

From: [REDACTED] >

Sent: 12 May 2026 10:53

To: +Comm Justice Public Email <committee.justice@niassembly.gov.uk>

Cc: Beattie, Doug [REDACTED]; Tennyson, Eoin

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Dodds, Diane <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Formal Submission: Jonny's Law and the Legacy of a Life Taken Too Soon

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To the Committee for Justice,

I am writing to you regarding the Criminal Justice (Sentencing etc.) Bill. I am formally submitting these principles for Jonny's Law to ensure universal equality and recognition for all families affected by drug-related deaths.

It is not lost on me that this submission deadline of 22nd May falls just two days before another month marks the passing of my son. On the 24th of this month, it will be 8 years and 7 months since Jonny Ramsey left this world a life extinguished by the hand of a criminal who stole our joy and the life of a much-loved son and brother.

Jonny was a hero to many, possessed of a radiant smile and perfect white teeth that lit up any room. He was our "Nitro Star." As a young man who loved cars and bikes, he lived his life to the "quarter mile," inspired by the spirit of Paul Walker. Though his life was stolen at only 18 years young, that nitro energy his popularity, his kindness, and his habit of always putting others before himself is what keeps many of us going in a world of so much pain. I am only the vessel in which he chose to allow the world to see the beauty of his soul. My campaign, "Footprints for Life," is dedicated to ensuring his 18 years leave a lasting mark of change.

The Demand for Recognition and Equality:

Jonny's death was a high-profile case, raised as a "local tragedy" by representatives including Chris Hazzard, Jon Trainor, and Colin McGrath. In the early days, I worked with

UTV to raise awareness of the dangers of drugs to protect other families. However, once the initial headlines faded, so did the political momentum for justice. It has been deeply hurtful to see Colin McGrath MLA who was Jonny's own constituency representative in South Down support motions for families in other areas while blocking and silencing my own search for answers. Jonny's Law must stand for Universal Equality: justice should not depend on how long a case stays in the headlines or which constituency you live in.

The Principles of Jonny's Law:

1. Universal Equality: All families, regardless of voice or visibility, must be treated equally by the justice system.
2. No More 'Tick-Box' Investigations: Recognition and justice must not depend on the volume of a campaign or the circumstances of a death.
3. Support for the 'Quiet' Grievers: As a result of Jonny's death, I suffer from anxiety, depression, PTSD, and social anxiety. I am unable to protest or meet in person, which is why Jonny's Law is so vital for those who cannot speak or spell out their pain for themselves, or those who cannot engage publicly due to health. Justice must be automatic, not something you have to be "loud" enough to win.
4. Universal Application: Any policy addressing drug-related deaths must apply to all families, not just widely publicised cases.

Proposal for Evidence and Accountability:

While I support tougher sentencing, it does nothing for families who never see a prosecution due to a "lack of evidence." I propose that the law must mandate that a "lack of evidence" is never an excuse to close a case when basic investigative steps have been skipped. In Jonny's case, the investigation was closed due to an alleged "lack of evidence," yet that evidence only "failed" because a key suspect was interviewed for just 11 minutes and a 10-hour window of distress documented in police files was ignored. Furthermore, even Jonny's digital legacy was mishandled as an unauthorised person was able to memorialise his Facebook account without my consent as his sole legal parent using documentation that was not legally valid.

A Request for Recognition and Healing:

He was only 18 years old. Jonny lived not even 2 weeks of his adult life, passing away just 1 week and 6 days on the 24th October 2017 a life extinguished by the hand of a criminal who stole our joy and the life of a much-loved son and brother."

Sadly, no amount of fighting will change the fact that Jonny's life was stolen. My heart tells me to keep fighting, but the truth is I am already a shell of the person I once was. I am changed by this journey and I don't want it to turn me into a person I no longer recognise, nor do I want to change further. I am seeking justice for Jonny through this legislation as a form of healing I have never been able to find. An official mention of Jonny's name in Stormont would bring a sense of peace and recognition that would allow me to stop digging into the past and finally begin to heal.

Most importantly, while these proposals cannot change what happened to Jonny, they can save another family from enduring the same pain. I ask the Committee to ensure Jonny's Law is his lasting legacy.

I am attaching a photo of Jonny. I want you to see the face of our Nitro Star the boy whose life was extinguished, and the smile that keeps us going. This is the soul behind Jonny's Law.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Sent from [Outlook for Android](#)

