

## FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH



Mr Philip McGuigan  
Chair  
Committee for Health

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Our Ref: SUB-0094-2026

Date: 16 February 2026

Dear

*Philip*

Further to my letter of 12 February 2026, regarding the Legislative Consent Motion (LCM) for the Medical Training (Prioritisation) Bill, I writing to formally apologise to the Committee for the reduced scrutiny time afforded to members, I fully appreciate that ordinarily the Committee should have 15 business days in which to report.

The Bill was laid in the House of Commons on 13 January, at which point I sought clearance from the Executive Office to proceed via Urgent Procedures, negating the need to await a full Executive meeting, to forestall any further delay. Unfortunately, approval was not received, and I therefore had to table the request at the Executive meeting of 12 February. This was the same day that the Bill was due for Committee consideration in the House of Lords.

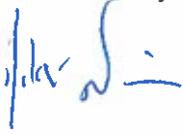
It is anticipated that the Bill will receive Royal Assent in the first week of March, the Assembly Business Office have scheduled a debate on the LCM for 24 February.

Again, I would like to extend my apologies to Committee members for the very short time afforded, the nature of the emergency legislation procedures at Westminster, coupled with the unfortunate delay in receiving approval to progress the LCM have hindered my Department's ability to fully engage at an earlier stage.

I, and my Officials, remain respectful, and grateful, for the valuable work the Committee

does in holding my Department accountable.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Nesbitt".

**Mike Nesbitt MLA**  
**Minister of Health**