

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

Diane Dodds MLA



**From: Diane Dodds
Minister for the Economy**

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Date: 10 May 2021

**To: Dr Caoimhe Archibald MLA
Chairperson of the Committee for the Economy**

Ref: PARENTAL BEREAVEMENT LEAVE AND PAY BILL

Dear Caoimhe

I am pleased to inform you that I intend to seek agreement from Executive colleagues for the introduction of the Parental Bereavement Leave and Pay Bill to the Assembly and will shortly be presenting an Executive Paper to this effect.

Please find enclosed, **in confidence**, an advance copy of the Parental Bereavement Leave and Pay Bill and accompanying Explanatory and Financial Memorandum.

Legislative Requirements

As you will appreciate, introducing and progressing primary legislation through the Assembly is a lengthy process. If we are to complete the passage of legislation in the current Assembly mandate, then progress needs to be swift. I am hopeful, with the continued support of the Committee and Executive colleagues, that the Bill can complete its passage and become law before the end of the current mandate.

The introduction of statutory parental bereavement leave and pay requires the development of both primary and subordinate legislation. The statutory regulations required to give effect to the provisions in the primary legislation will require a further 3 months approximately.

Next steps

Should the Committee wish, officials in my department are available for briefing prior to Bill introduction. Officials will remain available to the Committee for briefing or any other purpose following introduction and throughout the passage of the Bill.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Diane Dodds'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

**Diane Dodds MLA
Minister for the Economy**