

*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 9: Miscellaneous**

#### **Early Guilty Pleas**

***Section 88: Sentencing court to indicate sentence which would have been imposed if guilty plea entered at earliest reasonable opportunity***

This section requires a court, in certain circumstances when passing sentence, to indicate the sentence that it would have passed had the defendant entered a guilty plea at the earliest reasonable opportunity. This section is intended to increase awareness of the availability of sentencing credit for an early plea and add some clarity around the level of credit that may be available in particular circumstances.