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Mr Shane McAteer
Clerk
Committee for Finance and Personnel
Room 419
Parliament Buildings
Stormont

25 May 2012

Dear Shane,

LEGISLATIVE CONSENT MOTION: THE SUPPLY OF INFORMATION FROM HM REVENUE AND CUSTOMS FOR RATES PURPOSES

Further to the letter issued to the Committee on 17 May 2012, I am writing to update the Committee on developments since that letter.

The Department has now received the latest draft of the NI Clause in House of Lords format. This is attached for the Committee's reference at **Annex A**. I would appreciate it if this could be treated in confidence given that the clause has not been formally tabled at Westminster.

If there are any further adjustments to the draft clause the Department will provide these to the Committee upon receipt. We do not however envisage any further substantive changes at this stage in respect of the core provision or its effects.

As the Committee may be aware neither the Legislative Consent Memorandum (nor the Motion in due course) would normally be laid procedurally until after the clause has been actually tabled in the Lords.

Given the tight timescales that will occur due to Assembly recess in July, there may be a need to sequence events quite closely to facilitate the laying of the Legislative Consent Memorandum and then the Legislative Consent Motion in due course. I will arrange for close contact to be kept with the Committee so as to facilitate its engagement on this matter. A copy of the latest draft of the Legislative Consent Memorandum, which now includes what is expected to be the final text for the Motion is attached for reference at **Annex B**.

In terms of forward timescales, we have been advised that the amendments introducing the Northern Ireland provisions will be tabled after second reading in the House of Lords.

Second Reading Stage is scheduled to commence on 12 June. I attach the link which details the Bills progress below:-

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2012-13/localgovernmentfinance.html>

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Norman", followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that extends to the right.

NORMAN IRWIN