

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER



Department of

**Justice**

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Our ref: AQO/7976/11-15

Mr M Brady MLA  
Northern Ireland Assembly  
Parliament Buildings  
Ballymiscaw  
Stormont  
BT4 3XX

16 April 2015

*Dear Mikey*

With reference to your Assembly Question on 21 April 2015, a copy of the timetable for introduction and review of statutory time limits (STLs) in the Youth Court has been placed in the Assembly Library.

**DAVID FORD MLA**  
**Minister of Justice**

**TIMELINE FOR INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW OF STATUTORY TIME LIMITS (STLs) IN THE YOUTH COURT**

|    | <b>ISSUE</b>                                       | <b>ACTIONS</b>   | <b>TARGET</b>                    |
|----|--|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. | Youth Engagement Clinics                           | Complete roll-out to all police Districts.   | April 2015                       |
| 2. | Earlier start point                                | Engage with stakeholders about options for an earlier start point to inform:<br>- a decision about the scope for an Administrative Time Limit (ATL) to cover the early stages of proceedings for introduction in parallel with STLs;<br>- a public consultation on statutory provision for an earlier start point for summons cases. | From April 2015                  |
|    |  | Agree coverage and duration of ATL and new format of new performance reports   | June 2015                        |
|    |  | Introduce ATL  | Oct 2015                         |
| 3. | 'Shadow year' case review                          | Review and circulate report on performance in cases initiated during 2014/15 that did not reach trial within 120 days.   | April 2015                       |
| 4. | STL Regulations                                    | Finalise and lay draft Regulations for the operation of the STL scheme.  | May 2015                         |
| 5. | Implementation of initial STL scheme               | Introduce STLs for cases in the youth court.   | Oct 2015                         |
| 6. | Consultation on options for an earlier start point | Publish consultation paper on options to provide for an earlier start point  | Oct 2015                         |
|    |  | Consultation ends  | Jan 2016                         |
|    |  | Summary of responses and proposals on way ahead to Justice Committee   | March 2016                       |
|    |  | Introduce new legislative provision  | Subject to legislative programme |
| 7. | Review   | Formal review of the operation of the STLs scheme to examine duration, use of extensions and need for exclusions.  | October 2016                     |

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