

# REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PART 1 OF THE DOMESTIC ABUSE AND CIVIL PROCEEDINGS ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2021

Criminal Justice Inspection  
Northern Ireland  
*a better justice system for all*



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## TIMELINE OF THE ACT INTRODUCTION

**31 March 2020**

Introduction of the Domestic Abuse and Family Proceedings Bill 2020 to the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Consultation with agencies and stakeholders and scrutiny by the Justice Committee

**1 March 2021**

Domestic Abuse and Civil Proceedings Act (Northern Ireland) 2021 received Royal Assent

**September 2021**

Minister of Justice appointed Criminal Justice Inspection (CJI) to undertake independent oversight of implementation of Part 1 of the Act

**21 February 2022**

Commencement of the Act provisions

**Autumn 2023**

CJI fieldwork for first Review of the Act

**February 2024**

CJI submitted the first Review report to the Department of Justice

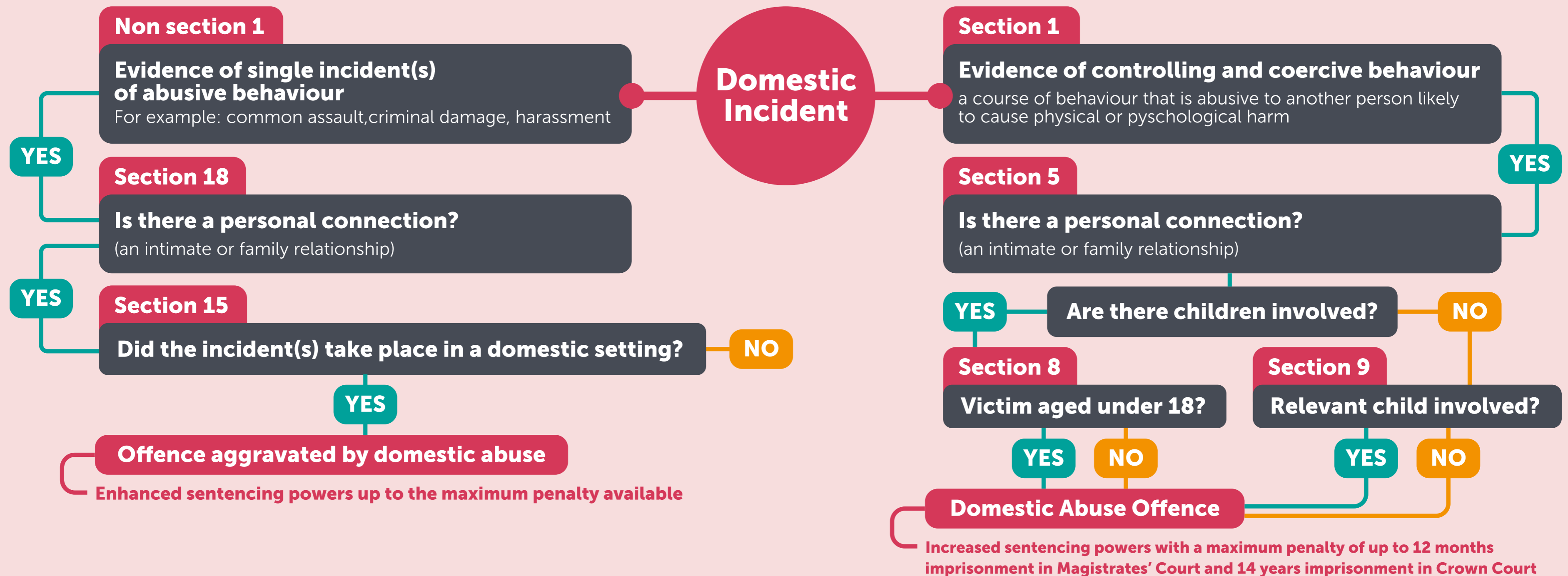
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## USE OF THE ACT DOMESTIC ABUSE OFFENCE AND CHILD AGGRAVATORS TO DATE

### Domestic abuse crimes



**21,664** 2021-22

**22,343** 2022-23

**10,319** Apr – Sept 2023

### Domestic abuse offence/controlling or coercive behaviour



**97** 2021-22

**916** 2022-23

**335** Apr – Sept 2023

### Cases with Section 8 (child victim) aggravator



**19 (1.4% of cases)**  
to September 2023

### Cases with Section 9 (relevant child) aggravator



**480 (35.6% of cases)**  
to September 2023

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## OPERATION ENCOMPASS INFORMATION



**Launched** in  
Plymouth in  
2011



Pilot programme launched in  
Northern Ireland in **September 2021**,  
followed by further rollout phases  
extending to more schools



Over **13,000**  
**referrals** since  
the phased roll  
out began in 2021



Operation Encompass is an early  
information safeguarding partnership  
enabling schools to **offer immediate support**  
to children experiencing domestic abuse



Full regional rollout completed in  
**May 2023** - Operation Encompass  
operational across all **1,162**  
**schools** in Northern Ireland