

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER



Department of
Justice

An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt

Máinnystrie O tha Laa

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

2 February 2026

Dear Kathy,

**FURTHER AMENDMENTS TO THE JUSTICE BILL – BARRED AND ADVISORY
LISTS AND FORMER OFFICER MISCONDUCT PROCEEDINGS**

Thank you for your letter of 23 January 2026 regarding amendments to the Justice Bill in relation to Barred and Advisory Lists and Former Officer Misconduct Proceedings.

In your letter you have requested details of the targeted stakeholder consultation exercise in respect of the review of the police officer misconduct procedures and asked when the outcome will be shared with the Committee. Further you have asked what the proposed way forward is regarding the misconduct regulations and the barred and advisory lists.

The DALO letter to the Committee dated 29 May 2025 advised that, since initial stakeholder views were sought in June 2024, it was the Department's intention to launch a targeted stakeholder consultation process in Autumn 2025. Subsequently, this consultation closed in October 2025. Following the Minister's consideration of the consultation responses, officials are now drafting bespoke vetting regulations and amendments to the police conduct regulations for Northern Ireland. It is the intention to share the outcome of the police misconduct matters consultation alongside the draft

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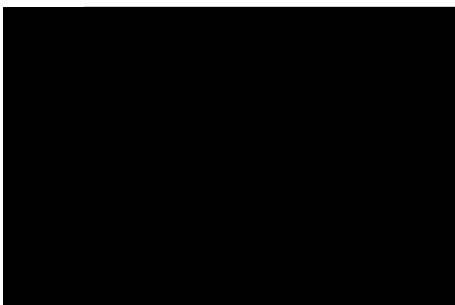
regulations once these have been finalised, so that the Committee may consider these together.

In relation to the barred and advisory lists, you will recall the proposal was to include provision for these lists within the LCM for the Westminster Crime and Policing Bill. When it became clear that the Westminster Bill could no longer facilitate the provisions, you wrote to the DALO on 14 October 2025 to ask if the provision to create a barred and advisory list for Northern Ireland could be progressed through an amendment to the Justice Bill. A response issued dated 21 October 2025 indicating the Minister's intention to bring forward such an amendment to the Justice Bill and welcoming the Committee's support.

Drafting Instructions have therefore been submitted to the Office of the Legislative Counsel (OLC) and officials anticipate receipt of the draft clauses to create the barred and advisory list via amendment to the Justice Bill within the coming weeks. Once received, the intention is to share the draft clauses for the lists with the Committee alongside the police misconduct matters consultation responses.

I hope this information is of assistance to the Committee.

Yours sincerely,





**Northern Ireland Assembly
Committee for Justice**

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23 January 2026

**Further amendments to the Justice Bill – Barred and Advisory Lists and
Former Officer Misconduct Proceedings**

Dear ██████████

At its meeting on 15 January 2026 the Committee for Justice considered the Departments completed response to the Table of Issues on the Justice Bill.

Contained within the table of issues was a suggestion from the Northern Ireland Policing Board for a further amendment to review current police misconduct regulations.

In the Department's response, they stated:

"The Department has reviewed the regulatory framework within which the police officer misconduct process operates, and a targeted stakeholder consultation closed on 2 October 2025."

They further indicated that they intended to progress two measures by way of amendments to the Justice Bill: UK Barred and Advisory Lists and Former Officer Misconduct Proceedings.

The Committee agreed to ask the Department of Justice for:

- details of the targeted stakeholder consultation and when the outcome will be shared with the Committee; and

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- what the proposed way forward is regarding the misconduct regulations and the barred and advisory lists.

I would be grateful for a response by 6 February 2026.

Yours sincerely

Kathy O'Hanlon

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