



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

**Committee on Procedures
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03 December 2021

Paul and Michelle, a chairde

LEGISLATIVE CONSENT MOTIONS COMMITTEE INQUIRY

At its meeting on 1 December 2021, the Committee on Procedures received a briefing from the Assembly's Research and Information Service (RaISe) in relation to a query it had raised relating to the number of recent LCMs and adherence to the NI Assembly Legislative Consent Motion procedures.

This additional research was commissioned as part of the Committee's ongoing Inquiry into LCMs. Information was sought to primarily establish, (i) the number of Bills since January 2020 which have been introduced to Parliament and which require(d) the consent of the Northern Ireland Assembly, and (ii) of these, on how many occasions Ministers have laid a memorandum (either in line with the requirements of Standing Order 42A(4) or not). In addition, the Committee also sought information on (iii) how much time there was between the date of the Bills' introduction and the date of the final amending stage in the House of Commons.

During the discussion, the Committee agreed that it was minded to explore, as part of its ongoing Inquiry, whether there may be scope to incorporate additional time, where possible, into the parameters of the existing Standing Order 42A to afford committees further time to carry out their scrutiny on the relevant devolution matter.

Furthermore, the Committee noted from the research briefing, that there have been a number of occasions where Ministers have not acted in accordance with the requirements of Standing Order

42A(4), either by laying a legislative consent memorandum before the Assembly outside the normal 10 working days prescribed or even, in some cases, laying no memorandum at all.

Therefore, the Committee agreed that I write a final time to the Executive on this matter and to:

- I. draw your attention to the research paper and in particular to the table in Annex A
- II. bring to your attention the fact that the Committee is likely to make comment on the issues raised in this paper in its inquiry report, and
- III. ask again whether the Executive wishes to respond to the inquiry ToRs or comment on the issues raised in the research report and the RaISe briefing, prior to the Committee reporting.

The RaISe paper has since been published and is available at the following link:

<http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/assembly-business/research-and-information-service-raise/research-publications/>

A recording of the RaISe briefing can be listened to again at the following link:

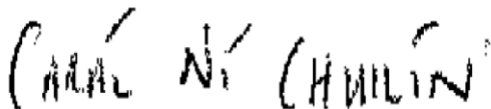
<https://niassembly.tv/committee-on-procedures-meeting-wednesday-1-december-2021/>

Finally, I would refer you to my previous correspondence of 13 March 2020, 16 October 2020, 16 February 2021, 31 March 2021 and 23 June 2021 which sought input from the Executive on the Committee's Terms of Reference (enclosed) for this Inquiry and in respect of which, no response has yet been received.

I would therefore like to re-emphasise how much the Committee would welcome your contribution prior to the conclusion of its Inquiry.

Any queries should be directed to the Committee Clerk at emer.boyle@niassembly.gov.uk or by telephone on 02890 521678.

Is mise le meas,



Carál Ní Chuilín

Chairperson, Committee on Procedures

Enc.

Terms of Reference

- 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 out workings;**
- e) to consider the need to introduce a Standing Order/amendments to Standing Orders to address the issues identified within the inquiry.**