

## **An Ceann Comhairle**

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**Mrs Carál Ni Chuilin**  
**Chairperson, Committee on Procedures**  
**Room 247**  
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**10 March 2020**

Dear Carál

### **Legislative Consent Motions**

I am aware that the Committee on Procedures has agreed to conduct a review into the operation of Legislative Consent Motions as part of its work programme.

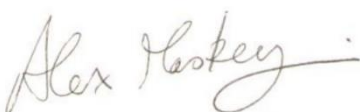
I think this is a very positive initiative at this time given the likelihood of an increased number of LCMs in the time ahead.

I recently attended my first meeting of the Speakers and Presiding Officers (known as quadrilaterals) involving my counterparts in London, Edinburgh and Cardiff. From those discussions it is clear that the context created by Brexit has created pressure on LCM procedures in all of the devolved legislatures and they are all considering whether improvements are needed. In addition, I believe that there is a recognition in Westminster that procedures around the handling and communication of decisions on legislative consent from the devolved legislatures may have to be reviewed to take account of the new political circumstances.

It is of course for the Committee to decide its approach to the review but, as LCMs are going to pose similar challenges to all of the devolved legislatures in the time ahead, the Committee on Procedures may wish to consider liaising with the other institutions, particularly colleagues in Scotland and Wales.

I know that this issue is likely to arise at future quadrilaterals and while I am happy to keep the Committee informed of relevant developments around LCMs, I think it would be appropriate for the Committee to develop its own direct contacts.

Yours sincerely



**ALEX MASKEY MLA**