

Peter Hall  
Committee Clerk  
Economy Committee  
Room 347, Parliament Buildings,  
Ballymiscaw, Stormont,  
Belfast, BT4 3XX



**Re: Safe Leave Bill**

Dear Peter,

19<sup>th</sup> January 2022

I trust you are keeping well.

Further to our conversation earlier today, I am writing to you with regard to my Private Member's Bill on Domestic Abuse (Safe Leave), which was discussed at Economy Committee.

I can confirm that in relation to Clause 4 'Commencement', I am content with the wording as drafted, which does not specify the date by which the Department must commence Section 1 of the Bill. I draw the Committee's attention to Clause 4(2) which states that the other provisions of this Act come into operation on Royal Assent, which includes an annual report being published and guidance about the Bill's implementation.

I would welcome the Committee's support for the Bill as drafted, and I am happy to provide any further clarity if required. Should you require any further information from me, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

**Rachel Woods**  
MLA for North Down

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