

To: All parties and independent Members.

From: The Chairperson of the Committee on Procedures.

Date: 23 September 2020

## **MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

You will recall that, in March 2020 and following a request from the Speaker, the Committee on Procedures began considering the merits of introducing arrangements to have a short period in Plenary during which Members have the opportunity to put issues briefly on the record without requiring him to judge against any particular criteria.

On 16 March 2020, the Committee wrote to all Parties and Independent Members to seek their views on the arrangement for Members' Statements should the Committee decide to bring forward any necessary changes to Standing Orders. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Committee subsequently wrote to you to inform you that it had agreed to postpone its Inquiry into Members' Statements.

Given that the Assembly business has recently resumed a more normal routine, the Committee agreed to recommence its Inquiry and to write again to all Parties and Independent Members to seek their views on the arrangements for Members' Statements.

The Committee would welcome your views on the following:

- How frequently Members should have the opportunity to make statements;
- How long any period for statements should last;
- At what point during a sitting Members' Statements should be scheduled, as well as whether it should be at a set time for each sitting or flexible;
- The process by which Members are chosen to make a statement;
- What time limit there should be on each individual statement; and
- Whether there should be any formal restrictions on what Members might say in their statements.

I would therefore be grateful if you could provide your views by 23 October 2020. Responses should be submitted electronically to [committee.procedures@niassembly.gov.uk](mailto:committee.procedures@niassembly.gov.uk)

Submissions will be published by the Committee unless otherwise indicated.

Any queries should be directed to the Clerk at [nick.mitford@niassembly.gov.uk](mailto:nick.mitford@niassembly.gov.uk) or by telephone on 21205.