

*These notes refer to the Houses in Multiple Occupation Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 (c.22) which received Royal Assent on 12 May 2016*

# Houses in Multiple Occupation Act (Northern Ireland) 2016

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## **EXPLANATORY NOTES**

### **COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS**

#### **Part 1: Meaning of “House in Multiple Occupation”**

##### ***Section 4: Persons who are members of the same household***

Section 4 specifies the meaning of “household” for the purposes of HMO licensing. This includes members of the same “family”: the definition of family includes married, unmarried and same-sex couples, and step children, as well as blood relatives. Additionally, a person who is a personal or domestic carer in a residential capacity is to be treated as a member of the household for the purposes of this Act. There is a power for the Department to provide that other persons are treated as being in the same “household”.