



2021 CHAPTER 2

PART 1

Domestic abuse: offence and aggravation

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Offence of domestic abuse

Applicable rules and penalty

Defence on grounds of reasonableness

12.—(1) In proceedings in respect of a charge against a person (“A”) of the domestic abuse offence, it is a defence for A to show that the course of behaviour was reasonable in the particular circumstances.

(2) That is shown if—

- (a) evidence adduced is enough to raise an issue as to whether the course of behaviour is as described in subsection (1), and
- (b) the prosecution does not prove beyond reasonable doubt that the course of behaviour is not as described in subsection (1).

Commencement Information

II S. 12 in operation at 21.2.2022 by S.R. 2022/57, art. 2(1)

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Domestic Abuse and Civil Proceedings Act (Northern Ireland) 2021, Section 12.