



**Tithe an
Oireachtais**
Houses of the
Oireachtas

**An Comhchoiste um Dhlí
agus Ceart**
Teach Laighean
Baile Átha Cliath 2

**Joint Committee on
Justice**
Leinster House
Dublin 2

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Ms Heather Humphries T.D.,
Minister for Justice,
51 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2,
D02 HK52.

By e-mail to: PXMcCabe@justice.ie

Our Ref: JC4/5/G [33/JC/08]

RE: General Scheme of the Criminal Justice (Exploitation of children in the commission of offences) Bill 2020

Dear Minister,

I am writing to you in relation to the General Scheme of the *Criminal Justice (Exploitation of children in the commission of offences) Bill 2020* which was referred to the Committee for Pre-Legislative Scrutiny (PLS).

The Committee agreed to commence PLS by requesting an oral briefing from Departmental Officials on this matter.

On Tuesday 25th May 2021, the Committee received a briefing from your officials which provided an opportunity for members to clarify a number of matters as part of this process.

In the course of the briefing, the Committee raised a number of questions with the officials.

Specifically mentioned was the possible need for including a provision to deal with circumstances where a child is deceived or duped into engaging in criminal activity. It was queried whether the offence included in Head 3, where an adult induces a child to engage in criminal activity, is considered to contemplate duping and/or deception. This is particularly prominent in the recruitment of young people in the context of gangland crime.

The Committee has now concluded PLS on this General Scheme and looks forward to further engagement and debate on this Bill in the course of its consideration and passage through both Houses.

Yours sincerely,

James Lawless TD
Cathaoirleach

25th May 2021

Cuirfear fáilte roimh chomhfhreagras i nGaeilge