



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

**Committee for Finance
Room 382
Parliament Buildings**

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From: Peter Hall, Clerk to the Committee for Finance
Date: 17th November 2025
To: Michael Potter, Clerk to the Committee for Infrastructure
Subject: Water, Sustainable Drainage and Flood Management Bill

Dear Michael,

At its meeting on 12th November 2025, the Committee discussed a response from the Department of Finance regarding its locus with respect to above the Bill.

The Department's response can be found at Annex A below.

The Committee agreed that it is supportive of the Bill's provisions, as long as there is sufficient budget for their effective implementation.

You will want to bring this to the attention of your Committee.

Regards,

**Peter Hall
Clerk to the Committee for Finance**

**REQUEST FROM: FINANCE COMMITTEE – DALO READOUT - MEETING
WEDNESDAY 22nd October 2025**

Point 07 – Water, Sustainable Drainage and Flood Management Bill Members would ask the Department of Finance if it has any policy locus within the provisions of the Bill.

Response –

Building Regulations

- The Department of Finance has responsibility for the building regulations, which provide for the drainage of rainwater from buildings - at the property itself.
- Given the inter-connected nature of drainage, future developments to support sustainable drainage systems will benefit from engagement and collaboration with the Department, most particularly when secondary legislation is being developed.

Flood Rates Relief

- The Department was involved in the provision of emergency rate support to businesses affected by flooding in November 2023 and is supportive of any steps that can be taken through this Bill that would help manage causal factors of flood risk, where possible.

Budget

- As part of the Budget 2026-29 information gathering exercise, the Department of Finance invited bids from departments in relation to requirements over the next multi-year budget period, to inform the Executive's consideration of future years budgets. This exercise would have allowed DfI to bid for any funding requirements they have in relation to the Water, Sustainable Drainage and Flood Management Bill.

Funding for DfI Urban Drainage proposal

- The Executive has already been able to support work in this regard through the Transformation Fund, in which the Finance Minister announced £15 million in March for DfI's Urban Drainage proposal to run a pilot project to help transform the way in which rainwater is managed in our towns and cities.