



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Justice Bill

Notice of Amendments tabled on
30 April 2026 for Consideration Stage

New Clause

Before clause 24 insert—

‘Minimum age of criminal responsibility

A24. For Article 3 of the Criminal Justice (Children) (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 (age of responsibility) substitute—

“Age of criminal responsibility

3.—(1) It shall be conclusively presumed that no child under the age of 12 can be guilty of an offence.

(2) It shall be conclusively presumed that no child aged 12 or 13 can be guilty of an offence other than an offence listed in paragraph (3).

(3) For the purposes of paragraph (2), the listed offences are—

- (a) murder,
- (b) attempted murder,
- (c) manslaughter,
- (d) rape,
- (e) assault by penetration.”’

Ms Emma Sheerin
Ms Sian Mulholland
Mr Patsy McGlone

Clause 12, Page 25, Line 32

Leave out 'was aged 14 or over' and insert 'had attained the age of responsibility specified in Article 3'

Mr Paul Frew

Mr Maurice Bradley