



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Justice Bill
Notice of Amendments tabled on 8 May 2026 for
Consideration Stage

As an amendment to the amendment inserting a new clause ‘Abolition of common law defence of reasonable punishment’, tabled by Michelle Guy on 19 September 2025

In subsection (4), at end insert—

‘but does not include physical contact where the consequences are transient and trifling.’

Mr Paul Frew

Mr Maurice Bradley

As an amendment to the amendment inserting a new clause ‘Abolition of common law defence of reasonable punishment’, tabled by Michelle Guy on 19 September 2025

After subsection (5) insert—

‘(5A) The Department may not make an order to bring this section into operation unless it has—

- (a) consulted each of the following persons or bodies on the extent (if any) to which the coming into operation of this section will have an effect on that person's or body's capacity to exercise its statutory functions—
 - (i) the Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland,
 - (ii) each of the Health and Social Care trusts in Northern Ireland, and
 - (iii) such other statutory bodies or agencies as it considers appropriate,
- (b) laid a report of the consultation before the Assembly, and
- (c) published the report in such manner as it considers appropriate.’

Mr Paul Frew

Mr Maurice Bradley

New Clause

After clause 23 insert—

‘Commencement of abolition of common law defence of reasonable punishment

23B.—(1) Section 23A expires at the end of the period of 3 years beginning with the date on which that section comes into operation.

(2) Subject to the conditions in subsection (3), the Department may by regulations repeal subsection (1).

(3) Not later than three months before laying a draft of regulations under subsection (2), the Department must—

(a) appoint such independent person or body as it considers appropriate to conduct an independent review of the impact of section 23A and to prepare a report of the review, and

(b) lay the report before the Northern Ireland Assembly and publish it in such manner as it considers appropriate.

(4) Regulations under subsection (2) may not be made unless a draft of them has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, the Assembly.’

Mr Paul Frew

Mr Maurice Bradley