

Criteria for Providing Assistance with SENDIST Cases

NICCY can provide assistance with cases to the SENDIST tribunal in certain circumstances. The acceptance of such cases will be in line with our legislation (The Commissioner for Children and Young People (NI) Order 2003). Due to our finite resources, both financial and in terms of staff availability, we have set criteria to apply to the acceptance of SENDIST cases.

The provision of assistance with legal proceedings is available under Article 15 of our legislation. An application for such assistance will only be granted if:

- (a) the case raises a question of principle
- (b) it would be unreasonable to expect the child or young person to deal with the case without assistance
- (c) There are other special circumstances which make it appropriate for the Commissioner to provide assistance

In addition NICCY have set the following criteria for the acceptance of SENDIST cases:

1. Is there are reasonable prospect of success?
2. Do we have available financial and staff resources?
3. If the case has been passed to us by another organisation is it at the earliest opportunity prior to the appeal papers having been drafted?