



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

**Committee on Procedures
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The Speaker
Office of the Speaker
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24 May 2021

Dear Alex,

PROXY VOTING UPDATE

Thank you for your letter of 11 May which provided the Committee with your views regarding the potential inclusion of unforeseen circumstances in the scope of the Committee's review of proxy voting.

The Committee considered your letter at its meeting on 19 May 2021 and noted your concerns regarding the issues, risks and the potential for abuse if unforeseen circumstances was to be included in any proposed change to the proxy voting arrangements.

The Committee also considered responses from political parties which provide a range of different views on this issue and on proxy voting as a whole. Therefore, I wish to assure you that the Committee will give further serious consideration to all the issues raised and will approach cautiously when considering its options and prior to making any decisions.

Furthermore, the Committee also noted the separate issue you raised regarding electronic voting in the context of the Committee potentially looking at a broader reform of the voting arrangements in place in the Assembly. The Committee will consider this issue at a future meeting when considering its work programme for the remainder of the mandate and in order to establish whether this area of work could be factored in.

I hope you find this update helpful and I will write to you again on the outcome of the Committee's deliberations.

Yours sincerely,

Carál Ní Chuilín

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Chairperson, Committee on Procedures