



2021 CHAPTER 2

PART 1

Domestic abuse: offence and aggravation

CHAPTER 3

Miscellaneous provision

*Information-sharing and victim protection*

**Information-sharing with schools etc.**

26.—(1) The Department of Justice may by regulations make provision—

- (a) enabling or requiring a relevant person to inform a designated person in relation to an education provider of an incident of domestic abuse concerning a child who is a pupil or a student of the education provider,
- (b) for the purpose of or in connection with functions exercisable by a relevant person or a designated person accordingly.

(2) Here—

- (a) a relevant person is a person of a description (or acting in a particular capacity) specified in regulations under this section,
- (b) a designated person in relation to an education provider is a person of a description (or acting in a particular capacity) specified in regulations under this section,
- (c) an education provider is—
  - (i) a school or a college,

- (ii) a non-school body which provides pre-school education (or any facility or setting at which pre-school education is provided), or
  - (iii) any other body or facility which provides education or training of any kind (or any facility or setting at which education or training of any kind is provided),
- (d) an incident is one whether alleged or proved,
- (e) a child is a person under 18 years of age.
- (3) A relevant person, as may be referred to in regulations under this section, must be a person who has functions of a public nature.
- (4) Regulations under this section may include provision—
  - (a) describing what is to be regarded as an incident of domestic abuse concerning a child,
  - (b) concerning—
    - (i) pupils or students generally, or particular categories of pupil or student,
    - (ii) education providers generally, or particular categories of provider (or particular facilities or settings within different categories),
  - (c) stating who is to be regarded as a pupil or a student of an education provider,
  - (d) setting out circumstances in or reasons for which—
    - (i) a relevant person may or must give information to a designated person or a designated person may or must give information to a relevant person,
    - (ii) a different person (including of a description specified) may or must give information to a relevant person or a designated person,
  - (e) with respect to information—
    - (i) regulating or limiting the use or disclosure of information by a relevant person or a designated person,
    - (ii) specifying offences and penalties for unauthorised use or disclosure of information.
- (5) Regulations under this section may include provision involving such further matters as the Department of Justice considers appropriate.
- (6) Regulations under this section may include provision amending statutory provisions (as construed in accordance with section 1(f) of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954).
- (7) Regulations under this section may not be made unless a draft of the regulations has been laid before and approved by a resolution of the Assembly.