

Mr Peter Hall
Finance Committee Clerk
Northern Ireland Assembly
Parliament Buildings
Stormont
Belfast BT4 3XX

Private Office
2nd Floor
Clare House
303 Airport Road West
BELFAST
BT3 9ED
Tel: 028 9081 6338
Email: private.office@finance-ni.gov.uk

Our reference: *SUB-0437-2025*

Date: *08 September 2025*

Dear Peter

CYBER SECURITY AND RESILIENCE (NETWORK AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS) BILL

The Department of Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) has developed a Cyber Security and Resilience (Network and Information Systems) Bill. Its purpose is to strengthen cyber defences and build the resilience of essential services, infrastructure and digital services. Minister Feryal Clark wrote to Minister O'Dowd on 31 March 2025 announcing publication of DSIT's policy statement on the legislative proposals and spoke with him about the Bill on 16 June 2025. The Committee was informed about this Bill via our Legislative Consent Motion Tracker issued on 3 July.

Our understanding from DSIT officials is that Minister Clark now intends to introduce the Bill to the UK Parliament on 10 September 2025.

The territorial extent of the Bill is UK-wide. The new legislation will: alter the executive functions of the Department of Finance in its role as a designated competent authority under the Network and Information Systems Regulations 2018; delegate powers to the Secretary of State (for example, to make secondary legislation and to exercise powers of direction); and introduce various measures that will have an impact on the devolved administrations. Officials are reviewing DSIT's devolution analysis, which was received on 10 July, and have sought legal advice. DSIT is also preparing a Windsor Framework analysis, which at the time of writing remains outstanding.

Legislative consent to the Bill proposals will be required and the Department will keep the Committee updated.

Yours sincerely

CLAIRE TAYLOR
DEPARTMENTAL ASSEMBLY LIAISON OFFICER