

## Questionnaire in preparation of the Experts' Group meeting of 7 to 10 February 2022 on international transfers of maintenance funds

Name of State or territorial unit:
Northern Ireland

### Questionnaire

a. Developments in general regarding the international transfer of maintenance funds
Creditors have been moved from cheque to electronic payment where this has been requested.

b. Elimination of the use of cheques (see C&R 2019 No 1; aide-mémoire 2021, paras 11-14)
Not being considered.

Please explain:
<p>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 via cheque. Particularly in instances where the creditors do not have bank accounts and instead lodge their cheques to a Savings Account. (eg. Post Office 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.</p> <p>Where creditors do request to be paid via electronic payment, this method of payment is being facilitated by the Northern Ireland Central Authority.</p>

c. Solutions with regard to increased transparency and cost reduction of transfers and currency conversion (see C&R 2019 Nos 2 and 10; aide-mémoire 2021, paras 24-25)
Not being considered.

Please explain:
Northern Ireland Central Authority will seek the amount requested in a Notice of Registration. This would not take into account currency conversion. There will be fluctuation in amounts actually paid to the creditor due to currency conversion. We do not charge a fee to any creditors for any currency conversion that may be required.

d. Solutions where creditors would not bear the costs related to the transfer of funds (see C&R 2019 No 2; aide-mémoire 2021, paras 26-29)
Not being considered.

Please explain:
Northern Ireland Central Authority do not charge creditors for transfer of funds electronically. The creditor would not incur such costs.

e. Requested Central Authority arrangements with their bank to cover transfer fees or other arrangements to that effect (see C&R 2019 No 3; aide-mémoire 2021, para. 32)
Not being considered.

Please explain:
Northern Ireland Central Authority do not charge creditors for the transfer of funds electronically.

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 C&R 2019 No 3; aide-mémoire 2021, paras 15-17)
Not being considered.

Please explain:
Northern Ireland Central Authority do not automatically advise reciprocating Central Authorities of payments received and paid out. Northern Ireland have no intention of implementing this practice.

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 C&R 2019 Nos 4 and 5; aide-mémoire 2021, paras 33-35)

Not being considered.

Please explain:

Northern Ireland Central Authority 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 all international and non-international creditors.

h. Provision of payment transfer services to any debtors transferring payments within the scope of the HCCH 2007 Child Support Convention (see C&R 2019 No 5; aide-mémoire 2021, para. 18)

Is being considered.

Please explain:

Northern Ireland Central Authority will seek to implement any processes to facilitate payments electronically within the scope of HCCH 2007 Child Support Convention.

i. Implementation of payment transfer monitoring systems (see C&R 2019 No 6; aide-mémoire 2021, paras 36-37)

Has already been implemented.

Please explain:

Northern Ireland Central Authority maintains payment records for all creditors/Central Authorities. Communication by the way of a BACS remittance advise is issued to creditors/Central Authorities each time a payment is processed to enable the reconciliation of the amounts received by the creditor.

j. Implementation of unique case references, known to both the requesting and requested State, attached to each transfer of funds (see C&R 2019 No 7; aide-mémoire 2021, para. 20)

Has already been implemented.

Please explain:

Northern Ireland Central Authority attaches unique case references, 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.

k. Implementation of currency conversion of payments done by the relevant authority in the requested State at the time of transfer (see C&R 2019 No 8; aide-mémoire 2021, paras 21-23)

Has already been implemented.

Please explain:

Northern Ireland Central Authority currently converts the payments to the currency requested by the State at the time of transfer. Northern Ireland Central Authority incurs any conversion charge and does not pass the conversion charges onto the creditors.

l. Implementation of bundled payments to reduce costs of transfers (see C&R 2019 No 11; aide-mémoire 2021, paras 38-40)

Not being considered.

Please explain:

Northern Ireland Central Authority are legally bound by the Judge's direction to pay any monies received from the debtor onto the creditor immediately. We are therefore unable to withhold monies from the creditors for a period of time to enable 'bundled payments.'

m. Any other developments including bilateral solutions put in place between States and ongoing trials between States:

none