

*These notes refer to the Justice Act (Northern Ireland)  
2015 (c.9) which received Royal Assent on 24 July 2015*

# Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2015

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## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS

#### **Part 8: Violent Offences Prevention Orders**

##### **Violent offences prevention orders**

##### ***Section 57: Violent offences prevention order made on application of Chief Constable***

This section allows the Chief Constable to apply to the court for a VOPO in respect of a qualifying person who has, since the ‘appropriate date’, acted in such a way as to give him reasonable cause to believe that it is necessary for an order to be made.

It defines ‘appropriate date’ as the date the person was convicted of a specified offence, found not guilty of a specified offence by reason of insanity, or where he or she was found to be unfit to be tried and to have done the act charged in respect of a specified offence.

The application may be made in respect of those who reside in Northern Ireland, or who the Chief Constable believes is in, or is intending to come to, Northern Ireland.

In determining the necessity for a VOPO, the court must take into account whether the person is subject to any other statutory measures that would operate to protect the public from the risk of serious violent harm. The court must also be satisfied that the person qualifies for an order, and that the order is necessary for the purpose of protecting the public from the risk of serious violent harm from the person concerned.