

Legislative briefing

# examining the Justice Bill (NI) 2010



**agendaNi**  
magazine

Thursday 21st October 2010  
Stormont Hotel, Belfast

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## Background to the Justice Bill

The devolution of policing and justice powers, which took place in April of this year, has created local accountability for justice, the opportunity to identify local solutions to local needs and a real potential for partnership across the devolved administration to build a safer Northern Ireland with lower levels of crime.

The act of devolution was described by the new Justice Minister David Ford on 'devolution day' as a "staging post" and the start of a "process that must deliver for the people of Northern Ireland". One of the first, and most important stages in this process will be the introduction of a Justice Bill before the Assembly in the autumn. The Justice Bill, along with the next Programme for Government, will have a key role in addressing the priorities of the Justice Minister and his department as well as the overall aims of the justice system. The Bill will be the first piece of home grown justice legislation in Northern Ireland in almost 40 years.

The proposals for a Justice Bill have their origins across a range of issues and interests and are intended to bring significant benefits to the justice system and those who come into contact with it. The strategic aims of the Bill are: to improve confidence in the justice system; at a community level to enhance community engagement and safety; at a business level to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the justice system and at a qualitative level to improve access to justice, services to the public and services to victims.

The four key themes of the proposed Justice Bill are:

- ✓ Victims and witnesses
- ✓ Community engagement and public safety
- ✓ Better service delivery and system efficiency
- ✓ Operational improvements.

### Some of the improvements the Bill will make to the justice system in Northern Ireland include:

- Making efficient but effective alternative routes available for dealing with certain minor crime
- Helping to reduce the delay in the system
- Providing a better service for victims
- Enhancing confidence in the justice system
- Improving access to justice
- Better targeting legal aid
- Enhancing community engagement and public safety
- Tackling sectarianism
- Developing partnerships and building a shared future

## Briefing

This morning briefing will examine the four key aims of the Justice Bill in detail and look at how the proposals in the draft Bill seek to address these core issues. The briefing will be delivered by experienced practitioners within the local justice system who will share their views and knowledge with attendees.

Most importantly, this will be an interactive seminar, with opportunities for delegates attending to ask questions of the speaker panel and seek clarification on any of the detail contained within the Bill.

Some of the organisations that will be impacted by the proposals contained within the Bill, and who will therefore benefit from participating in this briefing seminar will include:

- The judiciary and legal profession
- The Public Prosecution Service
- The PSNI
- Community Safety Partnerships
- District Policing Partnerships
- Northern Ireland Prison Service
- The Probation Board for Northern Ireland
- Sports organisations
- DHSSPS
- Victim support organisations

09.00 Chairman's welcome & introduction  
**Marie Anderson**  
Deputy Northern Ireland Ombudsman

*The role of the Justice Bill in addressing the priorities for justice*

**Gareth Johnston**, Deputy Director  
Justice Strategy Division  
Department of Justice

*The role of the Committee in the Justice Bill*  
**Lord Morrow**, Chair, Justice Committee  
Northern Ireland Assembly

*A legal framework for better service delivery and system efficiency*

**Keith Alexander**, Director  
PricewaterhouseCoopers

*Examining the impact of the Justice Bill on policing*

**Supt Andrea McMullan**, Head of Criminal Justice Legislation & Procedures, PSNI

Questions and answers / Panel discussion

10.45 Morning coffee / networking break

11.15 *Community engagement and public safety*

**Alex Maskey, MLA**, Chairman  
Community Engagement Committee  
Northern Ireland Policing Board

*Examining the impact of the Justice Bill on offender management*

**Brian McCaughey**  
Director of Probation  
Probation Board for Northern Ireland

*The legal profession perspective*

**Adrian Colton, QC**, Chairman  
The Bar Council

*How will the Justice Bill help to reduce crime and its impact on people and communities?*

**Olwen Lyner**, Chief Executive Officer  
NIACRO

Questions & answers / Panel discussion

13.00 Chairman's summary and seminar close followed by networking lunch

“My ambition is to reshape our justice system to build a safer Northern Ireland, with lower levels of crime; safer, shared communities; and justice for all”.

Justice Minister, David Ford, June 2010



### I wish to:

- Reserve \_\_\_\_ places at the Justice Bill briefing  
**Delegate fee £175 + VAT @ 17.5% = £205.63**
- Discounted rate for the voluntary and community sector  
**£155 + VAT @ 17.5% = £182.13**
- Discounted rate for local government sector  
(Elected representatives and officers)  
**£155 + VAT @ 17.5% = £182.13**

### Delegate details

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr): \_\_\_\_\_

Job title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
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### Cancellations / substitutions

For those unable to attend, a substitute delegate may be sent at any time for no additional charge. Alternatively a refund will be given for cancellations received in writing, by fax or email, up to 14 days prior to the briefing, less an administration charge of 25%. Regrettably no refunds can be made after that date.

### Who should attend?

This briefing will be useful for all those key stakeholders with an interest or role in the contents and scope of the forthcoming Justice Bill. It will be of interest to:

- Central government policy-makers and decision-takers
- Police / probation / prison service
- Other NDPBs and agencies in the criminal justice sector
- Oversight / accountability bodies
- Courts and Tribunals Service
- The legal profession
- District Policing Partnerships
- Community Safety Partnerships
- NGOs in the criminal justice sector
- Voluntary / community sector leaders
- Victims / survivors / witnesses organisations

### Benefits of attending

Delegates attending the seminar will:

- ✓ Gain an understanding of the key priorities of the Justice Minister
- ✓ Learn how these priorities will be addressed through the Justice Bill
- ✓ Examine draft proposals in detail
- ✓ Hear the views of experts within the system
- ✓ Have an opportunity to share their own views on the draft proposals

### Acknowledgement of registration

Confirmation of registration will be sent to all delegates, following registration details. If you have not received your acknowledgement seven days prior to the date of the briefing, please contact Cathy Glenn at agendaNi to confirm your booking. Email: [cathy.glenn@agendaNi.com](mailto:cathy.glenn@agendaNi.com)

### Other ways to book



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