

These notes refer to the Public Services Ombudsman Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 (c.4) which received Royal Assent on 19 February 2016

Public Services Ombudsman Act (Northern Ireland) 2016

EXPLANATORY NOTES

COMMENTARY ON CLAUSES

Part 2: Investigations

Section 8: Power to investigate on own initiative

This is another key investigatory power – the power for the NIPSO to launch an investigation without waiting for a complaint from a person aggrieved. This is a new power which isn't possessed by the existing offices. The criteria are similar to the criteria for ordinary investigations. The key difference is that the NIPSO can only launch an own initiative investigation where there is a reasonable suspicion of systemic maladministration or systemic injustice (injustice consequent on the exercise of professional judgement in health and social care).