

From the Minister of Finance

Dr Steve Aiken OBE MLA Chairperson to the Committee for Finance
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BELFAST

Dear Steve

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FISCAL COUNCIL/FISCAL COMMISSION PROGRESS

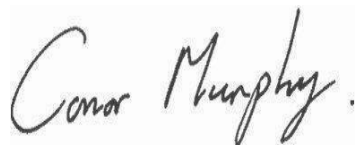
Thank you for your correspondence of 4 June 2021 regarding the Fiscal Council and Fiscal Commission. Specifically, at its meeting of 2 June 2021, the Committee agreed to seek an update on the work of the Fiscal Council and Commission. The Committee is also seeking an update on the progress of the relevant legislation in relation to the Fiscal Council.

As both the Fiscal Council and Fiscal Commission have been established as independent bodies, I would suggest that update requests regarding their work are sought directly from each. I know my officials have already provided the Committee Clerk with relevant contact details and I understand that the Chair and members of the Fiscal Council provided a written briefing and oral evidence on their work to date to the Committee on Wednesday 9 June 2021.

In terms of legislation, my Department is currently considering the options available regarding the approach and a possible legislative timetable to put the Fiscal Council on a statutory footing, including what could be feasibly achieved in the current mandate. The Department welcomes the willingness

expressed by you, as Chair of the Committee for Finance, to consider this also and officials will engage with the Committee Clerk on this matter.

Is mise le meas

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Conor Murphy." The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

CONOR MURPHY MLA MINISTER OF FINANCE