

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER



Department of
Justice

An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt

Máinnystrie O tha Laa

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Christine Darrah
Clerk to the Committee for Justice
Room 242
Parliament Buildings
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Belfast BT4 3XX

18 January 2021

Dear Christine,

DFC LICENSING AND REGISTRATION OF CLUBS (AMENDMENT) BILL

At its meeting on 26 November the Justice Committee discussed correspondence received from the Committee for Communities which requested written evidence in relation to the Licensing and Registration of Clubs (Amendment) Bill.

2. To inform its consideration of this request from the Committee for Communities, the Justice Committee has requested the views/comments of the Department of Justice on the clauses in the Bill relevant to its responsibilities, including the new offences and penalties and enforcement requirements. The Justice Committee has also written to PSNI to request information on any resource implications arising from this legislation and if so how they will be met.

Offences and penalties

3. The majority of the offences and penalties contained in the DfC Bill were carried over from an earlier version of the Bill that was introduced to the Assembly in 2016 without any significant amendment or additions. That Bill subsequently fell with the dissolution of the Assembly in 2017.
4. DoJ Officials have engaged with their DfC counterparts during the development of the Bill including the offences and penalties aspects of the Bill.
5. In September, the Minister of Justice received correspondence from the Minister for Communities which sought approval for Introduction of the Licensing and Registration of Clubs Bill to the Assembly. The Minister of Justice responded giving her approval for the offences and penalties contained in the Bill on the basis of the positive and continuing engagement between officials.
6. Both Departments will continue to engage as the legislative proposals progress.

Yours sincerely,



CLAIRE McCORMICK
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