



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Justice Bill

Notice of Amendments tabled on
18 May 2026 for Consideration Stage

New Clause

After clause 21 insert—

‘Review of use of live links

21M.—(1) The Department of Justice must appoint such person as it considers appropriate to—

- (a) conduct a review, covering the review period, of the operation of live link arrangements following a live link direction under section 21A (“the live link arrangements”), and
- (b) prepare a report, covering the review period.

(2) The report under subsection (1)(b) must include—

- (a) an assessment of whether, and if so to what extent, the live link arrangements are effective, following the review under subsection (1)(a);
- (b) an assessment of the extent to which, where a court or tribunal has given a live link direction, the rights of persons participating in proceedings have been safeguarded;
- (c) the number of directions for participation by live link that have been given during the review period by each of the courts listed in section 21K(2) and by each statutory tribunal falling under section 21K(3); and
- (d) any other information the Department considers appropriate.

(3) Before preparing the report, the person appointed under subsection (1) must consult and take into account the views of—

- (a) the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service,
- (b) the Police Service of Northern Ireland,
- (c) the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission,
- (d) the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People,

- (e) the Incorporated Law Society of Northern Ireland, and
 - (f) such other persons as the Department considers appropriate.
- (4) The review period is the period of 3 years beginning with the day on which Section 21A comes into operation.
- (5) The Department must—
- (a) lay the report before the Northern Ireland Assembly, and
 - (b) publish the report as soon as practicable after it is completed, in such manner as it considers appropriate.’

Mr Paul Frew
Mr Maurice Bradley
Mr Brian Kingston