



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Trása Canavan
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16 February 2026

Dear Trása

MEMORANDUM OF REPLY: UPDATE ON CHILD POVERTY IN NI

At its meeting on 12 February 2026, the Committee considered a 12 month update on the Memorandum of Reply (MOR) from the Department for Communities to the PAC Report on 'Child Poverty in Northern Ireland'.

Members expressed deep frustration and disappointment about the limited progress reported against a number of accepted recommendations and the absence of clear delivery milestones in several areas.

Given the valuable oral evidence you provided during the inquiry in June 2024, the Committee would welcome a brief written update from you on any developments since publication of the report. In particular, Members would be interested in your assessment of:

- Whether tangible progress has been made in practice;
- Whether engagement with the voluntary and community sector has improved;
- Any continuing barriers to implementation.

The Committee remains committed to ensuring that stakeholder evidence translates into meaningful action.

Please respond by email using the address above by **Friday, 27th February 2026**.

Thank you again for your continued engagement.

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