

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER



Department of
Justice

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Councillor Jeffrey Dudgeon MBE

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30 November 2016

Jeffrey,

Thank you for your email of 20 October requesting a meeting to discuss legislation to provide for pardons for convictions for abolished homosexual offences in Northern Ireland.

As you already know, on 8 November, I announced that I had secured Executive agreement to ask the Assembly to pass a Legislative Consent Motion (LCM) to include provisions in the Policing and Crime Bill to provide for the same disregard and pardon arrangements for Northern Ireland as for England and Wales. I am very pleased to say that, on Monday 28 November, the LCM was passed by the Assembly, and Parliament will now seek to include in the Bill similar disregard and pardon provisions for Northern Ireland. This can provide redress for past wrongs in a much more timely way than through the introduction of an Assembly Bill.

I know you have also now been in contact with my officials and I'm grateful for your assistance. I hope you understand the reasons why I felt we couldn't, at this stage, include convictions involving 16 year olds, but I have committed to give this issue proper consideration outside of the provisions in the Policing and Crime Bill.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Claire Sugden', written in a cursive style.

CLAIRE SUGDEN MLA
Minister of Justice