**NORTHERN IRELAND**

Article 3 - Designation of competent authorities

Any court that can issue a domestic measure of a type covered by the Directive can issue a EPO at the same time. In NI this is

* Magistrates court
* Crown Court
* County Court
* High Court
* Court of Appeal

If the application for a European Protection Order is made after the hearing at which the domestic measure was issued then the competent authority is [only] the Magistrates Court.

Magistrates courts are competent to recognise European Protection Orders issued in other Member States.

Article 4 - Recourse to a central authority

For Northern Ireland the central authority is the Northern Ireland Department of Justice.  All communications with Northern Ireland should be directed in the first instance to the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service at:

The Central Business Unit,

Northern Ireland Courts & Tribunals Service,

Laganside House,

Oxford Street,

Belfast

BT1 3LA

Telephone: 030 0200 7812

E-mail: Link opens in new window[cmlaganside@courtsni.gsi.giv.uk](mailto:cmlaganside@courtsni.gsi.giv.uk)

Opening hours: 09.00 to 16.30 hours excluding public holidays

Article 17(3) – Languages

English