

*These notes refer to the Justice Act (Northern Ireland)  
2015 (c.9) which received Royal Assent on 24 July 2015*

# Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2015

---

## **EXPLANATORY NOTES**

### **SCHEDULES**

#### ***Schedule 1: Amendments: single jurisdiction***

Schedule 1 of the Act contains amendments consequential to the provisions on single jurisdiction.

#### ***Schedule 2: Amendments: direct committal for trial***

Schedule 2 of the Act contains amendments consequential to the provisions on direct committal.

#### ***Schedule 3: Disclosure of Information: Victim and Witness Support Services and Victim Information Schemes***

Schedule 3 of the Act contains provisions enabling the police and Public Prosecution Service to share relevant information with specified support service providers, the Department of Justice and the Probation Board for Northern Ireland. This will enable victims and witnesses to be informed about available support services and information schemes. The schedule also deals with the unauthorised sharing of information.

#### ***Schedule 4: Schedule inserted as Schedule 8A to the Police Act 1997***

Schedule 4 of the Act inserts Schedule 8A into the Police Act 1997 to provide for a review mechanism as part of the filtering scheme operated by AccessNI.

#### ***Schedule 5: Amendments: criminal records***

Schedule 5 of the Act contains amendments consequential to the provisions on criminal records.

#### ***Schedule 6: Amendments: serious physical harm to a child or vulnerable adult***

Schedule 6 of the Act contains amendments consequential to the provisions on serious physical harm to a child or vulnerable adult.

***Schedule 7: Domestic Violence Protection Notices and Orders***

Schedule 7 of the Act contains provisions enabling the police with the power to issue a Domestic Violence Protection Notice (DVPN) and apply to the courts for a Domestic Violence Protection Order (DVPO) for the purposes of protecting a victim of domestic violence where it has been assessed they may be at risk of immediate harm and danger.

The Schedule creates powers for the issue a DVPN; sets out the arrangements for breach of a notice; the application process for a DVPO; the conditions for and content of an order; what happens in the event of a breach of an order; and provisions for the remand of a person who breaches a notice or an order.

***Schedule 8: Transitional provisions and savings***

This schedule lists the transitional provisions and savings necessary to the Act

***Schedule 9: Repeals***

This schedule lists the repeals brought in by the Act