



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

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13 March 2026

Cc: Stuart Stevenson, TOA
David Killops, DoF

Dear Emer

MEMORANDUM OF REPLY: CHILD POVERTY IN NI

Thank you for attending to brief members on the Memorandum of Reply on the Committee's inquiry into '*Child Poverty in Northern Ireland*' on 12 March 2025. Members appreciated you taking the time to respond to their questions.

Members found the additional information and explanations provided during the session helpful in clarifying aspects of the Department's work to progress the Anti-Poverty Strategy and related actions. However, the Committee noted that a significant amount of this detail had not been included in the written update provided in advance of the session. As indicated during the meeting, it would have been preferable for this information to have been set out in the Department's Memorandum of Reply update, as this would have enabled Members to consider the Department's progress more fully ahead of the evidence session.

During the discussion, the Department indicated that further work is progressing following the consultation process and associated engagement activity. In light of this, the Committee agreed that it would welcome a further written update from the Department in **three months' time** setting out progress at that stage.

In particular, the Committee requests that the update includes:

- the outcome of the consultation process on the Anti-Poverty Strategy and how consultation responses have informed the development of the Strategy;
- progress on the development of the Anti-Poverty Strategy and the expected timeline for bringing the Strategy forward for Ministerial and Executive consideration;
- further detail on the proposed governance and accountability arrangements to oversee implementation of the Strategy;
- the Department's proposed engagement strategy, including engagement with the voluntary and community sector and organisations representing those with lived experience of poverty; and
- any relevant action plans or supporting documentation outlining departmental and cross-departmental responsibilities for delivery.

Please respond by email using the address above by **Friday, 12 June 2026**.

Yours sincerely,

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

Daniel McCrossan
Chairperson
Public Accounts Committee