

WRITTEN MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Ministry of Justice

Transfer of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Appeals Panel for Northern Ireland from the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland to the Secretary of State for Justice

My Right Honourable friend the Secretary of State for Justice has made the following Written Ministerial Statement.

“On the 1st December 2007, in line with the policy of openness and independence of tribunals, responsibility for the Criminal Injuries Compensation Appeals Panel for Northern Ireland transferred from the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, The Right Honourable Shaun Woodward MP to the Secretary of State for Justice, The Right Honourable Jack Straw MP. The transfer was effected by a machinery of government change.

The Criminal Injury Compensation Appeals Panel for Northern Ireland was established under the Criminal Injuries Compensation (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 and hears appeals from the final decision of the Compensation Agency for Northern Ireland who decide upon applications for compensation made by, or in respect of, persons who have sustained criminal injury.

Prior to the transfer on 1st December 2007, responsibility for the entire Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme, which included the Compensation Agency for Northern Ireland and the Criminal Injury Compensation Appeals Panel for Northern Ireland, lay with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. Responsibility for the Compensation Agency for Northern Ireland will continue to remain with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

From the 1st December 2007 responsibility for appointing, removing and remunerating the adjudicators who hear the appeals and the reporting, accounting and auditing arrangements in respect of Criminal Injuries Compensation Appeals Panel for Northern Ireland rests with the Secretary of State for Justice. Full details in relation to the statutory functions which have been transferred can be found on the Northern Ireland Court Service website (www.courtsni.gov.uk).