



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

**Committee for Justice
Room 242
Parliament Buildings**

Tel: +44 (0)28 9052 1629

E-mail: committee.justice@niassembly.gov.uk

**From: Christine Darrah
Clerk to the Committee for Justice**

Date: 4 June 2020

**To: Jim McManus
Clerk to the Committee for Finance**

**THE FUNCTIONING OF GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL –
CONSIDERATION OF CLAUSES 9 AND 11**

At its meeting on 28 May 2020, the Committee for Justice considered Clause 9 and Clause 11 of the Functioning of Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill which covers offences and penalties and therefore falls within the responsibilities of the Department of Justice.

The Committee is of the view that, if the Committee for Finance and the Assembly decide that the offences and penalties provided for in Clause 9 and Clause 11 should remain in the Functioning of Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, then the offences should be clearly defined and unambiguous in their intent and the penalties should be proportionate and fit within the overall sentencing framework of criminal law in Northern Ireland.

The Committee asks the Committee for Finance to give cognisance to this when considering Clauses 9 and 11.

A copy of this letter has been provided to Jim Allister QC MLA as the Bill Sponsor and the Department of Justice for information.

**Christine Darrah
Clerk to the Committee for Justice**