

FAO Christine Darrah
Clerk to the Committee for Justice

Dear Christine,

Thank you for your letter addressed to my predecessor, Mike Ritchie. It is not our intention to submit further comments on the contents of this Bill at this time. In respect of the provisions relating to sex offenders, we made a detailed response to the original consultation – which can be found at <http://www.caj.org.uk/contents/995> - and we have nothing further to add on those matters. With regard to the sections on people trafficking, we understand these are necessary to conform with article 16 of Directive 2011/36/EU which calls for legislation in member states to criminalise trafficking by nationals or residents in countries other than the member state in question. The proposals on retention of DNA are, we understand, designed to bring Northern Ireland law in line with that proposed for England and Wales which, in turn, is based on the Scottish situation. In our response to the original Home Office consultation in 2009 – which can be found at <http://www.caj.org.uk/contents/375> - we recommended that the Scottish precedent be followed rather than the much more extensive retention powers then proposed. In that context we do not have fundamental reservations about the proposed powers.

Thank you again for your request for comment. CAJ is very interested in the proceedings of the Committee and we would encourage you to contact us for comment and opinion at any time.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Gormally
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