

Response ID ANON-BNYX-DYY5-C

Submitted to Criminal Justice (Sentencing etc) Bill
Submitted on 2026-04-07 06:42:07

Introduction

What is your name?

Name:
Margaret Gilbride

What is your email address?

Email:
[REDACTED]

If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business, please state its name.

Organisation:

The Committee for Justice has agreed to publish all responses as part of the survey results. If you would like to have your survey results anonymised and for us not to publish your name or organisation, please indicate so here.

I am content for my information, including details of my name and organisation, to be published in the survey results.

Exercise of court's discretion when sentencing

Clause 1 outlines the purposes and principles of sentencing. It sets out the factors that the court must have regard to for the purposes of sentencing, which are: the punishment of offenders; for the protection of the public; the reduction of crime by deterrence; the rehabilitation of offenders; and, the making of reparations by offenders to persons affected by their offences. Do you agree with the purposes of sentencing as outlined above?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer here::

Clause 1 also defines the principles of sentencing as proportionate, fair and transparent. Do you agree with these being set as the principles of sentencing?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer here::

Do you have anything further to add on Clause 1 of the Bill?

No

Please provide any further information relating to Clause 1 here::

Clause 2 imposes a duty to follow guidance relevant to the case when sentencing an offender, unless it would be contrary to the interests of justice to do so and to give reasons in relation to sentencing. Do you support the objectives of this clause?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer here::

Do you have anything further to add on Clause 2 of the Bill?

No

Please provide information to support your answer here::

Part 1 - Exercise of court's discretion when sentencing - Do you have anything further to add on Part 1 of the Bill?

No

Please provide information to support your answer here::

Availability and effect of suspended sentence orders

Clause 3 sets out when suspended sentence orders may be made and Clause 4 sets out what a suspended sentence order is and how it will be activated. Do you support the provisions around when suspended sentences can be used and what a suspended sentence order is in Clauses 3 and 4 of the Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer here::

Clause 5 sets out the operational period and supervision period which apply to a suspended sentence. Do you agree with the periods and requirements outlined in the clause?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer here::

Clause 6 sets out that a court must explain to an offender, in language the offender can understand, the reason why it is imposing requirements and the effect of them. Do you agree with the provision of copies of orders and explanation of effect as laid out in Clause 6?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer here::

Clause 7 sets out how a suspended sentence is to be treated. Do you agree with the intent of Clause 7?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer here::

Do you have any other comments on Clauses 3 to 7 of the Bill?

No

Please provide information to support your answer here::

Community requirements

The Minister of Justice has stated that the intention behind adding community-based requirements to suspended sentences is to allow rehabilitative work to be carried out where it might be helpful to do so and to add a visible element to making reparations that could be realised via a community based sentence. Do you agree with the intent behind enacting Clauses 8-10?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer here::

Do you have any other comments on Clauses 8 to 10 of the Bill?

No

Please provide information to support your answer here::

Responsible Officer

Do you have any comments on Clauses 11 to 13 of the Bill?

No

Please provide information to support your answer here::