

COMMITTEE FOR FINANCE AND PERSONNEL

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

31 May 2012

Dear Sammy

NICS Equal Pay Settlement

You will be aware that, for some time, the Committee for Finance and Personnel has been considering the residual issues that have arisen from the 2009 NICS equal pay settlement. The Committee has taken extensive oral evidence and received written submissions from a range of stakeholders, including both organisations and individuals. Legal advice was obtained on the potential impact that a Supreme Court decision on the *Abdulla v Birmingham City Council* case could have here. Additionally, from your Department's correspondence of 29 May, members noted the position in respect of the £26 million that has been ring-fenced for DoJ/PSNI equal pay claims; in particular, the fact that this may no longer be available from the Treasury if it is not used for that purpose in this financial year.

At its meeting on 30 May 2012, the Committee concluded that the case has been well made for the Executive to address the grievances of NICS retirees, NIO secondees and PSNI/RUC secondees and support staff arising from the 2009 NICS equal pay settlement. As such, the Committee calls on you to recommend that the equal pay settlement is extended to cover these cases, with the knowledge that a settlement of these grievances would also reduce the risk of further litigation and avoid additional legal costs for the Executive. In addition, the Committee believes that steps need to be taken to ensure that, in future, NICS staff are clear on all the potential implications of secondment before making any decisions in this regard.

The Committee agreed that I write to you to convey this position. I would be grateful for a response by 18 June 2012.

Yours sincerely

Conor Murphy MP MLA
Chairperson

Conchúr MacMhurchaidh FP CTR
Cathaoirleach