



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

01 July 2020

**PROXY VOTING**

The Speaker recently wrote to the Committee following discussions held at the Business Committee regarding options for the management of Assembly business as we begin to emerge from the 'lockdown' restrictions. During these discussions the Business Committee recognised that proxy voting was one of the range of temporary measures introduced in an effort to minimise risk to Members and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic, and that Standing Order 112 making provision for it only remains in place until 30 September.

Given that the Business Committee considers there is merit in retaining proxy voting in circumstances where Members cannot be physically present in the Chamber but are not otherwise prevented from casting their vote, it agreed to write to the Committee to suggest that it considers the instances in which proxy voting could be retained on a more permanent basis, and how this might be reflected in Standing Orders.

The Committee has subsequently agreed to write to all parties and independent Members to seek their views on proxy voting and the instances in which it could be retained more permanently. I would be grateful if you could provide your views by 17 July 2020.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Linda Dillon', written in a cursive style.

Linda Dillon MLA  
**Chairperson, Committee on Procedures**