

## Questionnaire

Name of State or territorial unit:<sup>[1]</sup>

Northern Ireland

For the purpose of the 13 to 15 February 2023 meeting of the EG, Members are invited to report on consideration given to and / or implementation of the following arrangements in their jurisdiction:

- a. Developments in general regarding the international transfer of maintenance funds:

We continue where possible to pay creditors from outside our jurisdiction electronically.

- b. Elimination of the use of cheques (see Report and C&R 2022 No 1)

Not being considered. Please explain:

The elimination of cheques is currently not being considered at this time. There is still a demand from our creditors to have the option to be paid by cheque, particularly in instances where the creditors do not have bank accounts and instead lodge their cheques to a savings account. Northern Ireland Central Authority are unable to pay directly into a savings account by way of electronic payment, so the option for creditors to receive payment via cheque in these instances is still required. Where creditors do request to be paid via electronic payment, this method of payment is being facilitated by the Northern Ireland Central Authority.

Is being considered. Please explain:

NA

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

N/A

- c. Solutions with regard to increased transparency and cost reduction of transfers and currency conversion (see Report and C&R 2022 Nos 2 and 10)

Not being considered. Please explain:

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<sup>[1]</sup> In this questionnaire, references to the term "State", where relevant, are to be considered as also applicable to a territorial unit.

Northern Ireland Central Authority will register the amount stipulated in the Court Order. There may be fluctuation in the amounts actually received and paid to the creditor due to fluctuating exchange rates. There are no mitigations in place to prevent this. Customers will have this explained to them should they query the amount of a particular payment they have received.

Is being considered. Please explain:

N/A

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

N/A

d. Solutions where creditors would not bear the costs related to the transfer of funds (see Report and C&R 2022 Nos 2 and 11)

Not being considered. Please explain:

Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service do not charge creditors for transfer of funds electronically. Creditor would not incur such costs.

Is being considered. Please explain:

N/A

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

N/A

e. Requested Central Authority arrangements with their bank to cover transfer fees or other arrangements to that effect (see Report and C&R 2022 No 3)

Not being considered. Please explain:

Northern Ireland Courts & Tribunals Service do not charge creditors for the transfer of funds electronically.

Is being considered. Please explain:

N/A

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

N/A

f. Requesting Central Authority providing confirmation to the requested Central Authority that the amounts received are the same as the amounts sent and, where applicable, information on the reasons for any difference (see Report and C&R 2022 No 3)

Not being considered. Please explain:

Northern Ireland Central Authority do not automatically advise reciprocating Central Authorities of payments received and paid out. This is unlikely to change. We are a very small team and resource pressures would not allow us to implement this practice. Receipt of payments are managed not by Central Authority staff but by staff in another centralised team.

Is being considered. Please explain:

N/A

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

N/A

g. Establishment of a centralised point (e.g., bank account, central bank) for international transfers dedicated to both incoming and outgoing transfer of funds (see Report and C&R 2022 Nos 4 and 5)

Not being considered. Please explain:

Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service do not intend to set up any additional bank accounts solely for international transfers. A central account is already in operation dedicated to both incoming and outgoing transfer of funds for international and non international creditors.

Is being considered. Please explain:

N/A

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

N/A

h. Use of the possibilities afforded by the *Universal Postal Union Postal Payment Services Agreement* of 6 October 2016 (see Report and C&R 2022 No 4)

Not being considered. Please explain:

Northern Ireland Central Authority have no control over postal services used. This is managed by Northern Ireland Courts & Tribunals Service Contracts branch.

Is being considered. Please explain:

N/A

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

N/A

- i. Provision of payment transfer services to any debtors transferring payments within the scope of the HCCH 2007 Child Support Convention (see Report and C&R 2022 No 5)
- Not being considered. Please explain:  
N/A
- Is being considered. Please explain:  
Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service together with their appointed Central Authority will seek to implement any processes to facilitate payments electronically within the scope of HCCH 2007 Child Support Convention. [here](#)
- Has already been implemented. Please explain:  
-N/A
- j. Implementation of payment transfer monitoring systems (see Report and C&R 2022 No 6)
- Not being considered. Please explain:  
N/A
- Is being considered. Please explain:  
N/A
- Has already been implemented. Please explain:  
Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service maintains payment records for all creditors/central authorities. Communication by the way of a BACS remittance advice is issued to creditors/central authorities each time a payment is processed to enable the reconciliation of the amounts received by the creditor.
- k. Implementation of unique case references, known to both the requesting and requested States, attached to each transfer of funds (see Report and C&R 2022 No 7)
- Not being considered. Please explain:  
N/A
- Is being considered. Please explain:  
N/A
- Has already been implemented. Please explain:  
Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service attaches unique case reference, known to both the requesting and requested state each time a transfer of funds is made. Each unique case reference links the transfer to an existing case.

I. Implementation of currency conversion of payments done by the relevant authority in the requested State at the time of transfer (see Report and C&R 2022 No 8)

Not being considered. Please explain:

N/A

Is being considered. Please explain:

N/A

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service currently converts the payments to the currency requested by the state at the time of transfer. Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service incurs any conversion charge and does not pass the conversion charges onto the creditors.

m. Provision of information about international banking to creditors and debtors (see Report and C&R 2022 No 12)

Not being considered. Please explain:

N/A

Is being considered. Please explain:

N/A

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

Northern Ireland Courts & Tribunals Service already provides all necessary international banking information to creditors and debtors to ensure successful processing of payments.

n. Implementation of a legal framework enabling the Central Authority, acting both as requesting and requested Central Authority, to handle the transfer of funds – or at least major parts of the process – in as automated a manner as possible (see Report and C&R 2022 No 13)

Not being considered. Please explain:

As Northern Ireland Central Authority are not responsible for the actual processing of payments, we would find this suggestion problematic.

Is being considered. Please explain:

N/A

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

N/A

- o. Implementation of an arrangement with banks that are transparent in relation to their fees and / or are part of the SWIFT Global Payment Initiative (GPI) (see Report and C&R 2022 No 14)

Not being considered. Please explain:

Northern Ireland Courts & Tribunals Service has a contract with their banking provider in which it states the banking provider must be transparent in relation to fees and charges. The banking provider of the Northern Ireland Courts & Tribunals Service is part of the SWIFT Global banking initiative.

Is being considered. Please explain:

Please insert text here

Has already been implemented. Please explain:

Northern Ireland Courts & Tribunals Service has an existing contract with their banking provider in which it states the banking provider must be transparent in relation to fees and charges. The banking provider of the Northern Ireland Courts & Tribunals Service is part of the SWIFT Global banking initiative.

- p. Would your State consider contributing to iSupport ITMF in terms of expertise and experience?

Yes

Please insert text here

No

Please insert text here

- q. Any other developments in your State including bilateral solutions put in place between States and ongoing trials between States:

No

Thank you!