



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Clerk to the Assembly/Director General
Parliament Buildings, Ballymiscaw, Stormont

Belfast BT4 3XX

Tel: +44 (0)28 9052 1199

Fax: +44 (0)28 9052 1960

email: trevor.reaney@niassembly.gov.uk

John Simmons
Clerk
Assembly and Executive Review Committee
Room 375
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Belfast
BT4 3XX

15 March 2012

Dear Mr Simmons

Please find attached a response to the Committee's request that I make a submission to the Committee's review of the Size of the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Number of Northern Ireland Departments.

Decisions in relation to the size and structure of the Assembly are for politicians to make as part of the democratic process. In this submission I have therefore sought to reflect on the issues that would seem to be within my remit as Clerk to the Assembly in serving and supporting the Assembly in its role of representing the interests of the electorate, making effective legislation, and influencing the Executive and holding it to account.

I remain convinced that even during these challenging times the Assembly Commission's vision of being at the forefront of providing outstanding and progressive parliamentary services can be realised. I trust that my evidence to the Committee will be of assistance in considering how to address the challenges posed by institutional reform.

Yours sincerely

Trevor Reaney
Clerk/Director General