

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER



Department of
Justice

www.justice-ni.gov.uk

Minister's Office Block B,
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Ballymiscaw
Belfast

BT4 3SG

Tel: 028 9052 8121

private.office@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk

Our ref: SUB-1440-2016

Christine Darrah
Committee Clerk
Committee for Justice
Northern Ireland Assembly
Parliament Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast
BT4 3XX

6 October 2016

Dear Christine,

PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE CONSENT MOTION: LIFELONG ANONYMITY FOR VICTIMS OF FORCED MARRIAGE

Thank you for your letter of 27 September requesting further information in relation to the proposed Legislative Consent Motion for the lifelong anonymity of victims of forced marriage in the Policing and Crime Bill. Specifically, you sought clarification on: "whether someone who moves to the Republic of Ireland to publish information that identifies a victim of forced marriage, and then returns to Northern Ireland, could be found guilty of breaching the prohibition in Northern Ireland".

A person who moves or travels to the Republic of Ireland to publish details of a forced marriage and then returns to Northern Ireland will not have committed this offence. The UK Parliament cannot legislate to create an offence in the law of a country other than the UK. The prohibition on publication of the identity of a victim of forced marriage does not have extra-territorial extent, i.e. it does not apply to persons who carry out the prohibited act outside the UK. However, as previously outlined, particular arrangements exist under European law in relation to social media.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER



The anonymity provisions are based on broadly similar provisions for the anonymity for victims of female genital mutilation in section 4A of, and Schedule 1 to, the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003.

I trust Committee members will find this helpful.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Logan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**TIM LOGAN
DALO**



**NORTHERN IRELAND
ASSEMBLY
COMMITTEE FOR JUSTICE**

Tim Logan
DALO
Department of Justice
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast
BT4 3SQ

27 September 2016

Dear Tim

Proposed Legislative Consent Motion: Lifelong Anonymity for Victims of Forced Marriage

At its meeting on 22 September 2016, the Committee for Justice considered the proposed Legislative Consent Motion relating to lifelong anonymity for victims of forced marriage.

The Committee agreed that it was content with the proposal to extend the provision for lifelong anonymity of victims of forced marriage to Northern Ireland by way of a Legislative Consent Motion.

The Committee also agreed to request clarification of whether someone who moves to the Republic of Ireland to publish information that identifies a victim of forced marriage, and then returns to Northern Ireland, could be found guilty of breaching the prohibition in Northern Ireland.

I would appreciate the information by 11 October 2016.

Yours sincerely

**Christine Darrah
Clerk to the Committee for Justice**

Room 242, Parliament Buildings, Ballymiscaw, Stormont, Belfast, BT4 3XX
Telephone: (028) 9052 1629
E-mail: committee.justice@niassembly.gov.uk