

These notes refer to the Justice (Sexual Offences and Trafficking Victims) Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (c.19) which received Royal Assent on 27 April 2022

Justice (Sexual Offences and Trafficking Victims) Act (Northern Ireland) 2022

EXPLANATORY NOTES

OVERVIEW

Part 1: Sexual offences

Chapter 1: Criminal Conduct

Private Sexual Images

14. Provisions amend existing provision in section 51 of the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 which provides for the offence of disclosing private sexual photographs and films with intent to cause distress.
16. Section 51 is amended to make it an offence to threaten to disclose private sexual photographs and films with intent to cause distress.
17. All elements of the existing offence are attached to the new offence. An additional element which relates solely to the threats to disclose offence is that, where a person was charged with the offence, it would not be necessary for the prosecution to prove that the photograph or film referred to in the threat existed, or if it did exist, that it was in fact a private sexual photograph or film.