

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

COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS

Part 2: Trafficking and exploitation

Section 21: Support for victims of trafficking etc.

This section has the effect of extending the statutory assistance and support provided under section 18 of the 2015 Act to adult potential victims of slavery, servitude or forced or compulsory labour where there is no element of trafficking.

The section will have the effect of extending this support for an adult who has been given a reasonable grounds decision beyond the 45 days cited in the 2015 Act based on the needs of the individual.

Section 21 will also provide for support to a victim of slavery or trafficking after a positive conclusive grounds decision to be continued for a period of up to 12 months, or more than 12 months for such period as the Department may determine.