

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER



Department of
Justice

An Roinn Dí agus Cirt

Máinnystrie O tha Laa

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JCP\25\303

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

6 January 2026

Dear Kathy,

JUSTICE BILL – WINDSOR FRAMEWORK

I refer to your letter dated 16 December 2025 regarding the Windsor Framework and commentary by the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (NIHRC) in relation to this matter.

The NIHRC did not provide any commentary to the Department on the biometrics related amendments. However, as noted in the letter from the Department dated 4 December 2025, the NIHRC, in its broader advice to the Committee on the Justice Bill, refers to the Windsor Framework and encourages the Department to consider Article 2 compliance, particularly regarding the proposed amendments to be made at Consideration Stage. The Department is satisfied that this work is complete. The NIHRC briefing to the Committee is available on the Northern Ireland Assembly website (Justice Bill written submissions page) at the link below.

https://www.niassembly.gov.uk/globalassets/committee-blocks/justice/2022-2027/primary/justice/published-on-19112024/20241115-nihrc-submission---justice-bill_redacted.pdf

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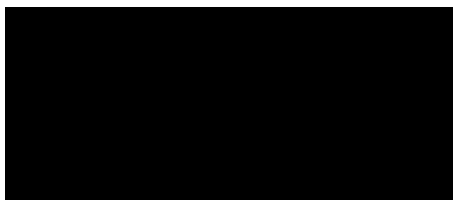
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I trust you will find this helpful.

Yours sincerely,



**CAOIMHE MCKEOWN
DALO**



**Northern Ireland Assembly
Committee for Justice**

Caoimhe McKeown
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BT4 3SQ

16 December 2025

Justice Bill – Windsor Framework

Dear Caoimhe

At its meeting on 11 December 2025, the Committee for Justice considered your response (JCP\25\303) to queries regarding the compliance of the Justice Bill with the Windsor Framework as part of Human Rights considerations.

The Committee noted that the response stated the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (NIHRC) did not have any substantive comments and agreed to ask for a copy of any commentary provided by the NIHRC on this matter.

I would appreciate a response by 8 January 2025.

Yours sincerely

Kathy O'Hanlon

**Kathy O'Hanlon
Clerk to the Committee for Justice**