

From: Durkan, Mark H. <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 16 April 2026 08:14
To: +Comm Justice Public Email <committee.justice@niassembly.gov.uk>
Subject: Submission Criminal Justice (Sentencing etc.) Bill

Good morning

Please see attached submission sent on behalf of our constituent Ms Pauline Duddy. We would be grateful if this could be considered as part of the Criminal Justice (Sentencing etc.) Bill.

Kind regards



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Social Democratic and Labour
Party



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Justice Committee

[Via email]

12/04/2026

To Whom It May Concern

My name is Pauline Duddy and I am writing to you with regards to securing greater accountability for those who profit from the sale of drugs and the devastation they cause to families and communities across Northern Ireland.

My daughter Jasmin died as a result of drugs in February 2023, at just 21-years of age. Since her death, my family and I have lived with a loss that no parent should ever have to endure. I have campaigned ever since to ensure that other families might be spared the pain that ours has suffered. Through this work, I have spoken with many families who have lost loved ones in similar circumstances. Their stories are heartbreakingly familiar.

The scale of the problem in Northern Ireland is deeply concerning, with a worrying increase in drug related deaths from 115 in 2013 to 169 in 2023. Behind every one of these statistics is a son, daughter, brother, sister or parent whose life has been cut short and a family left grieving.

I recognise that addiction is a complex public health issue that requires early intervention and timely access to treatment. It also requires a co-ordinated effort from government departments.

However, drug supply destroys lives, tears families apart and harms communities. Those who exploit addiction for financial gain must face consequences that reflect the seriousness of the harm they cause.

For this reason, I am asking the Justice Committee to support the campaign for **Jasmin's Law** as part of the ongoing work around the Criminal Justice (Sentencing etc.) Bill. Jasmin's Law seeks to secure tougher sentencing for those who profit from the sale of drugs and to ensure that the law recognises the real-life consequences of these crimes.

No law will bring my daughter back. But stronger sentencing and clearer accountability could help prevent further loss and act as a meaningful deterrent on drug supply.

I would urge the Justice Committee to consider this issue carefully as part of their ongoing work.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my request.

Yours sincerely,
Pauline Duddy
Derry