking into account the policy objectives projects of both departments in respect of social deprivation.

The Committee recommends that the Minister gives further consideration to introducing a qualified majority voting clause to the Bill to ensure that controversial decisions, which could adversely affect community relations, are not made.

The full report is available at; <http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/globalassets/documents/reports/social-development/report-on-the-regeneration-bill.pdf>

The Committee recommends that the Minister considers ways in which timely information can be provided to investors which sets out the critical steps to be taken, how long they might take and the impact on the timescales of a live development project.

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## Other Housing and Policy Developments in UK and Republic of Ireland

### **Build more affordable homes, boost standards for private renters and help councils tackle rogue landlords**

The chancellor should use next month's emergency budget to build more affordable homes, improve standards for private renters and give councils more resources to tackle rogue landlords according to the **Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH)**.

CIH said the government should establish a national set of standards for private landlords and encourage landlords to sign up with targeted tax breaks. And when councils take legal action against rogue landlords for housing-related offences, they should be able to keep any resulting fines to fund further enforcement rather than having to hand them over to the Treasury, as is currently the case.

The private rented sector has doubled in size since 1992 and is now home to 4.4 million households in England. 18 per cent of all households in the country. The English Housing Survey showed that a third of private rented homes would have failed the government's Decent Homes Standard in 2012, compared to only around one in seven social rented homes, while almost one in five don't have central heating.

CIH deputy chief executive Gavin Smart said: *"More and more people are living in private rented homes, including more older people, more families with children and more vulnerable people from the housing waiting list."*



*"So it's vital that we look at new ways to raise standards and make sure cash-strapped councils get more help to tackle the minority of rogue landlords."*

He added: *"As we continue to face a housing supply crisis, it's critical that the government does everything it can to support housing associations and councils to develop new affordable homes, to maximise the role they can play in building new homes alongside private developers. A welcome first step would be to confirm that the commitment in last year's autumn statement to fund 275,000 new affordable homes remains in place. We think the government should also be looking at other steps it can take to support new affordable house building, including by local authorities."*

Chancellor George Osborne is due to present the emergency budget on 8th July. CIH's submission also calls on the government to:

**Remove stamp duty when older homeowners who receive Pension Credit downsize to smaller properties.** This move would make downsizing more affordable for older people on low incomes and free up bigger homes for larger families.

**Set up a £100 million fund to support vulnerable people living in the private rented sector.** Councils could bid for cash from the challenge fund to support vulnerable tenants, which would help reduce homelessness caused by private rented tenancies coming to an end (currently the most common cause of homelessness) and give landlords more confidence to let to households they see as higher risk

**Help housing associations and councils build more affordable homes.** In last year's autumn statement the government committed to provide 275,000 homes up to 2019/20 (55,000 homes a year) through the Affordable Homes Programme.

CIH said this commitment must be maintained and strengthened to help the increasing number of people who are struggling to access a decent home at a price they can afford. It is vital that the resources committed to it are not reduced as the government looks for further spending cuts. According to the latest household projections for England, we need to be building 220,000 new homes a year just to keep up with our growing population. CIH said the government should review the current programme and consider increasing its funding from 2016/17 onwards to help social landlords maximise the part they can play in tackling the housing crisis by building at least 85,000 homes a year. Its submission also calls on the government to allow councils to borrow more so they can build more homes.

To read the full submission, go to;

<http://www.cih.org/resources/PDF/Policy%20free%20download%20pdfs/CIH%20Emergency%20Budget%20submission%20FINAL.pdf>

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## Publications

### SCOPE Magazine

NICVA has published Scope magazine; the current issue contains articles on: Transforming Your Care, Planning and Open Space and Health and Asylum.

Scope 

To read the current issue, go to; <http://scopeni.nicva.org/>

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### Law Centre NI

Law Centre (NI) 

The June e-newsletter is now available from the Law Centre NI. To view and to share, go to; <http://us7.campaign-archive1.com/?u=ae690a33dc6a1581f08bf755b&id=a622972a60>

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### NI Policing Board

The Policing Board has published the June edition of its magazine, Policing Matters. To download a copy and to share, go to; [http://www.nipolicingboard.org.uk/policing\\_matters\\_june\\_15.pdf](http://www.nipolicingboard.org.uk/policing_matters_june_15.pdf)

Northern Ireland  
Policing Board



# NICVA Publications

## Spot the Spam, avoid the Scam

Ian Kelly, Systems Administer at NICVA offers some advice on how to prevent your information systems becoming a weakness. **Be aware of the details to look out for in a potentially suspect email and avoid being conned out of your personal details, computer security or your money.**

Somewhere between 50 and 90 billion spam emails are being sent on a daily basis and make up approximately 75% of all email traffic. The most common type of spam these days and the one with the most potential for damage is the phishing email. Phishing is a method used by scammers to attempt to fool you into falling into their trap and handing over your personal details or account information. Despite valiant efforts being made to filter, junk or block these there is always a risk of a false positive and one or two nefarious emails slipping through the net. Some of these are very obvious and can be easily avoided, unless you really have just recently lost a distant relation in South Africa who just happened to be a Prince looking to leave you his inheritance? On the other hand there are quite a few very committed con artists who put a lot of effort into creating a quality scamming system with a concerted effort into creating a sometimes indistinguishable replica of a bank email, or will make efforts to find out your organisation structure and create an internal targeted email from a senior staff member.

### How to spot one:

- ❑ **The sender address**  
Does it differ from the organisation it is reportedly from?  
(eg. @pay-pal.com ; @e-bay.co.uk ; @hsbcpayments.com)
- ❑ **Check any link before clicking**  
Hover your mouse over the link, does it reflect a familiar website address or a false one? Also be wary of any shortened links (bit.ly or tinurl.com etc.) these can connect to any site. (Check links here first: <http://onlinelinkscan.com>)
- ❑ **What is the purpose of the email?**  
Does it just happen to be trying to scare you into thinking one of your accounts have been compromised? *'Click here to check or reset your password etc.'* This should be ringing alarm bells
- ❑ **Is it from your bank?**  
In most cases your bank will never contact you regarding the security of your account or any breaches thereof, by email. They will always contact by phone or letter. If it is a statement notification, check all of the above before clicking anything.
- ❑ **Is it an unusual request?**  
Has your Director just asked you to wire some money to his off-shore account? Don't reply, always check this out with the staff member first and make your systems administrator aware, as the actual replying address may differ to what you see.
- ❑ **Spelling or grammatical errors**  
This may seem obvious, but a few minor errors in the content should ring alarm bells for further checks.
- ❑ **Check for attachments**  
If someone has asked you to check the attached invoice, delivery note or other in the format of a document, zip file or other unknown file type, do not open or save these files. They are also a good indicator that the email is not what it says it is.



### What to do if you receive a possible scam email

- ◆ **Don't click on any links within it.**
- ◆ **Don't open any attachments.**
- ◆ **Don't reply to the sender, you will only validate your address.**
- ◆ **Never give any personal information.**
- ◆ **Report it to whoever looks after your IT system, they can blacklist senders.**
- ◆ **Find out if you have a filtering system in place, if not look into one**

For more information, please contact [ian.kelly@nicva.org](mailto:ian.kelly@nicva.org).



## Policy Hack - The Fiscal Impact of an Older Population in Northern Ireland

**Venue:** Farset, 1 Weavers Court Business Park, Linfield, Belfast  
**Date/Time:** 2nd July 2015 - 10.00am to 4.00pm

***Northern Ireland's population is ageing  
But what impact will this have on public spending and taxes raised in the region?  
And what needs to be done to ensure the sustainability of the public finances?***

NICVA is holding a one day policy hack to discuss these questions. The event is open to everyone with an interest in the issue - voluntary and community groups, academics, government officials, trade unionists, the business community, and members of the public

If you would like to take part please register at;  
<http://www.nicva.org/event/policy-hack-fiscal-impact-older-population-northern-ireland>

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## Welfare Reform Events - Learning from Scotland – Carers 2nd September 2015 - 2.00pm to 4.00pm at NICVA

A short seminar/discussion focusing on the impacts of welfare reform on carers, learning from the experiences of those who care and work with carers in Scotland. Now that the Welfare Reform Bill has fallen in the Assembly everyone is still unsure of what will happen next with the Bill, and the Assembly.

NICVA led a delegation to Scotland in March and met with a range of organisations learning about the effects of welfare reform on their service users and areas.

Following from this a number of these organisations have been invited to come to NI and share their knowledge and experience with the sector here. Each event will focus on a different user group.

The first event focuses on carers and they have asked Lynn Williams, Policy Officer at SCVO and Linda Allan, Carers Centre Manager at South West Carers Centre to share their experiences and engage in a discussion with us.

To book a place, go to; <http://www.nicva.org/event/welfare-reform-events-learning-scotland-carers>



## Housing Rights Training Courses Tenancy Deposit Disputes in the PRS

**Venue:** Belfast - Housing Rights

**Date/Time:** Wednesday, July 29th, 2015 - 1000am to 1.00pm

Northern Ireland's tenancy deposit scheme has been in place since 1st April 2013. As part of the scheme adjudicators are appointed by administrators to facilitate dispute resolution. Housing Rights will have a representative from TDS Northern Ireland, one of the administrators appointed by the Department for Social Development, delivering this session. There will be a focus on practical matters aimed at avoiding disputes but also an explanation of the process when a dispute does arise.

### The session will also look at key areas such as:

- Pre tenancy administration
- Setting up a tenancy correctly and the importance of inventories
- The check out process
- Quantifying damage and assessing fair wear and tear
- What the adjudicator is looking for
- How the adjudicator decides a dispute
- The role a court can play



See more at:

<http://www.housingrights.org.uk/event/adjudicating-tenancy-deposit-disputes#sthash.PUaxLTEi.dpuf>

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## Dealing with Housing Problems in the Small Claims Court

**Training Courses will be held in:**

**Belfast - Housing Rights on Monday, August 3rd, 2015 - 10.00am to 1.00pm**

**Derry - Holywell Trust on Tuesday, August 4th, 2015 - 10.00am to 1.00pm**

Whether it's to recover a deposit, repairing issues or enforcing other legal rights; Often people feel that their only course of redress is to go to court. The small claims court procedure is designed to be used by individuals and organisations to enable them to access justice more quickly and with less expense than more traditional court procedures. Whilst there are limits on the type of cases and the amount of money that can be reclaimed through this process, properly prepared paperwork and representations for the hearing can help you be more effective at Court. This course will provide you with the skill needed to do this.

**This course assists advisers in taking or defending a case in the small claims court looking in detail at:**

- Types of cases that can be heard
- Procedures
- Presenting a case in court
- Structuring submissions/notices in line with CCR and procedure
- Enforcing the judgment

For more information on Housing Rights Training Courses and seminars, go to;

<http://www.housingrights.org.uk/training-events>



# FUNDING

## Entries Invited to TalkTalk's 2015 Digital Heroes Awards

The annual Digital Heroes Awards, provided by TalkTalk and in association with Citizens Online and The Mirror, have opened for 2015. 10 individuals throughout the UK that are using digital technology to bring about positive social change and to improve the lives of people in their local communities will be recognised during an Awards ceremony at the House of Commons in London.

The winner of each Digital Hero category will also be awarded £5,000, while the overall Digital Hero - as selected by a panel of judges - will receive £10,000. The prize money is intended to support both new and existing digital projects.

A new award category has also been introduced for 2015. In partnership with the online safety organisation, Internet Matters, the new Internet Safety Digital Hero award has been designed to recognise an outstanding individual who is promoting internet safety to children and young people.

### The other award categories are as follows:

- **Employment Digital Hero** - for someone using technology to help drive employment in his or her community.
- **Healthy Living Digital Hero** - for someone using technology to help promote healthy living.
- **Silver Surfer Digital Hero** - for an older person who has embraced the digital world and is using it for social good.
- **Skills Digital Hero** - for someone who has dedicated their time to pass on their digital skills and passion for the digital world to others.
- **Volunteer Digital Hero** - for someone using a technology solution to encourage others to volunteer.
- **Fundraising Digital Hero** - for someone who has used the power of digital technology to raise money or business finance.
- **Training Digital Hero** - for someone using technology to deliver education or training.
- **Sustainability Digital Hero** - for someone using technology to make their environment a greener, more pleasant place to live or work.
- **Next Generation Digital Hero** - for someone young with the potential to be a technology star of the future.

The winner of the Next Generation Digital Hero award will receive £4,000 for their charity of choice as well as a MacBook Air for themselves.

**The deadline for entries to the 2015 Awards is 24th July 2015.**

For further information

[www.talktalk.co.uk/digitalheroes/enter.html](http://www.talktalk.co.uk/digitalheroes/enter.html)

## Northern Ireland Road Safety Grant Scheme

Provided by the Department of the Environment (DOE), the Road Safety Grant scheme aims to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on the roads in Northern Ireland. Since 2010, the scheme has awarded more than £600,000 to 75 projects.

Grants of up to £10,000 are available to properly constituted, not-profit voluntary and community sector groups who can show:

- There is a specific road safety problem to address.
- It has an effective project idea to address it.
- That the proposed project is relevant to Northern Ireland's Road Safety Strategy to 2020.

Previously funded road safety projects include:

- Over representation of young people and those in rural areas in road collisions.
- Promoting road safety through theatre in education.
- Bike safety issues.
- Road safety education targeted at ethnic minority communities.
- Driver safety advice and training for younger and older drivers.
- Road safety awareness and independent travel for people with learning or physical disabilities.
- Children's awareness of traffic danger.

Individuals can only apply for funding if they are working in partnership with a community group, which must also be involved in the application process.

**Funded projects must be completed by 4th March 2016.  
The deadline for applications is 10th July 2015 (12 noon).**

A funding application pack is available to download from:

<http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/road-safety-grant-scheme>

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## Big Lottery Fund Northern Ireland – People and Communities

Big Lottery Fund Northern Ireland will be opening a new funding programme called People and Communities in January 2016.

This programme will build on the strengths, skills, assets and energy already in communities.

They want your views on how it could support you to work with local people to make great changes in your community . and they are starting that conversation now.

They want to work with you as this new funding programme develops to share ideas, knowledge and examples of what works.

However so they can reflect on what you've told them, they want your feedback on some key questions until **30th September**.

**Find out more on the People and Communities webpage including how to get in touch on Facebook and Twitter using the hashtag #fundingpeopleni**

# Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust – Northern Ireland Programme

The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (JRCT) aims to fund work which will contribute to the ongoing transformation of the Northern Ireland conflict.

It has a specific vision of Northern Ireland with specific characteristics (listed on their website). The funding priorities of the JRCT as regards Northern Ireland is funding work which:

- ♦ addresses the root causes of violence and injustice, rather than alleviating symptoms
- ♦ cannot be funded from other sources
- ♦ is likely to make a long-term, strategic difference.

**There are four priority areas that JRCT has identified:**

## **1. Strengthening human rights and equality**

This includes work to secure and monitor implementation of human rights commitments by the state, work which strengthens a culture of human rights, as well as new initiatives on economic, social and cultural rights.

## **2. Supporting inclusive, non-sectarian and participatory politics**

This includes initiatives which strengthen the voices of marginalised groups in public policy-making, foster positive, non-violent approaches to expressing and managing political difference and which cultivate the independence of the community and voluntary sectors.

## **3. Supporting processes of demilitarisation**

This includes initiatives which encourage groups engaged in armed struggle to take steps towards exclusively non-violent strategies and to engage in comprehensive processes of transition to civilian life.

## **4. Dealing with the past**

The Trust is concerned primarily with work that promotes a shared understanding of the root causes of past violence, or which encourages government to implement initiatives to address the legacy of violence at a societal level.

## **Other factors**

JRCT is particularly interested in receiving applications related to women's participation in all of these areas and in addition to applications from Northern Ireland, it is open to receiving applications from Britain and the Republic of Ireland for work related to the above areas, and for work with an all-Ireland focus.

Local work will be supported only where it is likely to have a wider impact, for example if it is testing a model which can then be replicated, or is addressing a local issue that has wider social or political implications. There are also a number of specific exclusions which are listed online.

## **How to Apply**

For more information on how to apply and to find out further details on the Trust please visit: [www.jrct.org.uk/northern-ireland](http://www.jrct.org.uk/northern-ireland)

**The next deadline for completed applications is Monday 17th August 2015.**