

*Status: Point in time view as at 27/11/2015.*

*Changes to legislation: Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Act (Northern Ireland) 2015, Section 19 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 24 January 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*



## 2015 CHAPTER 2

### PART 3

#### ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT

##### **Assistance and support for exiting prostitution**

**19.—**(1) The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety must, in conjunction with the other Northern Ireland departments, prepare and publish a strategy in relation to actions to be taken by Northern Ireland departments in the exercise of their respective functions to ensure that a programme of assistance and support is made available to persons who wish to leave prostitution.

(2) The strategy must—

- (a) be published no later than 10 months after the coming into operation of this section; and
- (b) provide for a programme of support and assistance to be made available in accordance with the strategy no later than 1 April 2016.

(3) The strategy must ensure that assistance and support provided to a person—

- (a) is not conditional on the person acting as a witness in any criminal proceedings;
- (b) is provided only with the agreement of that person; and
- (c) is provided in a manner which takes due account of the needs of that person as regards safety and protection from harm.

(4) The strategy must ensure that assistance and support is offered from a person who is of the same gender as the person receiving it.

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(5) The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety must, in conjunction with the other Northern Ireland departments—

- (a) review the strategy (or revised strategy) for the time being published under this section at intervals of not more than 3 years; and
- (b) if appropriate, revise the strategy and publish the revised strategy.

(6) Nothing in this section affects the entitlement of any person to assistance and support under any other statutory provision.

(7) For the purposes of this section “prostitution” has the same meaning as in Article 58 of the Sexual Offences (Northern Ireland) Order 2008.

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