



LORD CHIEF JUSTICE'S OFFICE,
ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE,
CHICHESTER STREET
BELFAST BT1 3JF

Christine Darrah
Clerk to the Committee for Justice

12 April 2021

Dear Christine

Thank you for your letter dated 19 February 2021 seeking the view and comments of the Lord Chief Justice on the content of the Protection from Stalking Bill. The Lord Chief Justice has asked me to reply on his behalf.

The Lord Chief Justice has noted that the Bill creates two new offences which can be prosecuted in the Crown Court and Magistrates' Courts. He has also noted that the Bill provides for the introduction of stalking protection orders which can be made on application to the Magistrates' Court. The Lord Chief Justice has asked his office to monitor the progress of the Bill to note any amendments that may be made during the Committee stages. He will also ask his officials to engage with the Department of Justice to ensure that there is early consideration of the operational implications of the provisions on the work of the judiciary and the courts.

The Bill has been shared with the presiding County Court Judge and District Judge (Magistrates' Courts) to alert them to the proposed new offences and orders and relevant judicial training will be arranged when Royal assent is attained.

Yours sincerely

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of the Lord Chief Justice.

Office of the Lord Chief Justice