

**MEMORANDUM**  
**THE CRIME AND POLICING BILL**

**Background**

1. This memorandum has been laid before the Assembly by the Minister for Justice under Standing Order 42A (4)(b).
2. Standing Order 42A - Legislative Consent Motions, details the procedure for seeking the agreement of the Assembly to the United Kingdom Parliament considering provisions of a Bill which deals with a devolution matter. Paragraph (2) of Standing Order 42A prescribes that a legislative consent memorandum shall be laid in respect of any devolution matter for which a legislative consent motion is proposed. Under paragraph (9) of Standing Order 42A, a subsequent legislative consent motion may be moved if appropriate, having regard to the nature of any amendment dealing with a devolution matter made, or proposed to be made, to the Bill.
3. Under Standing Order 42A (4)(b) I am laying this memorandum to explain that, whilst legislative consent is not being sought at this time, I am updating.

members on the need for a second legislative consent motion in relation to the Crime and Policing Bill, highlight the relevant Northern Ireland related provisions and advise that I intend to bring forward a second legislative consent motion in due course.

4. The second legislative consent motion is required because further provisions dealing with a devolution matter have either been added or plan to be added by means of amendment to the Bill and the provisions are outside the scope of the original motion.

**Summary of the relevant parts of the Bill and its policy objectives**

5. The Crime and Policing Bill was introduced in the House of Commons on 25 February 2025 and the current version of the Bill as introduced in the House of Lords contains 15 parts, 203 clauses and 21 schedules.

Members will be familiar with the contents of the Bill as I brought forward an earlier LCM which received agreement of the Assembly on 23rd June 2025.

6. The UK Government has set out that the Bill is intended to support the delivery of the Government's Safer Streets Mission to halve knife crime and violence against women and girls ("VAWG") in a decade and increase public confidence in policing and the wider criminal justice system. It aims to support neighbourhood policing and give the police the powers they need to tackle anti-social behaviour, crime and terrorism, whilst introducing reforms to ensure that law enforcement agencies perform to the highest standards expected by the public and focus on front-line policing. Only some of these measures extend to Northern Ireland.
7. The latest version of the Bill can be found at: [Crime and Policing Bill](#).

#### **Provisions which deal with a Devolution Matter**

8. The devolved areas for which I am likely to seek further legislative consent for Westminster to legislate on (subject to Executive approval) are set out below. There is a possibility this list may change prior to laying the LCM for consent.
  - **Clauses 40 to 55** - Child criminal exploitation offence and civil prevention orders.
  - **Clause 94(2)** - Restrictions on granting replacement driving licences to Registered Sex Offenders (RSOs) in a new name.
  - **Clause TBC** - Offence in relation to fine-tuned AI models designed to produce child sexual abuse material - image generators.
  - **Clause 104** - Child abduction.
  - **Clause 97 and 98** - Stalking protection orders on acquittal and conviction.

- **Clause 100** - New stalking guidance about disclosure of information by police forces.
- **Clause 157 to 165 and Schedule 19** - Barred and advisory list for PSNI.
- **Clauses 31 to 36** - Strengthened age verification requirements for the online sale and delivery of knives and crossbows and provision regarding the bulk and suspicious sales of knives.
- **Clause 105** - Removal of the supervision exemption from the definition of regulated activity (this is a DoH measure which has been included at the request of the Minister for Health).

In addition, the following clauses include both transferred and excepted/reserved matters:

- **Clauses 130-137 and 190 and Schedule 19** - Access to remotely stored electronic data.
- **Clause 138** (Access to driver licensing information) measure to expand the lawful purposes for which the police can access the DVLA driving license database.

### **Reasons for not seeking a Legislative Consent Motion**

8. Whilst consent is not being requested at this time, formal consent will be sought for the provisions which fall within the remit of the Department for Justice following Executive agreement and once the Committee for Justice has been briefed. The Assembly will appreciate that the content and timing of any Westminster Bill are outside the control of Northern Ireland departments.

### **Engagement to date with the Committee for Justice**

9. The Committee received a written briefing on the need for a second LCM in relation to the Crime and Policing Bill on 3 July 2025, with an oral briefing scheduled for 11 September 2025.

## **Conclusion**

10. It is my view, in the interests of good government, the provisions of the Bill dealing with devolution matters should be agreed and as such it is my intention to bring forward a Legislative Consent Motion and further Memorandum as soon as possible following the Executive's agreement.