

**VIA EMAIL**

Mr Colm Gildernew MLA  
Chairperson  
The Committee for Communities  
Northern Ireland Assembly  
Parliament Buildings  
Belfast  
BT4 3XX

**Ref: 26-MO-CQ-012**

28 January 2026

Dear Colm,

**Re: Legislative Consent Memorandum (LCM) relating to the Universal Credit (Removal of Two Child Limit) Bill**

Thank you for inviting me to provide evidence to the Committee for Communities in relation to the above LCM, on the specific clauses that relate to Northern Ireland.

I have strongly advocated for the Two Child Limit to be removed due to the detrimental impact on children in low-income households. In 2023 the *End Child Poverty Coalition* estimated that around one in ten children in Northern Ireland was affected detrimentally by the Two Child Limit, equating to around 45,000 children.<sup>1</sup> In 2023-4 this amounted to a loss of up to £3,235 per child, a large amount for families on low incomes. I subsequently provided advice in support of the Assembly motion of 16 April 2024, which focussed on the need to remove the Two Child Limit, and was carried with the support of all parties.

When consulted by the UK Child Poverty Taskforce, NICCY advised that the most significant action that the UK Child Poverty Strategy could include for children in poverty in NI would be to remove the Two Child Limit, with the understanding that this should automatically be applied in NI. I welcomed the announcement in September 2025 that the Task Force had agreed that the Two Child Limit should be removed, and then the subsequent inclusion of this in the Autumn budget in November 2025.

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<sup>1</sup> End Child Poverty Coalition (2023), 'Every Parliamentary Constituency is now blighted by the impact of the two-child limit'. [MP-briefing.pdf](#)

This document and any attachments are intended for the addressee only.

**Chris Quinn**  
Commissioner

**Northern Ireland  
Commissioner  
for Children and  
Young People**

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This legislation delivers on these important commitments, and I agree with the Department's statement that if equivalent provisions are not in place here at the same time as in GB, there could be adverse effects on the citizens – specifically the children - of NI. On this basis I advise the Assembly to consent to an LCM for the limited specified measures in the Bill to apply in NI.

Yours sincerely



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**Chris Quinn**  
**Commissioner**

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