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COMMITTEE FOR

16 FEB 2012

JUSTICE

Ref:JA/SM/Justice/5295

Clerk to the Committee for Justice
Department of Justice
Block B
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast
BT4 3SG

14 February 2012

Dear Ms Darrah,

Thank you for your letter of 3rd February seeking views relevant to your committee's review of the arrangements for the appointment and removal of judicial office holders.

The TUV position is that the changes made by the 2009 Act should remain undisturbed, save that the function of overseeing NIJAC's governance and finance should be passed from OFMDFM to the Department of Justice, in that this is the natural home for these powers.

There should be no question of reviving the framework anticipated in the Review of 2000 and reflected in the 2002 Act, as amended by the 2004 Act, whereby the dysfunctional and highly politicised office of OFMDFM would be empowered to meddle in judicial affairs, including appointments and removals. To this we remain unalterably opposed.

Yours sincerely,

James H Allister QC MLA