



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Nick Perry
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4 July 2016

Dear Mr Perry,

Further to the attendance of you and your officials at the Public Accounts Committee evidence session into the Inquiry into Managing Legal Aid on 29 June 2016, you agreed to provide further information on a number of issues as detailed below:

- In the scheme which ran for two and half years in which applicants requesting Legal Aid were asked to complete a statement of means form, how many ineligible cases were found and how many solicitors failed the compliance regime to allow them to provide publically funded legal aid?
- How is the eligibility for legal aid determined?
- What are the costs associated with the Unusually Large Expenditure Panel?
- What are the expert witness costs which the Legal Services Agency was unable able to provide to the Northern Ireland Audit Office?
- What is the composition of the Audit and Risk Committee and the Legal Aid Strategy Group and what recommendations have been made to date?

Could you please respond by 1 August 2016 to the email address above,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robin Swann', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned on a light yellow rectangular background.

Robin Swann
Chairperson
Public Accounts Committee