

Mrs Cathie White
Clerk to the Committee
Committee for Employment and Learning
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3XX

Adelaide House
39-49 Adelaide Street
BELFAST
BT2 8FD

Tel: 028 9025 7836
Email:

Our Ref: COR/1450/15

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Dear Cathie,

At the Committee meeting on 2 December 2015, an issue was raised regarding Clause 17 of the Employment Bill which relates to careers guidance. It was suggested that consideration should be given to strengthening the Department's commitment to making regulations dealing with careers guidance.

Assuming the Bill is passed, the clause as currently drafted will introduce into the Employment and Training Act 1950 (the Act) a power to make regulations which will place a duty on the Department to make arrangements in relation to careers guidance in pursuit of its activities under Section 1 of the Act.

Given the delay in progressing the Bill, there is now a significant risk that there will not be sufficient time during the lifetime of this Assembly to make the regulations. The Minister has considered the view expressed at Committee and agrees that, in this context, there would indeed be merit in requiring this Department (or its successor) to make the proposed regulations by changing the wording in the Bill to 'shall'.

We understand that doing so would require only a technical amendment to the Employment Bill, and we now intend to put plans in place for the amendment to be brought forward at the Consideration Stage of the Bill.

Yours sincerely

FIONA STANLEY
Departmental Assembly Liaison Officer