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**From:** Shauna Mageean, Senior Assistant Clerk to the Ad Hoc Committee on the Public Services Ombudsperson Bill

**Date:** 10 September 2015

**To:** Peter McCallion, Clerk to the Committee for Education

**Subject:** Single Redress Mechanism for parents dissatisfied with Special Educational Need Statements

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Peter

At its meeting of 8 September 2015, the Ad Hoc Committee considered your memo of 2 July 2015 regarding the extent of the proposed powers for the NI Public Service Ombudsperson in the NIPSO Bill in respect of a single redress mechanism for parents who are dissatisfied with Special Educational Need statements and pre-statement school-based support.

The Bill Team clarified to the Ad Hoc Committee that where a person has recourse to an existing mechanism for resolution of complaints such as a tribunal, that is the course of action which the Ombudsperson would expect the complainant to take. I would refer you to Clause 24 of the [draft Bill](#) which will provide clarity on this issue.

The Ad Hoc Committee was content with this response.

Regards

**Shauna Mageean**



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**To: Claire McCanny  
NIPSO Bill Adhoc Committee**

**From: Peter McCallion  
Clerk to the Committee for Education**

**Date: 2 July 2015**

**Subject: SEN Redress and the NIPSO**

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At its meeting on Wednesday 1 July 2015, the Committee for Education was briefed by the Department of Education as part of the Committee Stage of the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Bill.

The Committee noted that there are a number of differing avenues for complaint and redress in respect of the health and education aspects of a statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) and in respect of pre-statement support provided by schools. The Committee heard evidence that the absence of a single redress route sometimes leads to confusion and frustration among parents who are dissatisfied with SEN support.

The Committee agreed to write to the Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsperson (NIPSO) Adhoc Committee seeking its views on the extent of the proposed powers for the NI Public Service Ombudsperson in the NIPSO Bill in respect of a single redress mechanism for parents who are dissatisfied with Special Educational Need statements and pre-statement school-based support.

A response by mid-September 2015 would be greatly appreciated.

If you require further explanation, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Peter

**Peter McCallion**  
**Committee Clerk**