

Colm Gildernew MLA
Chair
Committee for Health
NI Assembly

By Email: Committee.Health@niassembly.gov.uk

20/01/22

Dear Colm

Re: Adoption and Children Bill

I am aware that Speaker Maskey has recently written to MLAs highlighting the legislative pressures facing the Assembly before the end of the current mandate. I also recognise the workload of the Committee for Health is significant. However, on behalf of my Association's members, I am compelled to highlight the importance of ensuring the Adoption and Children Bill is afforded priority to progress through Committee stage. It is vital that the Bill is enabled to return to the Assembly to complete its passage before the end of the legislative mandate.

The provisions of the Bill will deliver greatly needed and much overdue reform. It is vital that the draft legislation does not falter at this stage—the best interests of children within the care system and adoptive families depend on it.

Yours sincerely



CAROLYN EWART
National Director, BASW Northern Ireland