

EXPLANATORY NOTES

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, CRIME AND VICTIMS ACT 2004

INTRODUCTION

SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND

TERRITORIAL EXTENT

COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS

PART 1: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ETC

Section 1: Breach of non-molestation order to be a criminal offence

Section 2: Additional considerations if parties are cohabitants or former cohabitants

Section 3: “Cohabitants” in Part 4 of the Family Law Act 1996 to include same-sex couples

Section 4: Extension of Part 4 of 1996 Act to non-cohabiting couples

Section 5: Causing or allowing the death of a child or vulnerable adult: the offence

Section 6: Evidence and procedure: England and Wales

Section 7: Evidence and procedure: Northern Ireland

Section 8: Evidence and procedure: courts martial

Section 9: Establishment and conduct of reviews

PART 2: CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Section 10: common assault to be an arrestable offence

Section 11: Common assault etc as alternative verdict

Section 12: Restraining orders: England and Wales

Section 13: Restraining Orders: Northern Ireland

Section 14: Surcharge payable on conviction

Section 15: Increase in maximum on-the-spot penalty for disorderly behaviour

Section 16: Higher fixed penalty for repeated road traffic offences

- Section 17: Application by prosecution for certain counts to be tried without a jury
- Section 18: Procedure for applications under section 17
- Section 19: Effect of order under section 17(2)
- Section 20: Rules of court
- Section 21: Applications of sections 17 to 20 to Northern Ireland
- Section 22: Procedure for determining fitness to plead: England and Wales
- Section 23: Procedure for determining fitness to plead: Northern Ireland
- Section 24: Powers of court on finding of insanity or unfitness to plead etc.
- Section 25: Appeal against order made on finding of insanity or unfitness to plead etc
- Section 26: court-martial provisions
- Section 27: Powers of authorised officers executing warrants
- Section 28: Disclosure orders for purpose of executing warrants
- Section 29: Procedure on breach of community penalty etc
- Section 30: Prosecution appeals
- Section 31: Intermittent custody

PART 3: VICTIMS ETC

- Section 32: Codes of practice for victims
- Section 33: Procedure
- Section 34: Effect of non-compliance
- Section 35: Victims rights to make representation and receive information
- Sections 36 - 44

Hospital orders

- Section 36: Victims' rights: preliminary
- Section 37: Representations
- Section 38: Information

Hospital direction

- Section 39: Victims' rights: preliminary
- Section 40: Representations
- Section 41: Information

Transfer directions

Section 42: Victims' rights: preliminary

Section 43: Representations

Section 44: Information

Section 45: Interpretation: sections 35 to 44

Northern Ireland

Section 46: Victims of mentally disordered persons

Section 47: Investigations by the Parliamentary Commissioner

Section 48: Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses

Section 49: General functions of the Commissioner

Section 50: Advice

Section 51: Restrictions on exercise of functions

Section 52: Victims and Witnesses

Section 53: Authorities within the Commissioner's remit

Section 54: Disclosure of information

Section 55: Victims' Advisory Panel

Section 56: Grants for assisting victims, witnesses etc

Section 57: Recovery of criminal injuries compensation from offenders

PART 4: SUPPLEMENTARY

Section 58: Amendments and Repeals

Section 61: Orders

Section 62: Extent

COMMENCEMENT

HANSARD REFERENCES