



**NORTHERN IRELAND  
ASSEMBLY  
COMMITTEE FOR JUSTICE**

**Carál Ní Chuilín  
Chairperson  
Committee on Procedures  
Parliament Buildings**

21 September 2021

Dear Carál

**Legislative Consent Motions**

The Committee for Justice is currently considering provisions relating to devolved matters that may be included in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill for which legislative consent will be required from the Assembly.

The Committee was first briefed by officials from the Department of Justice in January 2021 on relevant provisions in the Bill which was subsequently introduced at Westminster in March. Since that time, the Committee has had detailed engagement with the Department and key stakeholders including the NI Human Rights Commission on a number of issues relating to those provisions. In addition, the Committee has also been advised during that time of additional provisions that either the Department of Justice had requested should be included in the Bill or which may be made by amendment at Westminster.

The necessary Legislative Consent Memorandum relating to the Bill has not yet been laid by the Minister of Justice, although the Committee expects this to happen soon. The Committee is fortunate to have had the opportunity on this occasion to undertake scrutiny in advance of the LCM being laid. It would otherwise not be possible for the Committee to consider the devolved provisions to be included in the LCM fully and properly and report to the Assembly within the 15 days that will be allowed under Standing Order 42A(7) once the LCM has been laid.

The Committee for Justice agreed to write to the Committee on Procedures to underline the inadequacy of the timeframe provided for in Standing Orders for Committees to consider provisions which deal with a devolution matter and report to the Assembly, especially when dealing with LCMs that are of particular significance or complexity.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mervyn Storey', written in a cursive style.

**Mervyn Storey, MLA**  
**Chairman, Committee for Justice**