



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

Domestic Abuse and Family Proceedings Bill  
Notice of Amendments tabled on  
20 October 2020 for Consideration Stage

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**New Clause**

After clause 24 insert -

**‘Interim protection for the victim**

**24A.**—(1) The Department of Justice may by regulations, within 24 months of commencement, make provision for measures which may be made for the purposes of protecting and supporting the victim or alleged victim.

(2) The regulations may include provisions about—

- (a) court orders,
- (b) measures other than court orders.

(3) The regulations may not be made unless a draft has been laid before and approved by a resolution of the Northern Ireland Assembly.’

*Chair, Committee for Justice*

**Clause 25, Page 13, Line 31**

At end insert -

‘(1A) In supporting the operation of Part 1, the Department may by regulations make provision for informing the school of a child who saw, heard or was present during a domestic abuse incident.’

*Chair, Committee for Justice*

## **New Clause**

After clause 25 insert -

### **‘Guidance on data collection**

**25A.**—(1) The Department of Justice—

- (a) may issue guidance to the relevant bodies about the sort of information which it seeks to obtain from them for the purpose of the assessment by it of the operation of this Part, and
- (b) must have regard to information which it obtains from the relevant bodies in relation to the operation of this Part when determining the steps (if any) that could be taken by it for the purpose of ensuring the effectiveness of the operation of this Part.

(2) The relevant bodies are—

- (a) Police Service of Northern Ireland,
- (b) Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland,
- (c) the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service, and
- (d) such additional bodies as the Department considers appropriate.’

*Chair, Committee for Justice*

## **New Clause**

After clause 25 insert -

### **‘Training**

**25A.**—(1) It shall be the duty of the Department to ensure that sufficient training of policing and criminal justice agencies, including but not limited to—

- (a) Police Service of Northern Ireland,
- (b) Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland, and
- (c) the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service, and

is made available to allow for the effective operation of this Act.

(2) Training must be provided annually.

(3) Training is mandatory for all those involved in the disposal of domestic abuse cases in policing and criminal justice agencies, including but not limited to the agencies listed in subsection (1).

(4) Having identified the relevant staff in subsection (3) at the beginning of an annual reporting period, the Department must publish the uptake of training by each relevant organisation at the end of each year.’

*Chair, Committee for Justice*

## **New Clause**

After clause 25 insert -

### **‘Independent oversight**

**25A.**—(1) The Department of Justice must not later than 1 year after the commencement of this Act appoint an independent person to—

- (a) contribute to the development of the guidance under section 25, and
- (b) review, report and make recommendations in relation to the operation of Part 1.

(2) The person must produce a report annually on the activities in subsection (1), starting not later than 2 years after the commencement of this Act.

(3) The Department must—

- (a) lay the report before the Northern Ireland Assembly, and
- (b) arrange for it to be published.

(4) The Department may by regulations set out the date, not less than 7 years after commencement, when the independent person may cease the duties in subsections (1) and (2).

(5) Starting on the date when the independent person ceases duties, the Department must publish a report on subsection (1)(b) every 3 years thereafter.’

*Chair, Committee for Justice*

## **New Clause**

After clause 25 insert -

### **‘Report on the operation of this Act**

**25A.**—(1) The Department of Justice must prepare a report on the operation of—

- (a) an offence under section 1(1), and
- (b) an offence that is aggravated as described in sections 8, 9 and 15.

(2) The report must set out, in relation to those sorts of offences—

- (a) the number of cases for which criminal proceedings are undertaken,
- (b) the number of convictions in criminal proceedings,
- (c) the average length of time—
  - (i) from service of the complaint or indictment,
  - (ii) to finding or verdict as to guilt (including plea of guilty),
- (d) information about the experience of witnesses (including witnesses who are children) at court,
- (e) such additional information as the Department of Justice considers appropriate.

(3) The report must, in relation to those sorts of offences, include distinct statistics for each of them.

(4) For the purpose of the report, the Department of Justice must seek information on how court business is arranged so as to ensure the efficient disposal of cases involving those sorts of offences.

(5) The report must also include—

- (a) activities and associated timespans for delivering the guidance in section 25 and any plans for review,
- (b) strategies to communicate the provisions of Part 1 to the public and to victims in particular, and
- (c) any additional activities which support the operation of the Act.

(6) The Department must prepare a report under this section—

- (a) not more than 2 years after commencement, and
- (b) thereafter, at intervals of not more than 3 years.

(7) The Department must—

- (a) lay the report before the Northern Ireland Assembly, and
- (b) arrange for it to be published.’

*Chair, Committee for Justice*