



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

Committee on Procedures

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From: Emer Boyle, Clerk to the Committee on Procedures
To: Statutory Committee Clerks
Cc:
Date: 01 October 2021
Subject: INQUIRY INTO LEGISLATIVE CONSENT MOTIONS

You will recall that in September 2020, the former Clerk to the Committee wrote to all statutory committee Clerks seeking your Committee's views on the procedures for Legislative Consent Motions and the relating Standing Order (42A).

At its meeting on 29 September 2021, the Committee noted correspondence from the Committee for Justice which raised a concern associated with the timeframes currently detailed in SO 42A, stating that without prior notice of more than 6 months:

"It would otherwise not be possible for the Committee to consider the devolved provisions to be included in the LCM fully and properly and report to the Assembly within the 15 days that will be allowed under Standing Order 42A(7) once the LCM has been laid."

Furthermore, the Committee noted that a search through recent agendas of a number of statutory committees indicates that certain Committees have experienced an increase in the number of LCMs for consideration in the last year (and since the Committee on Procedures last consulted on this issue).

Therefore, before moving to its considerations, the Committee agreed that I should write again to check for further evidence on whether your Committee has experienced any particular challenges relating to LCMs since the last consultation exercise and whether it has experienced similar issues to that indicated by the Committee for Justice or any other noteworthy challenges such as an increase in the number or frequency of LCMs over the last year?

In addition, the Committee would be keen to hear oral evidence from an official on the difficulties they may have encountered in their Committee with the procedures for LCMs. I would therefore be grateful if you indicate to me if that is something you might be agreeable to.

I would also be grateful if any additional written evidence could be received by **14 October 2021**.

Submissions will be published by the Committee unless otherwise indicated.

Any queries should be directed to me or by telephone on 21678.

Emer Boyle