



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Colum Boyle
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Department for Communities

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27 January 2025

Dear Colum

At its meeting on 23 January 2025, the Committee considered and reviewed the Memorandum of Reply (MOR) on Child Poverty in Northern Ireland dated 19 December 2024 outlining your Department's response to the recommendations contained within the Committee's recent report. Members would like to recognise the reassurance provided by the Departments' response.

We note that the majority of recommendations are due for implementation by March 2025, therefore we would like to invite you to attend the Public Accounts Committee on 10 April 2025 at approximately 2.15pm in the Senate Chamber to provide an update to members on progress against the recommendations.

Members would also like to seek clarity in respect of Recommendation 2, which was partially accepted by the Department. Particularly the rationale behind the partial acceptance of the recommendation, and why the Department do not believe this recommendation to be achievable, given the importance of clear targets and outcomes to ensure accountability and demonstrate the effectiveness of the strategy.

I should be grateful if you would confirm your attendance as soon as possible to the email address above, and let me know the names of any officials who will be supporting you at the meeting.

Please respond by email using the address above by **10 February 2025**

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan McCrossan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Daniel McCrossan
Chairperson
Public Accounts Committee