

*These notes refer to the Human Trafficking and Exploitation  
(Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Act (Northern Ireland)  
2015 (c.2) which received Royal Assent on 13 January 2015*

# Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Act (Northern Ireland) 2015

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## **EXPLANATORY NOTES**

### **COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS**

#### ***Section 7: Minimum sentence for offence under section 1 or 2***

Section 7 sets out that the courts must sentence adult offenders convicted of an offence of human trafficking or slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour to a minimum of two years in prison (with or without a fine) unless exceptional circumstances apply. Subsections (3) and (4) require that if exceptional circumstances apply that justify either a lower sentence or a suspended sentence, the court must state these in open court and the reasons must be recorded by the Chief Clerk. Subsection (5) defines a custodial sentence as excluding a suspended sentence. Subsections (6) to (8) enact a number of consequential amendments to other legislation relating to the sentencing framework.