

From: Kathryn Stevenson
Sent: 30 April 2014 15:10
To: +Comm Justice Public Email
Cc: Paddy Kelly; John Patrick Clayton; Natalie Whelehan
Subject: Letter requesting written submissions to the Committee for Justice re: Legal Aid and Coroners' Court Bills

Dear Ms Darragh,

Further to your letter of 4th April 2014 I am writing to advise you that the Children's Law Centre gave detailed consideration to your request for written submissions to the Committee for Justice regarding the Legal Aid and Coroner's Bill.

We reviewed the Draft Legislation and Explanatory Memorandum as well as the summary of responses provided by the DOJ in respect of a previous consultation around the inclusion of safeguards to protect decision making by the Director of the Executive Agency on individual grants of legal aid. Having considered this information, CLC is satisfied that the legislation reflects the independent role of the Executive Agency from the Department in considering individual legal aid applications and also note that an Appeals procedure has been developed within the legislation, introducing a panel of 3, including one legally qualified member. This appeal procedure appears to be reflective of the recommendations of the Access to Justice Review team.

We have not identified any other aspects of this Bill that require particular scrutiny or commentary by CLC and therefore CLC wishes to decline your invitation to make written submissions to the Committee for Justice in this instance.

We thank you for the opportunity to respond to this draft legislation.

Yours sincerely,

Kathryn

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