

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER



Department of
Justice

An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt

Mánnystrie 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

27 February 2026

Dear Kathy,

JUSTICE BILL AMENDMENT – REPEAL OF VAGRANCY LAW

I write with regards to the Minister's proposed amendment to the Justice Bill to repeal the law on vagrancy, specifically sections 3 of the Vagrancy (Ireland) Act 1847 and section 4 of the Vagrancy Act 1824, which currently criminalise begging and rough sleeping respectively. As the Committee is aware, the proposal remains that repeal should be made without the need for any replacement legislation.

The Department would be grateful if the Committee could confirm whether a consensus on this amendment has been reached and further, whether it proposes to make any amendments in this area.

The Department is grateful for the Committee's continued engagement on this matter.



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