REGULATIONS GOVERNING COLLECTIONS IN STREETS AND PUBLIC PLACES

The following extract from the Regulations (S.R. & O. (NI) 1927, No. 120) made by the Inspector General, Royal Ulster Constabulary, on 9th June, 1927, by virtue of the powers vested in him, is sent for information.

(1) No collection of money or sale of any article for the benefit of charitable or other purposes shall be made in any street or public place in any part of Northern Ireland, unless the person, society, committee or other body of persons responsible for such collection or sale shall have obtained a permit from the Assistant Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland of the County Borough or the Chief Superintendent of the Police Service of Northern Ireland of the District in which it is proposed to make such collection or sale.

This Regulation shall not apply to a collection made at an open-air meeting held under the auspices of an organisation, the promoters of which have at least 48 hours prior to the holding of the meeting caused to be delivered to the Assistant Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland of the County Borough or to the Chief Superintendent of the Police Service of Northern Ireland of the District, as the case may be, in which the meeting is to be held, a notice in the form set out in the second Schedule to these Regulations, or in a form to the like effect, unless the Assistant Chief Constable and Chief Superintendent of the Police Service of Northern Ireland to whom such notice shall have been delivered shall make an Order prohibiting the taking of a collection at such meeting.

(2) Application for a permit shall be made in writing in the form contained in the Schedule hereto not later than the first day of the month preceding that month in which it is proposed to hold the collection or sale, and every application shall be made in the name of a committee or other body consisting of not less than three persons, who shall be jointly responsible for the collection or sale.

Provided that in the discretion of the Assistant Chief Constable or Chief Superintendent the period of notice may be reduced in any particular case or class of cases if he is satisfied that there are special reasons for this course.

(3) No such collection or sale shall be made except upon the day and between the hours stated in the permit.

(4) The Assistant Chief Constable or Chief Superintendent may, in granting a permit, limit a collection or sale to such streets or public places or such parts thereof as he thinks fit.

(5) No person may assist or take part in any such collection or sale without the authority, written or printed in English, of the person or body of persons, to whom a permit has been granted. Every person so authorised shall produce such written or printed authority forthwith for inspection by any member of the Police Service of Northern Ireland on demand.

(6) No such collection or sale shall be made in any part of the carriageway of any street; nor shall any collection or sale be made on the footway or in any public place to the obstruction or annoyance of any person in such street or public place.
All persons acting as collectors or vendors shall occupy a stationary position at some place on the footway. Not more than two persons shall act as collectors or vendors at the same place, and no person shall collect money or sell articles within 30 yards of the place where any other person or persons are collecting or selling.

No person under the age of 16 years shall act or be permitted to act as collector or vendor.

No collector or vendor shall use a table for the purpose of any collection or sale so as to cause or be likely to cause obstruction. No table used shall exceed 30 inches in length and 20 inches in width.

No collector or vendor shall use a box or other receptacle at the end of a pole intended to reach upper windows or the roofs of conveyances.

No collector or vendor shall be accompanied by any animal.

No collector or vendor shall importune any person to the annoyance of such person.

Every collector or vendor shall carry and present to all contributors or purchasers for the reception of money contributions, a box or other receptacle numbered and securely closed and sealed in such a way as to prevent the same being opened or the money extracted without such seal being broken, and into his box or other receptacle all money received shall be immediately placed. All such boxes or receptacles shall be numbered consecutively. Every collector or vendor shall deliver his boxes or other receptacles with the seals unbroken to one of the persons responsible for the proper application of the money received.

A collector or vendor shall not carry any collecting box, receptacle or tray which does not bear displayed prominently thereon the name of the Fund for which the collection or sale is being made, with the date of the collection, nor any box or other receptacle which is not duly numbered.

No payment or reward shall be made to any collector or vendor or other person connected with the promotion or conduct of such a collection or sale for or in respect of services rendered in connection therewith.

Within two months after the date of any collection or sale the society, committee or other body of persons responsible therefor shall forward, where the collection is held in a County Borough, to the Assistant Chief Constable, and elsewhere, to the Chief Superintendent a statement in the form contained in the First Schedule hereto, with vouchers certified by two officials of the society, and audited by its auditors or other responsible person not connected with the Fund, showing in detail the amount received and the expenses incurred in connection with such sale, and shall, if required by the Assistant Chief Constable or Chief Superintendent satisfy him as to the due and proper application of the proceeds of the collection or sale. The society, committee, or other body shall also, within the same period at their own expense and after audit, publish, in such newspaper or newspapers as the Assistant Chief Constable or Chief Superintendent may direct, a short statement showing the name of the society, etc, responsible for the collection or sale, the name of the charity or fund which is to benefit, the date of the collection or sale and the amount collected, the amount of the expenses and the amount distributed to the charity or fund.

NB: The foregoing Regulations shall not apply to the selling of articles in any street or public place where the articles are sold in the ordinary course of trade and for the purpose of earning a livelihood and no representation is made by or on behalf of the seller that any part of the proceeds or sale will be devoted to any charitable purpose.

Any person who acts in contravention of any of the foregoing Regulations will be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds.

Note: In para.1 the form contained in the 2nd Schedule is Form No. 24/4.
In para. 2 the form contained in the Schedule is Form No. 24.
In para. 16 the form contained in the Schedule is Form No. 24/3.