

Ms Christine Darrah
Clerk to the Committee for Justice
Room 242
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3XX

15th April 2014

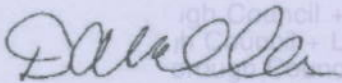
Dear Ms Darrah,

Re: Legal Aid and Coroners' Courts Bill

Thank you for your letter dated 4th April 2014 inviting a representative of the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) to give evidence to the Committee for Justice regarding the Legal Aid and Coroners' Courts Bill. We regret that we are currently unable to assist the Committee in this regard. Local Government is currently undergoing a protracted period of Reform and Transformation which affects our ability to give due consideration to wider issues. This Bill does not fall within the areas of focus that NILGA is currently involved in. On this basis we consider that our contribution to this Call for Evidence may not provide any added value at this time.

However, NILGA is keen to work with the Committee on other issues that more directly relate to the work of councils, and in particular the developing policy on Police, Community and Safety Partnerships arrangements. I trust that the Committee will be satisfied that our input should be one with focus, on issues where we can provide more valuable assistance. If you should have any queries in relation to this response, please do not hesitate to contact Karen Smyth (k.smyth@nilga.org) at the NILGA offices.

Yours sincerely,



Derek McCallan
Chief Executive