

To: The Speaker

From: The Chairperson of the Committee on Procedures.

Date: 2 March 2020

PROCEDURES TO RAISE CURRENT ISSUES IN PLENARY

Thank you for your letter dated 19 February 2020 in which you indicated your desire to introduce a regular period of time in Plenary for Members to put issues briefly on the record without requiring you to judge them against any particular criteria.

At its meeting on 26 February 2020, the Committee on Procedures noted your letter. The Committee agreed to include this potential arrangement as one of its work-streams when undertaking its strategic planning session.

The Committee undertook its strategic planning session immediately after its meeting on 26 February 2020. During discussions, Members were of the view that an additional opportunity to raise important issues in the House, outside of Matter of the Day, an Urgent Oral Question or a Topical Question, could be a positive arrangement at the Assembly.

I am pleased to inform you that, following an exercise to prioritise its work-streams, Members chose 'Members' Statements' as an immediate priority. The Committee has agreed to incorporate 'Members' Statements' in its forward work programme and will begin its consideration at the earliest opportunity.

I look forward to updating you on the outcome of the Committee's consideration in due course.