

Appendix 2

Draft Response from Belfast City Council in Respect of Part 4 of the Draft Justice Bill

Part 4 of the draft Bill contains proposals for new offences and penalties in Northern Ireland based on those which have been operating very effectively in Great Britain for some time. They include new powers around offensive chanting at games, missile throwing and pitch incursion; powers to tackle alcohol-related problems around sporting events; powers to tackle ticket touting; and proposals for a soccer banning order regime that would prevent trouble-makers from attending matches. The package of new powers is proposed in relation to key sporting events across football, GAA and rugby.

These proposals are considered to complement and enhance the objectives of the Safety of Sports Grounds Order in securing the reasonable safety of spectators at designated sports grounds and in regulated stands across Northern Ireland. As an authority responsible for issuing safety certificates and enforcing the terms of this Order, Belfast City Council welcomes the additional controls as proposed in part 4 of the draft Justice Bill (NI) 2010.