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Dear Kathryn

### **MENTAL CAPACITY BILL – ESTIMATED COSTS**

Further to the evidence session on 2 November, the Department of Justice has obtained further information in respect of the estimated training costs for the Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) associated with the Bill.

NIPS colleagues have clarified that the current estimates cover all operational staff, including Prisoner Escort and Courts Custody Service staff; non- operational staff are not included. No contingency has been built in for backfilling, the training will be absorbed as part of the non-effective allowance set aside for training operational staff on a yearly basis. This means that a certain number of days are available annually when staff can be trained, and this is how training pressures are managed without having access to staff that can backfill in real terms.

I hope that this information is helpful. The Bill Team is happy to consider any further queries the Committee may have.

Yours sincerely,

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