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**From:** Alicia Toal <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** 29 July 2025 16:38  
**To:** +Comm Justice Public Email  
**Subject:** FW: Justice Bill oral evidence  
**Attachments:** PACE - VOYPIC Response - DRAFT.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**Categories:** Agenda Item

Dear Kathy

Thank you for your letter of 1 July, and the request for further information.

It is important to clarify that the term '*juvenile*' is not in common parlance, and is not usually heard in meetings and discussions related to the youth justice service currently. It is rare to hear this language, and I cannot recall encountering such while working on the CYPSP Reducing Offending Regional Sub- Group, the Strategic Framework for Youth Justice Implementation Group, or any other interaction with the Department of Justice or other Justice agencies.

More widely, it appears there remains a lexicon of outdated terminology within historic legislation. For example, I attach here a draft of our note in response to the ongoing consultation around qualifying offences under PACE, highlighting the use of terms '*child pornography*' and '*child prostitution*', both of which are considered archaic and unacceptable. Please note, this document is in draft format and should not be shared at present. I am happy to provide a copy of our response, once submitted to the Department.

The 10 Reasons Why 10 is Too Young can be accessed here:

<https://www.voypic.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Joint-Briefing-10-Reasons-Why-Ten-Is-Too-Young-Nov-2022.pdf>

In relation to the use of Live Links in court proceedings, I understand this was discussed by the young people who took part in the workshop with members on 3 July. We believe that Live Links can be used effectively for many young people, who may find the experience of going to court overwhelming. However, for other young people such use may be unhelpful. It very much depends on the individual young person. That is why we argue that the option should be made available to all young people, but that they are supported to make an informed choice on whether to participate via Live Link, or to attend court in person. Their decision should be respected and facilitated.

I trust this information is useful to the Committee in its deliberation of the Bill.

Regards

Alicia

**Alicia Toal**



**Northern Ireland Assembly  
Committee for Justice**

Alicia Toal  
Chief Executive  
Voice of Young People in Care  
100 Great Patrick Street  
Belfast  
BT1 2LU

By email: [REDACTED]

1 July 2025

**Justice Bill oral evidence**

Dear Alicia

Thank you for attending the Committee for Justice meeting on 26 June 2025 along with Paula Rodgers to provide oral evidence on the Justice Bill on behalf of Voice of Young People in Care (VOYPIC) and Include Youth.

During the session, you agreed to provide the Committee with:

- details of any engagement that you have had with the Department of Justice regarding reframing the language around children and replacing 'juvenile' with 'child'; and
- a copy of the document '10 Reasons Why Ten is Too Young' regarding the minimum age of criminal responsibility.

The Committee would also welcome any additional comments or views that you may have on the provisions in the Justice Bill and the proposed amendments relating to the use of Live Links.

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

E-mail: [committee.justice@niassembly.gov.uk](mailto:committee.justice@niassembly.gov.uk)

I would appreciate a response by 29 July 2025.

I have also written to Paula on this matter.

Yours sincerely

*Kathy O'Hanlon*

**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](mailto:committee.justice@niassembly.gov.uk)