

Dear Members of Committee

I refer to the proposed bill:

**Functioning of Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill.**

I understand the above Bill is sponsored by Mr Jim Allister QC MLA and is schedule to ultimately come before the full Assembly for debate.

I note from your website that the said Mr Allister gave a preliminary briefing to you as a Committee when he highlighted the objectives of the Bill.

Having read the same as tabulated I felt compelled to express my interest and comment on the aforementioned.

If there ever was any doubt about the imperative need to pass such a Bill then this was completely erased at point of the delivery of RHI inquiry report delivered recently by retired judge Sir Patrick Coghlin.

This 656-page report paid for by the tax payer (final costs yet to be established) highlights how extremely poor government control led to the ultimate collapse of the Executive. The mismanagement is referred to on countless occasions within the report and was the practise at innumerable levels, from First Minister down.

In addition to the above we have the ‘‘Burned’’ narrative by Political journalist Sam McBride who again illuminates the disfunctionality of the whole assembly from its inception to date, the appointment and control of spades, important meetings held with no minutes taken to name but two of the long list of disgraceful practises that were exposed throughout the duration of the above inquiry. Accountability was absent at many levels.

One could further elaborate of why there ought to be such a Bill passed as that proposed, suffice it is to say that Mr Allister has drawn together what I, and many others would consider to be the basic objectives that would deter such future practises.

If this Bill does not enjoy the support of elected members then I have no doubt that the electoral of Northern Ireland will draw their own deductions, and will ask piercing questions from their respective MLA’s.

**IF YOU AS A COMMITTEE, AND YOUR FELLOW MEMBERS ARE SERIOUS IN DESIRING TO ADDRESS THE BAD PRACTISES OF THE PAST, AND ESTABLISHING GOVERNANCE CREDIBILITY THEN THE PASSING OF THIS BILL SHOULD BE SEEN AS THE TURNING POINT.**

Thank you in anticipation of your accepting the validity of my submission.