

# The Speaker



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

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**Mr Mitchel McLaughlin MLA  
Principal Deputy Speaker  
Room 38  
Parliament Blds**

**18 September 2014**

Dear Mitchel,

## **AUTHORISATION TO EXERCISE FUNCTIONS**

In accordance with my message conveyed to Robin Ramsey, Adviser to the Speaker/ Head of the Office of the Speaker on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2014, I confirm that under Standing Order 5 (2) I wish to notify you that during my current absence due to ill health, I authorise you as Principal Deputy Speaker to exercise all procedural functions on my behalf in relation to proceedings of the Assembly.

This includes decisions on Matters of the Day and Urgent Questions, the selection of amendments, the consideration of requests to introduce legislation, resolving Points of Order on disputes between Members which may be referred to the Office and making rulings on any novel issues which cannot be resolved by existing provisions and rulings.

Furthermore, I authorise you to oversee the management of engagements relating to the representational role of the Office of the Speaker which should be undertaken between you and the two Deputy Speakers in line with our normal practice.

Once I return to exercising the functions of the Office of the Speaker I will rescind this notice.

Yours sincerely,

**WILLIAM HAY MLA**