

*These notes refer to the Autism (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (c.13) which received Royal Assent on 26 April 2022*

# Autism (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2022

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## **EXPLANATORY NOTES**

### **COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS**

#### ***Section 1 Autism strategy: consultations and data:***

Section 2 of the 2011 Act required the Department of Health to prepare an autism strategy. Section 1 makes two amendments to the 2011 Act.

Firstly, as well as an obligation to consult other Northern Ireland departments before preparing the strategy, the Department is now obliged to consult other persons. This widens the field of persons who may be consulted on the strategy. Secondly, there is now a specific duty upon the Department to request Health and Social Care Trusts to provide data on the prevalence of autism both in adults and in children. Previously the duty was to provide data on the prevalence of autism generally. The duty is now more specific and will provide greater detail on the prevalence of autism.