

**Kathy O'Hanlon
Clerk
Committee for OFMDFM
Room 346
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont
BELFAST
BT4 3XX**

01 March 2016

Dear Kathy

CONTINUATION OF NORTHERN IRELAND TASK FORCE

Thank you for your letter of 29 January 2016 in which you requested more information on the continuation of the Task Force and the proposed assessment from OFMDFM.

Following the recent announcement of the continuation of the Task Force by Commissioner Corina Crețu, officials have been engaging with the European Commission in regard to the refreshed composition of a continued Task Force arrangement to seek to ensure as far as possible that it will align well with new Executive priorities and related arrangements going forward.

It is expected that these arrangements will include a significant focus on Programme for Government outcomes and the need for evaluation of the Task Force in 2018 to ensure that the most was being made of the opportunity that the Task Force represents.

Once the detailed composition and role of the Task Force have been agreed, it is intended that the Committee will be briefed further on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Signed Colette Kerr

**Colette Kerr
Departmental Assembly Liaison Officer**