

Letter to the Clerk of the Justice Committee

Christine Darrah
Clerk to the Justice Committee
Northern Ireland Assembly
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3XX

09 September 2015

Dear Christine,

JUSTICE No2 BILL

Thank you for your letter of 7 July seeking DSD's comments on the Justice No.2 Bill and on four likely amendments which are likely to be brought forward.

The provisions of interest in the Bill to this Department relate to

- the recovery of outstanding financial penalties by deductions from certain benefits and through attachment of earnings orders; and
- the sharing of personal DSD (SSA) customer information with the Department of Justice to enable the recovery of unpaid penalties.

While DSD has expressed support towards the proposed provisions, DSD officials continue to engage with DoJ to discuss issues of concern and agree a way forward on the level of access required by DoJ staff to our benefits system; the development of policies, processes, systems and legislation to facilitate recovery of fines; and agree a financial package to account for the set up and running costs as well as debt recovery displacement.

Pending the outcome of those discussions the Department may wish to submit further comments to the Justice Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Billy Crawford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping tail.

Billy Crawford