



Northern Ireland Assembly

Justice Bill

Notice of Amendments tabled on 30 September 2025 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) Subject to the exceptions in paragraph (2), a child under the age of 14 years shall not be charged with an offence.

(2) A child aged 10 or over may be charged with murder, manslaughter, rape or assault by penetration.”.’

Ms Sian Mulholland

New Clause

Before clause 24 insert—

‘Age of criminal responsibility: review

B24.—(1) The Department of Justice must—

(a) during the review period, review the operation of section A24—

(i) generally, and

(ii) with a view to considering the future age of criminal responsibility, and

(b) prepare and publish a report on that review.

(2) The Department must lay a copy of the report before the Northern Ireland Assembly.

(3) In carrying out the review, the Department must consult such persons as it considers appropriate.

(4) The report on the review must be prepared, published and laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly no later than 12 months after the end of the review period.

(5) The “review period” is the period of 5 years beginning with the day on which section A24 comes into force.’

Ms Sian Mulholland