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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**1996 No. 3160**

**The Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 1996**

**PART II**

**TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS**

*Miscellaneous*

**Reduction in sentences for guilty pleas**

**33.**—(1) In determining what sentence to pass on an offender who has pleaded guilty to an offence a court shall take into account—

- (a) the stage in the proceedings for the offence at which the offender indicated his intention to plead guilty, and
- (b) the circumstances in which this indication was given.

(2) If, as a result of taking into account any matter referred to in paragraph (1), the court imposes a punishment on the offender which is less severe than the punishment it would otherwise have imposed, it shall state in open court that it has done so.