



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Nick Mitford
Clerk to the Committee on
Procedures
Northern Ireland Assembly

Clerks
Room CG.07
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

By email

Tel (Clerk): 0131 348 5239
e-mail: sppacommittee@parliament.scot

1st July, 2020

Dear Nick,

Proxy voting

Thank you for your letter of 25 June in which you seek information on the views and practices of other legislatures in relation to proxy voting.

No scheme to allow proxy voting has been introduced in the Scottish Parliament in the context of the current public health response to the Novel coronavirus COVID-19. Instead, the Chamber of the Scottish Parliament has continued to meet (including in a hybrid format) and virtual question times have been held. In addition, the potential for digital voting is currently being explored.

The Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee first considered the possibility of introducing a proxy voting scheme in response to a letter from an MSP in early 2019. It agreed to await the outcome of a review of the pilot scheme in the House of Commons on proxy voting in order to determine what lessons could be learned about how proxy voting had worked in practice and whether these might be applicable to the Scottish Parliament. In March 2020, the Committee agreed to consult MSPs on whether proxy voting should be introduced in the Scottish Parliament and will return to this issue after the summer recess.

If you would find it helpful to be updated on any further developments in relation to proxy voting at the Scottish Parliament, please let me know.

Kind regards,

Katy Orr

Clerk to the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee