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Welcome to our first e-newsletter of 2017. Over the course of the year we will keep you updated periodically on issues that may be relevant to you or your business. We will cover personal and business law advice, recent case news, and tips from members of the Luke Curran & Co Solicitors team. We will also give some insight from our specialist department for charities and churches, along with news about social events we are involved in. Join us online via our website and social media channels which are accessible via the icons above. If you'd prefer to receive printed versions of our newsletters, email us on law@lukecurran.co.uk with your current address and we will arrange this. If you do not wish to receive communications, [unsubscribe](#) from our list.

Cohabiting - Get Protected or Face Your Worst Nightmare!



The Office for National Statistics reported in November 2016 that cohabiting couple families have been the fastest growing family type in the UK over the last decade from 1996 to 2016. Are you one half of a cohabiting couple? And if so, have you protected your financial interests in the event of a break-up, or worse, death?

The recent case of Coleraine woman, Denise Brewster, who fought to gain access to her fiancé's pension after his death, and won after a long legal battle in the Supreme Court, highlights a need for the law to change. But it also demonstrates the responsibilities placed

on individuals to put the right legal protections in place to protect themselves and plan for the unexpected. This article will tell you more about the factors you need to consider if you are cobabiting, such as a [cohabitation agreement](#).

M&S to Move to The Quays in £20m Project

[Marks & Spencer is relocating its Newry store](#) from the Buttercrane Shopping Centre, where it has been for almost 20 years to The Quays Shopping Centre in the city. Development is underway, led by local construction company O'Hare & McGovern following £20m investment by developers Parker Green International. This will create a 30,000 square foot store with a food hall, clothing and homeware, accessible customer parking and extended opening hours.



All 110 existing staff will transfer to the new store, and many additional jobs will be created once operational. Luke Curran & Co. have been providing commercial legal advice to the developer to support the Phase 5 extension and lettings at The Quays Shopping Centre, Newry.

Charity & Politics Don't Mix - Stay Independent!



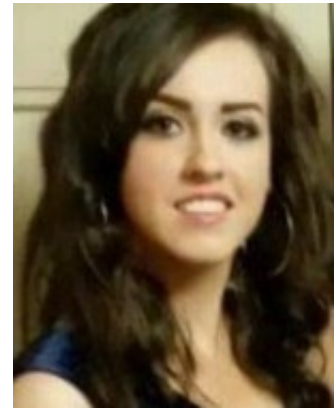
As the upcoming elections approach, The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland has issued a warning to remind such organisations that charities should "*do nothing that undermines their independence and neutrality when it comes to party politics*".

The Commission has outlined some [social media tips and advice for charities](#) to follow, to ensure they remain independent and focused on the core issues pertaining to their organisation. Northern Ireland's charity regulator has revealed in a new report, entitled '[Charities and Political Campaigning - Staying Compliant](#)' how three charities came to be issued with regulatory guidance during the 2016 Assembly election.

Meet Our Trainee Solicitor - Emma Sheppard

Local woman Emma Sheppard is currently training as a solicitor within our team. She is a former student of Our Lady's Grammar School, Newry and graduated with a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) with Criminology from Ulster University in 2014. Emma joined the team in January 2015 as our receptionist and legal secretary, and has

been a trainee solicitor since September. [Connect with Emma on LinkedIn](#) to follow her progress as she works towards becoming a fully fledged solicitor!



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