

*These notes refer to the Justice (Sexual Offences and  
Trafficking Victims) Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (c.19)*

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## **EXPLANATORY NOTES**

### **JUSTICE (SEXUAL OFFENCES AND TRAFFICKING VICTIMS) ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2022**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **BACKGROUND AND POLICY OBJECTIVES**

#### **OVERVIEW**

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###### **Sending an unwanted sexual image (Cyber-flashing)**

###### **Sexual grooming**

###### **Abuse of Position of Trust**

###### **Private Sexual Images**

###### **Miscellaneous amendments as to sexual offences**

##### **Chapter 2: Anonymity and Privacy**

#### **PART 2: TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION**

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##### **Chapter 2: Causing or Risking Serious Harm**

#### **COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS**

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## **Chapter 1: Criminal Conduct**

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Section 3: Consequential amendments

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Section 8: Extended anonymity of victims

Section 9: Disapplication of anonymity of victim after death

Section 10: Increase in penalty for breach of anonymity

Section 11: Special rules for providers of information society services

### **Anonymity of suspects**

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Section 13: Meaning of sexual offence insection 12

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Section 19: Serious sexual offences: exclusion of public from court

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**PART 2: TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION**

Section 21: Support for victims of trafficking etc.

Section 22: Defence for slavery and trafficking victims

Section 23: Reports on slavery and trafficking offences

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Section 25: Qualifying offences for Sexual Offences Prevention Orders (SOPO)

Section 26: Time limit for making Violent Offences Prevention Orders (VOPO)

**Chapter 2: Causing or risking serious harm**

Section 27: Consent to harm for sexual gratification is no defence

Section 28: Offence of non-fatal strangulation or asphyxiation

**PART 4: FINAL PROVISIONS**

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Section 30: Commencement

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**SCHEDULES**

Schedule 1: Consequential amendments: voyeurism (additional offences) and sending etc an unwanted sexual image.

Schedule 2: Miscellaneous amendments as to sexual offences

**PART 1: AMENDMENT OF REFERENCES TO CERTAIN FORMS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE**

**PART 2: AMENDMENTS RELATING TO THE OFFENCE OF ENGAGING IN SEXUAL COMMUNICATION WITH A CHILD**

**PART 3: AMENDMENT RELATING TO THE OFFENCE OF PAYING FOR THE SEXUAL SERVICES OF A PERSON**

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Schedule 3: Offence of breach of anonymity: providers of information  
society services

Schedule 4: Offence of non-fatal strangulation or asphyxiation:  
Consequential Amendments

## **HANSARD REPORTS**