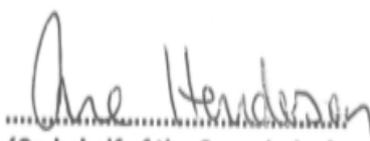

**DECISION MADE IN RELATION TO THE PARADE ORGANISED BY MID ULSTER PRIDE
NOTIFIED TO TAKE PLACE ON SATURDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2020 IN COOKSTOWN**

1. The following is the decision of the Parades Commission in relation to the Mid Ulster Pride parade notified to take place on Saturday 19th September 2020.
2. Section 8 (1) of the Public Processions (Northern Ireland) Act 1998, provides that:

“The Commission may issue a determination in respect of a proposed public procession imposing on the persons organising or taking part in it such conditions as the Commission considers necessary.”
3. The Commission has noted the details provided on the 11/1 form submitted on 14th February 2020 concerning the Mid Ulster Pride parade notified to take place on Saturday 19th September 2020.
4. The Commission has given careful consideration as to whether to exercise its power under Section 8. It has done so within the relevant legal and statutory framework, constituted in the main by the 1998 Act, the various instruments made thereunder (in particular the “Guidelines” and the Human Rights Act 1998).
5. The purpose is notified as *‘To promote equality, belonging, love and celebration of diversity in Mid Ulster, including LGBTQ+ culture.’* The parade is promoted as a silent event with the slogan *‘Stay home. Stay safe. I will walk for you, at 3.00pm Saturday 19th September 2020, Cookstown.’*
6. The notified route is *‘Fairhill Road, James Street, Molesworth Street, Union Street, Coagh Road, William Street, James Street, Fairhill Road.’*
7. The proposed parade is notified for 15 participants.
8. The parade is planned for Saturday 19th September, for 3 hours, from 3pm to 6pm.
9. The Commission understands this is the first Mid Ulster Pride parade.
10. Cookstown Free Presbyterian Church has notified a protest against the parade, with 40 participants, from 3pm to 4pm on James Street. The protest organiser’s stated purpose is *‘To register the opposition of Cookstown Free Presbyterian Church (and possible the FP clergy of Mid-Ulster) to the Pride event.’*

11. The organiser of the protest has also stated '*Mid-Ulster has a sizeable religious and Evangelical Community (Cookstown having not less than 14 churches within the town, and many more in the outlying areas), many of whom hold legitimate traditional Christian views on morality, and are dismayed by this proposed Pride event.*'
12. The Commission has considered all representations and information received. It has considered the parade's purpose, timing and other relevant issues.
13. The Commission has informed the organiser that responsibility for compliance with current Covid-19 Regulations and the public health risks of the parade are the responsibility of the organiser. The Commission has advised the organiser to consult with all relevant authorities regarding such public health risks.
14. The Commission has considered the need to issue a determination as outlined at paragraph 2 above against the factors outlined in its statutory guidelines, including the potential disruption to community life.
15. The Commission has decided that the imposition of conditions upon this parade at this time, is not appropriate.
16. The proposed parade has been brought to the attention of the Minister of Health, the Chief Constable of the PSNI, the Chief Medical Officer and the Chief Scientific Advisor.
17. This decision by the Commission does not confer approval of the proposed parade.

Signed: 
(On behalf of the Commission)

Date: 16th September 2020