
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1997 No. 869

The Race Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1997

PART VI

GENERAL EXCEPTIONS FROM PARTS II TO IV

Discriminatory training etc.

37.—(1) Nothing in Parts II to IV shall render unlawful any act done in relation to particular work by any person in or in connection with—

- (a) affording only persons of a particular racial group access to facilities for training which would help to fit them for that work; or
- (b) encouraging only persons of a particular racial group to take advantage of opportunities for doing that work,

where it reasonably appears to that person that at any time within the 12 months immediately preceding the doing of the act—

- (i) there were no persons of that group among those doing that work in Northern Ireland; or
- (ii) the proportion of persons of that group among those doing that work in Northern Ireland was small in comparison with the proportion of persons of that group among the population of Northern Ireland.

(2) Where in relation to particular work it reasonably appears to any person that although the condition for the operation of paragraph (1) is not met for the whole of Northern Ireland it is met for an area within Northern Ireland, nothing in Parts II to IV shall render unlawful any act done by that person in or in connection with—

- (a) affording persons who are of the racial group in question, and who appear likely to take up that work in that area, access to facilities for training which would help to fit them for that work; or
- (b) encouraging persons of that group to take advantage of opportunities in the area for doing that work.

(3) Paragraphs (1) and (2) do not apply to any discrimination which is rendered unlawful by Article 6(1) or (2).

(4) Nothing in Parts II to IV shall render unlawful any act done by an employer in relation to particular work in his employment at a particular establishment in Northern Ireland, being an act done in or in connection with—

- (a) affording only those of his employees working at that establishment who are of a particular racial group access to facilities for training which would help to fit them for that work; or
- (b) encouraging only persons of a particular racial group to take advantage of opportunities for doing that work at that establishment,

where any of the conditions in paragraph (5) was satisfied at any time within the 12 months immediately preceding the doing of the act.

Changes to legislation: *The Race Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1997, Section 37 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 13 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(5) Those conditions are—

- (a) that there are no persons of the racial group in question among those doing that work at that establishment; or
- (b) that the proportion of persons of that group among those doing that work at that establishment is small in comparison with the proportion of persons of that group—
 - (i) among all those employed by that employer there; or
 - (ii) among the population of the area from which that employer normally recruits persons for work in his employment at that establishment.

(6) Nothing in Article 13 shall render unlawful any act done by an organisation to which that Article applies in or in connection with—

- (a) affording only members of the organisation who are of a particular racial group access to facilities for training which would help to fit them for holding a post of any kind in the organisation; or
- (b) encouraging only members of the organisation who are of a particular racial group to take advantage of opportunities for holding such posts in the organisation,

where either of the conditions in paragraph (7) was satisfied at any time within 12 months immediately preceding the doing of the act.

(7) Those conditions are—

- (a) that there are no persons of the racial group in question among persons holding such posts in that organisation; or
- (b) that the proportion of persons of that group among those holding such posts in that organisation is small in comparison with the proportion of persons of that group among the members of the organisation.

(8) Nothing in Parts II to IV shall render unlawful any act done by an organisation to which Article 13 applies in or in connection with encouraging only persons of a particular racial group to become members of the organisation where at any time within the 12 months immediately preceding the doing of the act—

- (a) no persons of that group were members of the organisation; or
- (b) the proportion of persons of that group among members of the organisation was small in comparison with the proportion of persons of that group among those eligible for membership of the organisation.

(9) [^{F1}Articles 10 and 11 apply] (meaning of employment at establishment in Northern Ireland) shall apply for the purposes of this Article as if this Article were contained in Part II.

F1 Words in [art. 37\(9\)](#) substituted (9.7.2012) by [The Race Relations Order 1997 \(Amendment\) Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2012 \(S.R. 2012/263\)](#), arts. 1(3), 6

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- Instrument am. (prosp.) by [1998 c. 17 s.50 Sch.4 para.41](#)
- Instrument am. (prosp.) by [1998 c. 32 s.74\(1\)Sch.4 para.24](#)