



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**Committee on Procedures  
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The Speaker  
Office of the Speaker  
Room 39, Parliament Buildings  
Stormont  
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1 July 2020

Dear Alex,

**PROXY VOTING**

Thank you for your letter of 29 May 2020 which suggested that the Committee on Procedures 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 subsequently agreed that it will consider proxy voting as part of its ongoing review of Standing Orders and has agreed to take some initial steps in its review.

Firstly, the Committee will write to all parties and Independent Members to seek their views on the current provisions for proxy voting.

Secondly, given that pilot schemes may already be underway in other jurisdictions, the Committee has agreed to write to its counterparts in other local legislatures seeking views and practices on proxy voting.

Lastly, the Committee will commission research on the use of digital means for plenaries and committees in other legislatures which will include remote voting.

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

Your sincerely,

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