

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER



Department of
Justice

An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt

Máinnystrie O tha Laa

www.justice-ni.gov.uk

Minister's Office
Castle Buildings Block C
Stormont Estate
Ballymiscaw
Belfast
BT4 3SG

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Kathy O'Hanlon
Clerk to the Committee for Justice
Room 242
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont
Belfast BT4 3XX

29 May 2026

Dear Kathy,

**SL1 - THE JUSTICE (2011 ACT) (AMENDMENT OF SCHEDULE 3) ORDER
(NORTHERN IRELAND) 2026**

Thank you for your letter dated 20 May in relation to SL1 - The Justice (2011 Act) (Amendment of Schedule 3) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.

The proposed amendments do not have any specific effect on previous convictions. If a convicted defendant seeks to bring an out-of-time appeal against a conviction under the relevant provisions the validity of any conviction will be a matter for the criminal courts.

If the amendments to Schedule 3 are not made the Department can expect ongoing public law challenges to enforcement and a diminution of available police powers to deal with football-related disorder.

Yours sincerely



**FIONA SCULLION
DALO**



**Northern Ireland Assembly
Committee for Justice**

Fiona Scullion
DALO
Department of Justice
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast
BT4 3SQ

20 May 2026

SL1 - The Justice (2011 Act) (Amendment of Schedule 3) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026

Dear Fiona

At its meeting on 14 May 2026, the Committee for Justice considered SL1 - The Justice (2011 Act) (Amendment of Schedule 3) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026.

The Committee agreed to ask the Department if there are any further legal implications arising out of the order and what effect, if any, it will have on previous convictions under Part 4 of the Act due to changes to Schedule 3.

You will be aware that the Committee is scheduled to consider the SL1 at its meeting on 4 June. I would therefore be grateful if the Committee could receive a response by 1 June 2026.

Yours sincerely


Kathy O'Hanlon
Clerk to the Committee for Justice

Room 345, Parliament Buildings, Ballymiscaw, Stormont, Belfast, BT4 3XX
Telephone: (028) 905 21033

E-mail: committee.justice@niassembly.gov.uk