

Room 37,
Parliament Buildings
Stormont

Linda Dillon MLA
Chairperson, Committee on Procedures
Committee on Procedures Room 247
Parliament Buildings

20th October 2020

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Linda, a chara,

Thank you for your letter of 23RD September 2020 in relation to the issue of members' statements. There are, of course, already a range of Assembly process that allow members to raise and put issues on the record in the Assembly Chamber. There does not seem to be any urgent reason to add to these and given the current pressures on Assembly time because of the COVID-19 crisis, Sinn Féin does not believe that this is an appropriate time to consider adding to existing Assembly arrangements and processes.

This is, however, an issue we could return to for further discussion and consideration at some point in the future as we return, hopefully, to some type of normality. We would want to see a very clear rationale and argument for any changes to Standing Orders, including a review of processed and procedures in other Legislatures. None of this could be viewed as a priority in the current context.

I hope this is helpful in terms of the Committee's consideration of this issue,

Is Mise

John O'Dowd
Sinn Féin Chief Whip