

Decision of The Certification Officer for Northern Ireland

In the matter of an application pursuant to Article 90A of The Trade Union and Labour Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 ('the 1995 Order').

Mr Charlie Clarke

V

Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance (NIPSA)

Date of Decision:

5 February 2026

DECISION

1. The Applicant has alleged a breach of NIPSA rules under Article 90A of the 1995 Order.
2. My office engaged with the Applicant to clarify the precise nature of his complaint; I also had a telephone conversation with the Applicant on 2 December 2025.
3. I further corresponded with the Applicant on 9 December setting out the following matters that I am empowered to determine under Article 90A of the 1995 Order: these are:
 - (a) the appointment or election of a person to, or the removal of a person from, any office.
 - (b) disciplinary proceedings by the union (including expulsion).
 - (c) the balloting of members on any issue other than industrial action.
 - (d) the constitution or proceedings of any executive committee or of any decision-making meeting.

4. The Applicant alleges a breach of Rule 1.3 of NIPSA Rulebook which has a stated obligation “to represent, protect and promote the interests of its members”.
5. The Applicant’s complaint does not fall within the scope of Article 90A of the 1992 Order.
6. The complaint is therefore struck out pursuant to Article 70ZA of the Industrial Relations (Northern Ireland Order 1992 as amended by the Employment Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 2004.
7. The reason for the Strike Out is that, based on oral and written submissions provided by the Applicant, I am of the view that this complaint has no reasonable prospect of success.

Tom Evans OBE

Certification Officer for Northern Ireland