## The Public Protection Arrangements in Northern Ireland

William J. McAuley\*

**Summary:** New Public Protection Arrangements were implemented in Northern Ireland on 6 October 2008. These Arrangements, which replace the previous Multi-Agency Sex offender Risk Assessment and Management arrangements (MASRAM), aim to protect the public from the risks of serious harm that are presented by sex offenders and violent offenders. This paper seeks to provide the history to the development of the Arrangements, to explain their aims and objectives and to provide some explanation of how they operate in practice.

**Keywords:** Public Protection, Sex Offending, Multi-agency, Risk Assessment, Risk Management.