

**THE CHARITIES ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2008  
THE CHARITIES ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2013  
THE CHARITIES ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2022  
THE CHARITY TRIBUNAL RULES (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2010**

**IN THE MATTER OF AN APPEAL OF A DECISION OF THE CHARITY  
COMMISSION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE CHARITY TRIBUNAL FOR  
NORTHERN IRELAND**

**Appeal No. 1/22**

**BETWEEN**

**DISABLED POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN IRELAND**

**Appellant**

**and**

**THE CHARITY COMMISSION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND**

**Respondent**

**DECISION**

1. By Notice dated 2 March 2026, the Appellant seeks the permission of the Tribunal to appeal to the Court against the Tribunal's decision of 2 February 2026.
2. Section 14(2) of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 provides that, subject to subsection (3), an appeal may be brought against a decision of the Tribunal only on a point of law.
3. By its application for permission to appeal, the Appellant submits that the Tribunal's decision is wrong in law on three grounds:
  - a. Ground 1 – At the date of the decision the Commission had not validly delegated its powers to a Committee/sub-Committee in accordance with Schedule 1 para 9 of the 2008 Act.
  - b. Ground 2 – Lack of proper process by the purported Committee/sub-committee when taking the impugned decision on 14 February 2014.
  - c. Ground 3 – In light of the reasons relied upon by the Respondent for instituting the statutory inquiry, the decision was disproportionate.
4. As to Ground 1, the Appellant contends that the Tribunal failed to give any or adequate consideration to a range of factors, which are set out under this Ground 1. The Tribunal rejects this contention for the following reasons:
  - a. Save for those factors set out at 4.b below, as appears from the Tribunal's decision, all the factors identified in the application for permission, under this

Ground 1, were fully and properly considered by the Tribunal. The Tribunal made no error of law in its consideration of these factors.

- b. The Appellant, in its application for permission under this Ground 1, has identified three additional factors, namely D, E and I. These factors were not the subject of evidence, argument or submission before the Tribunal, despite the Appellant having had the opportunity to advance such evidence, argument or submission. The Tribunal made no error of law in not considering matters which were not put before the Tribunal.
5. As to Ground 2, the Appellant contends that the Tribunal failed to give any or adequate consideration to a range of factors, which are set out under this Ground. The Tribunal rejects this contention for the following reasons:
- a. Save for those factors set out at 5.b below, as appears from the Tribunal's decision, all the factors identified in the application for permission, under this Ground 1, were fully and properly considered by the Tribunal. The Tribunal made no error of law in its consideration of these factors.
  - b. The Appellant, in its application for permission under Ground 1, has identified three additional factors, namely A, B and C. These factors were not the subject of evidence, argument or submission before the Tribunal, despite the Appellant having had the opportunity to advance such evidence, argument or submission. The Tribunal made no error of law in not considering matters which were not put before the Tribunal.
6. As to Ground 3, the Appellant contends that the *Respondent* (rather than the *Tribunal*) failed to properly consider the impact of a statutory inquiry on the Appellant against the reasons why one was purportedly needed as set out in the decision letter of 14 February 2014. The Tribunal rejects this contention for the following reasons:
- a. This requirement for such an inquiry, as opposed to some other form of intervention, and the question of proportionality were the subject of evidence, argument and submission before the Tribunal. The Tribunal made no error of law in its consideration of these matters.
7. Permission to appeal is thus refused.

Application to the Court for permission to appeal to the Court

8. Pursuant to Section 14 of the 2008 Act, the Appellant has the right to apply to the Court for permission to appeal to the Court.

Adrian Colmer KC  
Irene Ringland  
Lorraine McCourt

25 March 2026