

## Department of Education

### **JUSTICE BILL – PROPOSED AMENDMENTS**

Thank you for your letter of 8 July 2014 setting out the six proposed amendments being brought forward by the Department of Justice (DOJ) at the Committee Stage of the Bill.

The Department of Education (DE) has a particular interest in the proposed amendment to Part 5 – Criminal Records – Exchange of information between AccessNI and the Disclosure and Barring Service for barring purposes.

The safeguarding of pupils at school is a priority for DE. The vetting and barring procedures in place play a key part in the protection of children and in the recruitment and selection of staff who work in schools.

Although the DOJ explains that what is proposed is a minor amendment, DE welcomes the comment that it is “an important additional safeguard for vulnerable groups and should assist in ensuring that inappropriate persons are unable to get work with such groups”.

Thank you for giving DE the opportunity to consider and comment on the proposed amendments.

Yours sincerely

*Veronica*

**VERONICA BINTLEY**  
**Departmental Assembly Liaison Officer**