

**2006 No. 522**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**Local Government (Accounts and Audit) (Amendment)  
Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006**

*Made* - - - - *14th December 2006*

*Coming into operation* - *1st April 2007*

The Department of the Environment makes the following regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 24 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005(a).

In accordance with Article 24(4) of that Order, the Department has consulted councils, such associations or bodies representative of councils, such associations or bodies representative of officers of councils and such other persons or bodies as appear to the Department to be appropriate.

**Citation and commencement**

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 and shall come into operation on 1st April 2007.

**Amendment to the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006**

2.—(1) The Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006(b) shall be amended in accordance with paragraphs (2) to (4).

(2) After regulation 2 insert—

**“Responsibility for financial management**

2A.—(1) A local government body shall ensure that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of its functions and includes arrangements for the management of risk.

(2) A local government body shall conduct a review at least once in each financial year of the effectiveness of its system of internal control.

(3) The findings of the review referred to in paragraph (2) shall be considered by a committee of the local government body, or by the members of the body meeting as a whole, and following that consideration, shall approve a statement on internal control, prepared in accordance with proper practices in relation to internal control.

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(a) S.I.2005/1968 (N.I. 18); see Article 2(2) for the definition of “the Department”  
(b) S.R. 2006 No.89

(4) A local government body shall include the statement referred to in paragraph (3) with the statement of accounts it is obliged to publish in accordance with regulation 6.”.

(3) After regulation 3 insert—

**“Internal audit**

**3A.**—(1) A local government body shall maintain an adequate and effective system of internal audit of its accounting records and of its system of internal control in accordance with proper practices in relation to internal control.

(2) Any officer or member of a local government body shall, if the body requires—

- (a) make available such documents of the body which relate to its accounting and other records as appear to that body to be necessary for the purpose of the audit; and
- (b) supply the body with such information and explanation as that body considers necessary for that purpose.

(3) A local government body shall, at least once in each financial year, conduct a review of the effectiveness of its system of internal audit.

(4) The findings of the review referred to in paragraph (3) shall be considered, as part of the consideration of the system of internal control referred to in paragraph (3) of regulation 2A, by the committee or meeting referred to in that paragraph.”.

(4) In regulation 16, after “regulations” insert “2A(2) to (4), 3A(2) to (4),”.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of the Environment on 14th December 2006



*John Ritchie*

A senior officer of the Department of the Environment

## **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

*(This note is not part of the Regulations)*

These Regulations are made under Article 24 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005. They make amendments to the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 requiring a local government body to ensure that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control which it regularly reviews. The Regulations also require a local government body to maintain an adequate and effective system of internal audit in accordance with proper internal audit practices.