

Committee on Procedures
Room 247
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont
Belfast BT4 3XX

Dear Chairperson,

REVIEW OF LEGISLATIVE CONSENT MOTIONS

Alliance are supportive of the procedures in place to deal with 'normal' legislative consent motions, and would not seek to make changes. However, an addition which could be considered is the examination of how the Northern Ireland Assembly informs the UK Government of opposition to an LCM (although we recognise this is rare, it is worthwhile examining).

It is possible due to the powers given to UK Minister to act where this power is devolved, that a situation may arise where devolved regions are in conflict with the UK Government. Furthermore, without a statutory footing of the Sewel convention (and we recognise the complexities around this), it is important the democratic will of those elected to the NI Assembly are heard and a level of scrutiny should be applied.

It is therefore important to have a mechanism by which the NI Assembly can scrutinise statutory instruments, which arise from the EU Withdrawal Act. Standing Orders similar to those in Scotland or Wales would be beneficial in order to ensure explicit options of scrutiny for the Assembly. Alliance would support the addition of such a change to standing orders as soon as possible, given the timeframe of which changes are occurring before the end of the transition period and the next two years.

My colleagues and I are willing to discuss this further should it be necessary. We look forward to engaging with the committee's final report into this review.

Yours sincerely,



Kellie Armstrong MLA
Chief Whip