

## **INFORMATION PACK / APPLICATION FORM REVIEW**

### **Observations / Findings on the Public Appointment Recruitment Exercise for the Chief Inspector of Criminal Justice Northern Ireland**

In line with its approach of checking compliance against the Code of Practice for Ministerial Public Appointments in Northern Ireland (the Code), CPA NI has reviewed the information pack and application form for the competition to recruit the Chief Inspector of Criminal Justice Northern Ireland that is currently being run by the Department of Justice.

#### **General Observations**

The information pack and application form meet the standard required by the Code. They are well set out in a manner to encourage applicants and to enable them to provide information in a clear and straightforward manner.

However, CPA NI has only one critical observation as follows:

The information pack states 'The panel will prepare an objective analysis of the skills and experience of those deemed suitable for appointment. The panel will report its conclusions to the Minister of Justice.' The pack does not provide information on the manner in which the Minister requires the list of suitable candidates to be presented to him. Paragraph 3.20 of the Code requires 'information on the process (including in what form the Minister has requested the applicant summary – ranked or unranked)'. This is in keeping with the CPA NI principles of openness and transparency.

#### **Conclusion**

Overall, this information pack and application form presented by the Department meets the standards required by the Code. The Commissioner would ask the Department to take immediate note of the observation above and address it prior to further competitions being conducted by the Department of Justice.

**CPA NI**  
**1 October 2012**