



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

**Committee on Procedures
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First Minister and deputy First Minister
The Executive Office
SD03 Stormont Castle
Stormont Estate
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13 March 2020

Dear

REVIEW OF LEGISLATIVE CONSENT MOTIONS

The Committee on Procedures is undertaking a review of the current procedures for Legislative Consent Motions and the relating Standing Order.

The issues the Committee are keen to consider in its review are:

- a) review the circumstances in which use of a Legislative Consent Motion is considered appropriate;**
- b) review the processes through which Legislative Consent Motions are introduced to the Assembly;**
- c) review the mechanisms by which the Assembly specifically gives, or does not give, its consent;**
- d) review the arrangements for consultation with and consideration and reporting by committees of the proposed legislation and its outworkings;**
- e) to consider the need to introduce a Standing Order/amendments to Standing Orders to address the issues identified within the inquiry.**

Following a recent quadrilateral meeting in Edinburgh of the Speakers and Presiding Officers, the Speaker wrote to the Committee on the issue of Legislative Consent Motions. From discussions at the quadrilateral meeting, the Speaker informed the Committee that it is clear that the context

created by Brexit has created pressure on Legislative Consent Motions procedures in all of the devolved legislatures.

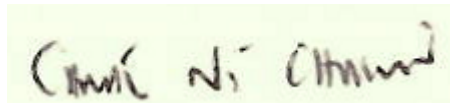
Therefore, the Committee has agreed to invite you to submit views as part of its review. In particular, the Committee would be keen to learn of Department's perspective on allowing an opportunity to debate and agree with a Minister that consent should be withheld.

I would be grateful if you could provide your views by 20 April 2020. If possible, your response should be submitted electronically to committee.procedures@niassembly.gov.uk .

Submissions will be published by the Committee unless otherwise indicated.

Any queries should be directed to the Clerk, Nick Mitford at nick.mitford@niassembly.gov.uk or by telephone at 028 9052 1205.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light green background. The signature appears to read "Carál Ní Chuilín".

Carál Ní Chuilín
Chairperson, Committee on Procedures.