

The position as of **spring 2026** is a bit of a moving target, but can be summarised in three overlapping strands: **(1) the existing 2023 Act (partly in force but legally damaged)**, **(2) court challenges undermining it**, and **(3) new legislation currently working its way through Parliament but delayed**.

1) The current law: the 2023 “Legacy Act”

The operative statute is the **Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act 2023**.

- It **ended most criminal investigations, inquests and civil claims** relating to Troubles incidents and replaced them with a single body (ICRIR).
- It also proposed a **conditional immunity (amnesty-type) scheme** for those who cooperated.

However, in practice:

- The **immunity scheme was never commenced** and is now politically abandoned.
- Key elements have been **found unlawful or incompatible with human rights** by domestic courts.

So although the Act technically exists, it is **partially disapplied, heavily contested, and widely regarded as unsustainable**.

2) Litigation status (still ongoing)

The Act has been subjected to **extensive judicial review**:

- High Court and Court of Appeal rulings found major provisions—especially immunity and limits on investigations—**incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights and the Windsor Framework**.
- Some issues have reached or are moving through the **UK Supreme Court**.
- There is also an **inter-state case by Ireland** before the European Court of Human Rights.

Bottom line: the legal foundation of the 2023 regime is unstable and still being contested.

3) Government response: repeal and replace

Since 2024, the UK Government has committed to **repealing and replacing** the Act.

(a) Immediate fix: remedial order (2026)

In January 2026 the Government moved to:

- **Remove the immunity provisions** and
- Restore access to civil claims and legal remedies

via a remedial order addressing human-rights breaches.

This is essentially a **stopgap correction** rather than a full new system.

(b) Main replacement legislation

The core replacement is the

Northern Ireland Troubles Bill 2024–26

- Introduced October 2025
- Designed to **repeal and replace large parts of the 2023 Act**
- Intended to:
 - Remove immunity entirely
 - Re-open pathways to investigations and civil cases
 - Create a **new legacy framework / commission**

(c) Current parliamentary status (April 2026)

- The Bill is **still before Parliament** and has not yet become law.
- Progress has **slowed and been delayed**:
 - Government is preparing **substantial amendments**, especially around protections for veterans
 - Next stage likely pushed to **later in 2026 (next session)**

4) Policy direction (important context)

Across government statements and UK–Ireland discussions, the direction of travel is:

- **Away from blanket or conditional amnesty**
- **Back towards investigations, inquests, and civil accountability**
- Coupled with:
 - **New safeguards for veterans**
 - A revised information-recovery process

Bottom line

As of now:

Latest status of 'Northern Ireland legacy' legislation?

- The **2023 Legacy Act still exists but is legally weakened and politically disowned.**
- Parts of it are already being **removed via secondary legislation.**
- A **replacement Bill is progressing but delayed**, so the system is in a **transitional and uncertain state.**
- Meanwhile, **court proceedings (domestic and international)** continue to shape what is legally permissible.

If useful, I can break down what the **new Bill is likely to mean in practice**—especially for veterans versus legacy investigations—since that's where most of the real-world implications now lie.