



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

**Committee on Procedures
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Kellie Armstrong MLA
Room 45, Parliament Buildings
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16 October 2020

Dear Kellie,

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 (42A).

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 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 agreed that I write to all whips and Independent Members, on behalf of the Committee, to seek views on the current procedures for Legislative Consent Motions.

The Committee has commissioned research on this issue which you might find helpful. The research paper is available at the following link:

<http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/globalassets/documents/raise/publications/2017-2022/2020/procedures/5920.pdf>

I would be grateful if you could provide your views by 6 November 2020. Responses 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 me at nick.mitford@niassembly.gov.uk or by telephone on 21205.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink on a light green background. The signature appears to read 'N. Mitford'.

Nick Mitford
Clerk to the Committee on Procedures.