



## **Northern Ireland Budget (Anticipation and Adjustments) (No 2) Bill 12 March 2019**

This briefing identifies relevant reports and useful documents, including recent parliamentary materials and press articles, which may be of assistance to Members in preparing for the following debate on:

Northern Ireland (Anticipation and Adjustments) (No 2) Bill (Money Bill).

In the absence of an Executive or an Assembly in Northern Ireland, the bill seeks to authorise Northern Ireland departments and certain other bodies to incur expenditure and use resources for the financial year ending on 31 March 2019 and into the 2019/20 financial year. All the bill's stages in the House of Commons were completed on 5 March 2019, and the bill is due to be considered in the House of Lords on 12 March 2019.

The bill has been certified as a 'money bill' and therefore the House of Lords may not amend it. Although the Lords will have a debate at second reading, later stages will go through formally, without debate.

Copies of the materials are available for collection from the Library.

### **Key Information**

- [Explanatory Notes](#)

*The Government's explanation of the bill. It describes how, in the absence of a Northern Ireland Executive and Assembly, it falls to Parliament to legislate for expenditure in Northern Ireland. It states that the initial budget for 2018/19 was approved in the [Northern Ireland Budget Act 2018](#), and that the present bill seeks authority for the changes which have been made during the course of the financial year. It also provides for a 'vote on account', allowing access to initial resources, of around 70 percent of the 2018/19 level, to provide services into 2019/20, pending the consideration of a budget bill. This, the notes suggest, does not imply the setting of a 2019/20 budget for Northern Ireland. The notes state that "no new money would be voted as a result of the bill". They also state that the bill is being processed as 'fast-tracked legislation', and provide the Government's justification for that step.*

- House of Commons Library, [Northern Ireland Budget \(Anticipation and Adjustments\) \(No 2\) Bill 2017–19](#), 1 March 2019

*Briefing on the bill prior to its main House of Commons stages. The bill passed through the House of Commons unamended.*

- Debates on ‘Northern Ireland Budget (Anticipation and Adjustments) (No 2) Bill’, HC *Hansard*, 5 March 2019, cols [868–910](#) (second reading) and [cols 911–28](#) (remaining stages)

*Records of House of Commons consideration of the bill. At second reading, discussions included on individual areas of expenditure (for example, on education and preparations for Brexit), on the use of fast-tracked legislation and on the wider political situation in Northern Ireland. The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Karen Bradley, stated that “this is a very technical bill to put on a statutory footing the moneys that we have already voted through the House or that have been raised locally”. No amendments were moved to division at any stage.*

### Parliamentary Debate, Statements and Questions

- House of Commons, ‘[Written Statement: Northern Ireland Finances](#)’, 28 February 2019, HCWS1370

### Press Articles and Comment

- John Simpson, ‘[Northern Ireland Budget Brings Modest or even Negligible Increases](#)’, *Belfast Telegraph*, 5 March 2019

### Further Information

- House of Commons Library, [Expedited Legislation: Government Bills Receiving Their Second and Third Reading on the Same Day in the House of Commons](#), 14 December 2018
- House of Commons Library, [Northern Ireland Since May 2016: Developments](#), 19 March 2018
- House of Commons Library, [Fast-track Legislation](#), 12 November 2012
- House of Lords Constitution Committee, [Fast-track Legislation: Constitutional Implications and Safeguards](#), 7 July 2009, HL Paper 116–I of session 2008–09

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