

Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 2008

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Summary: One of the most important and far-reaching pieces of Northern Ireland criminal justice legislation was given Royal Assent on 7 May 2008. The Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 2008 puts in place significant changes to the sentencing framework, providing courts with a range of powers that are designed to address public protection and safety in the community and to improve the criminal justice system. The legislation provides sentencers with the opportunity to pass indeterminate sentences for potentially dangerous offenders. It poses a challenge to the Northern Ireland Prison Service and the Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI) to assess risk, address dangerousness and supervise offenders for lengthy periods.

Keywords: Legislation, sentencing framework, public protection.