



2015 CHAPTER 9

PART 9

MISCELLANEOUS

*Sexual offences against children*

**Meeting a child following sexual grooming etc.**

**89.** In Article 22(1)(a) of the Sexual Offences (Northern Ireland) Order 2008 (meeting a child following sexual grooming etc.) for “on at least two occasions” substitute “on one or more occasions”.

**Sexual communication with a child**

**90.—(1)** In the Sexual Offences (Northern Ireland) Order 2008 after Article 22 insert—

**“Sexual communication with a child**

**22A.—(1)** A person aged 18 or over (A) commits an offence if—

- (a) for the purpose of obtaining sexual gratification, A intentionally communicates with another person (B),
- (b) the communication is sexual or is intended to encourage B to make (whether to A or to another) a communication that is sexual, and
- (c) B is under 16 and A does not reasonably believe that B is 16 or over.

(2) For the purposes of this Article, a communication is sexual if—

- (a) any part of it relates to sexual activity, or

- (b) a reasonable person would, in all the circumstances but regardless of any person's purpose, consider any part of the communication to be sexual;

and in sub-paragraph (a) "sexual activity" means an activity that a reasonable person would, in all the circumstances but regardless of any person's purpose, consider to be sexual.

- (3) A person guilty of an offence under this Article is liable—

- (a) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum or both;
- (b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years."

(2) In Article 4 of that Order (meaning of "sexual") after "except" insert "Article 22A (sexual communication with a child) or".

(3) In Article 76(10)(a) of that Order (offences outside the United Kingdom) after "children)" insert "except Article 22A".

(4) In the Sexual Offences Act 2003 in Schedule 3 (sexual offences for purposes of Part 2 of that Act) after paragraph 92H insert—

"**92HA.** An offence under Article 22A of that Order (sexual communication with a child)".

(5) In the Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 2008 in Part 2 of Schedule 2 (specified sexual offences) in paragraph 14A after the entry relating to Article 22 of the Sexual Offences (Northern Ireland) Order 2008 insert—

"Article 22A (sexual communication with a child)".