



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNITIES**

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Mr Nick Mitford  
Clerk to the Committee on Procedures  
Room 247  
Parliament Buildings

Dear Nick

At its meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> September, the Committee for Communities considered your memo seeking views on the current procedures for Legislative Consent Motions (LCMs).

Whilst the Committee understands the need for LCMs in certain circumstances, it would like to highlight a number of points:

- The Committee has some concern about their over-use – it feels that their use should be based on necessity, not convenience;
- The Committee proposed that a Department or Minister should clearly demonstrate the need for the use of an LCM and suggested that this could be accomplished through an accompanying ‘statement of rationale’; and
- The Committee felt that it would be very useful to know, as far in advance as possible, how many LCMs a Department is planning to introduce in order that it can devote sufficient time to scrutinise them properly. The Committee has recently scrutinised several LCMs and is concerned that as the number of LCMs increase, along with the general increase in the Committee’s workload, this may become more difficult.

Yours sincerely

**Janice Thompson**  
**Clerk, Committee for Communities**