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Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Kenneth Gibson MSP
Presiding Officer
Scottish Parliament

By email: Presidingofficers@parliament.scot

17 November 2026

Dear Presiding Officer,

NORTHERN IRELAND TROUBLES BILL

You will recall I previously wrote to you on 27 October 2026 in relation to the UK Government's amended Northern Ireland Troubles Bill to notify you that it would not be possible to meet Standing Orders and the associated deadline of 27 October 2026 for lodging a supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum (sLCM), due to the volume of amendments laid and that the Scottish Government only partial sight of these in advance.

In that letter, I indicated that we hoped to be in a position to lodge a sLCM by 16 November 2026. I am writing again to inform you that there will unfortunately be a further delay.

As noted above, it was not possible to commence in depth analysis of the over 150 amendments to the Bill until after the UK Government tabled these on 13 October 2026. Many of the amendments engage consent and significant legal and policy analysis was required, particularly in respect of those aspects of the amended Bill that impact additionally on devolved policy in Scotland. Although this work has progressed, and is continuing at pace, it has become apparent that in order to ensure we can provide Parliament with an sLCM from a fully informed position on the implications of the amended Bill, additional time is required.

We currently anticipate we will be in a position to lodge the sLCM by 27 November 2026. My officials will keep in contact with yours regarding anticipated timescales for lodging the memorandum.

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I am copying this letter to Cabinet Secretary for Justice and to the Convener of the Criminal Justice Committee.

Yours sincerely,

JAMIE HEPBURN

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