

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE
MINISTER



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Christine Darrah
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21 June 2021

Dear Christine

**PROTECTION FROM STALKING BILL: ISSUES RAISED IN ORAL EVIDENCE
(ENGAGEMENT WITH DISABILITY GROUPS)**

Thank you for your letter of 8 June.

I note the difficulties raised by representatives of La Dolce Vita at the Oral Evidence Session on 27 May, by people with disabilities, and in particular blind people, trying to access legislation, information and resources provided by Government Departments.

Although the Department is not responsible for websites that offer access to legislation – such as the Assembly website or the Legislation.Gov.UK webpages - it is fully committed to effectively implementing its responsibilities under the Disability Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 2006.

Departmental documents are available in a range of formats e.g. Braille, audio, easy read, and these can be obtained through the Department's Equality Unit.

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During the stalking consultation, all the Section 75 groups were included in the consultee list and the consultation document specifically advised that alternative formats were available on request to the generic email of Criminal Law Branch.

The Department is not aware of any current developments in relation to the provision of voiceover as an alternative format. However, there are plans to update the Departmental Disability Action Plan later this year, and the issue of providing voiceover will be explored further with engagement from the relevant disability groups

The Minister of Justice trusts that the Committee finds this information helpful.

[signed]

CLAIRE MCCORMICK DALO