



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

**Committee on Procedures
Room 247
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The Rt Hn Brandon Lewis CBE
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
Stormont House
Belfast
BT4 3SH

22 September 2020

Dear Secretary of State,

REVIEW OF LEGISLATIVE CONSENT MOTIONS

You will recall that on 13 March 2020, the previous Chairperson wrote to inform you that the Committee on Procedures was undertaking a review of the current procedures for Legislative Consent Motions and the relating Standing Order (42A) and to seek your views on a number of issues.

Subsequently, on 6 April 2020, the Chairperson informed you that, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Committee agreed to postpone its review.

Given that the Northern Ireland Assembly business has recently resumed a more normal routine, the Committee agreed to recommence its review and to seek your views on the current procedures for Legislative Consent Motions.

As a reminder, 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.**

In addition, the Committee had sought details of potential forthcoming legislation which will require legislative consent.

I would be grateful if your response could be submitted electronically to committee.procedures@niassembly.gov.uk by 23 October 2020.

Submissions will be published by the Committee unless otherwise indicated.

Any queries should be directed to the Committee Clerk at nick.mitford@niassembly.gov.uk or by telephone on 02890 521205.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'LD', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Linda Dillon
Chairperson, Committee on procedures