

31 August 2012

The Committee Clerk
Room 242
Parliament Buildings
Ballymascaw
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3XX

BY E-MAIL

Dear Ms Darrah,

RE: CRIMINAL JUSTICE BILL

Further to your letter dated 11 July 2012, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in relation to the Criminal Justice Bill.

The Probation Board for Northern Ireland welcomes this legislation and in particular articles relating to sex offenders; the implementation of which will enhance the operational management of such offenders.

In the related Department of Justice consultation exercise (October 2011), a proposal was included to amend Part 2 of the 2003 Act; whereby an offender who is subject to notification requirement would have to notify PSNI if they resided in a household where there is a child under 18. PBNI supported this proposal; however it does not appear in the draft Bill.

Clarification would also be helpful with regard to the omission of a requirement on qualifying offenders to notify on a weekly basis, their whereabouts, if they had no fixed abode, which also featured in the previous consultation in this regard. PBNI is of the view that while certain exceptions, for example for offenders residing in hostels or in hospital care, would be useful to this proposal, it would be a useful requirement.

Yours sincerely

Brian McCaughey
Director