



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

**Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural
Affairs**

Room 285
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont

From: Dr Janice Thompson
Clerk to the Committee

Date: 27 August 2026

To: Kathy O'Hanlon, Clerk to the Committee for Justice

Subject: Victims and Witnesses of Crime Bill - Call for Evidence

Dear Kathy

The Committee for Justice wrote to the AERA Committee on 8 July 2026 seeking its views on the objectives, proposals and potential consequences of the Bill.

The AERA Committee considered the Bill at its meeting on 10 August 2026 and agreed to respond highlighting some aspects it wished the Committee for Justice to consider during its Committee Stage.

The AERA Committee proposed that the Committee for Justice gives consideration to exploring how the proposed Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses of Crime will collect and analyse data in a way that identifies rural victims' experiences, and whether victim services are sufficiently accessible to people living in remote and rural communities.

Regards,

Dr Janice Thompson, Committee Clerk