

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER



Minister's Office Block B,
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Ballymiscaw
Belfast
BT4 3SG
Tel: 028 9076 5725
DOJ.AssemblySection@justice-ni.gov.uk

Cárál Ní Chuilín, MLA
Chairperson
Committee on Procedures
Room 247
Parliament Buildings
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3XX

7 January 2022

Dear Cárál,

COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILL (PMBS)

Thank you for your correspondence dated 17 December 2021 regarding an Inquiry into the current procedures and support for Private Members' Bills offered by the Assembly and for the opportunity to offer comment.

I wish to make the following points as a Minister, having observed the Private Members Bills process from both inside and outside the Executive. These should be taken alongside those made in the Alliance Party submission to this Inquiry.

- Thought should be given as to how Departments and individual MLAs might be able to work together on PMBs where a Minister is in favour of the intent of a proposed Bill, but does not have a legislative vehicle or adequate time to draft provisions themselves;
- Training should be given to MLAs at the start of each mandate on the key differences between primary and secondary legislation. Whilst this issue extends beyond PMBs and into the wider Assembly and Executive legislative processes, it would benefit members to understand the appropriate level at which the changes

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER



Department of
Justice

An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt

Máinnystrie O tha Laa

www.justice-ni.gov.uk

they are seeking should be achieved and would facilitate consistency of approach across Executive and Assembly business.

I hope this response is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

**NAOMI LONG MLA
MINISTER OF JUSTICE**