

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE IN NORTHERN IRELAND
IN THE COUNTY COURT OF NORTHERN IRELAND**

PRACTICE DIRECTION

No. 2 of 2026

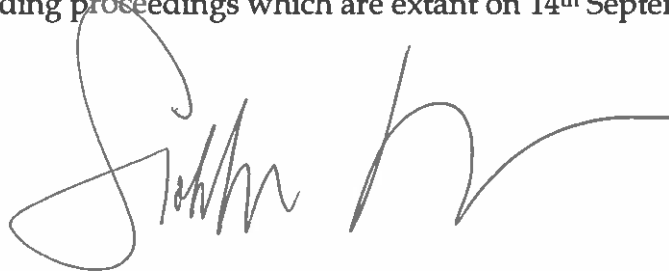
**PROCEEDINGS RELATING TO
THE WINDSOR FRAMEWORK**

OR

**EU AND EEA EFTA CITIZENS' RIGHTS UNDER PART 2 OF THE
WITHDRAWAL AGREEMENT AND PART 2 OF THE EEA EFTA
SEPARATION AGREEMENT**

This Practice Direction has effect from 14th September 2026.

This Practice Direction applies to all proceedings before the High Court and the County Court, including proceedings which are extant on 14th September 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Siobhan Keegan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Signed this 9 day of September 2026

**The Right Honourable Dame Siobhan Keegan
Lady Chief Justice of Northern Ireland**

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1. Windsor Framework

- 1.1 The Windsor Framework (formerly known as "the Protocol on Ireland/Northern-Ireland") imposes an international law obligation on the United Kingdom to ensure that no diminution of rights, safeguards or equality of opportunity as set out in that part of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement 1998 entitled 'Rights, Safeguards and Equality of Opportunity' results from its withdrawal from the European Union.

Notification of Proceedings

- 1.2 Where an issue relating to the international law obligation referred to in paragraph 1.1 is raised in proceedings, the party raising the issue shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, notify the appropriate Minister, Northern Ireland department or UK Government department by sending a copy of the Order 53 Statement, writ, civil bill or, if applicable, other relevant court document in which the issue is raised to the solicitor who acts for that Minister or department in Northern Ireland.

2. EU and EEA EFTA Citizens' Rights

- 2.1 The international treaties governing the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union (the Withdrawal Agreement and the EEA EFTA Separation Agreement) provide for certain citizens' rights, including -

- residency rights,
- the right to work and be self-employed,
- recognition of certain professional qualifications,
- the right to co-ordination of social security, and
- rights of non-discrimination on the grounds of nationality and equal treatment.

Notification of Proceedings

- 2.2 Where an issue relating to the citizens' rights referred to in paragraph 2.1 is raised in proceedings, the party raising the issue shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, notify the Independent Monitoring Authority by sending it a copy of the Order 53 Statement, writ, civil bill or, if applicable, other relevant court document in which the issue is raised.
- 2.3 The notification to the Independent Monitoring Authority should be sent -
- (a) by email to the email address provided on the Independent Monitoring Authority website (at the time of issue: IMA@ima-citizensrights.org.uk); or
 - (b) by post to the current address provided on Independent Monitoring Authority website (at the time of issue: 3rd Floor Civic Centre, Oystermouth Road, Swansea SA1 3SN).