



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

**COMMITTEE FOR FINANCE AND PERSONNEL**

Mr Sammy Wilson MP MLA  
Minister of Finance and Personnel  
Craigantlet Buildings  
Stoney Road  
BELFAST  
BT4 3SX

28 March 2012

Dear Sammy

**NICS Equal Pay Settlement**

Thank you for your correspondence of 23 March 2012 in response to the Committee's queries on the equal pay settlement set out in my letter of 20 January. This was considered at the meeting on 27 March, when disappointment was expressed at the responses to the issues raised by the Committee.

You have indicated that the pending court cases regarding the exclusion of secondees to the NIO and the PSNI will be "robustly defended" by DFP. The Committee requests clarification of whether the Department would also intend to defend any cases brought to court by the retirees in light of the Abdulla v Birmingham City Council ruling, which appears to confirm a six-year timeframe for such claims.

The Committee has also asked if you could provide an indication of when you anticipate you may reach a position on the robustness of the estimated costs of extending the settlement to other groups. I would question how the Department can properly assess the business case for defensive legal action if the costs of addressing the anomalies have not yet been established.

I would be grateful for a response by 13 April 2012.

Yours sincerely

PP  
**Conor Murphy MP MLA**  
**Chairperson**

**Conchúr MacMhurchaidh FP CTR**  
**Cathaoirleach**