



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Grainia Long
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1 May 2026

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Cc: Stuart Stevenson, TOA

Dear Grainia

MEMORANDUM OF REPLY: HOMELESSNESS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

At its meeting on 30 April 2026, the Committee considered the Department's update on the Memorandum of Reply dated 27 April 2026 on the PAC report on 'Homelessness in Northern Ireland'.

Members would like to invite you to the PAC meeting on 21 May 2026 to provide further clarity around the MOR, specifically around recommendation 8. This will be conducted in closed session due to the information requested being considered commercially sensitive.

The private session will give you an opportunity to brief members around this and to provide a broader explanation on why this has been partially accepted.

Prior to this, the Committee would like to seek further clarification in writing on

the following issues:

- **Recommendation 2:** Members expressed concern at the apparent lack of urgency in the response to this recommendation, with an options paper rather than firm proposals planned for February 2027 and any action being subject to the identification and allocation of additional resources to take any work forward.

The proposed timeline would effectively rule out any proposed changes to legislation within this mandate. Members have requested further information on the proposals the Department intends to bring to the Minister, and an anticipated timeline for the implementation of any resultant changes.

- **Recommendation 10:** Members are concerned that the consultation on the 'Right To Buy' scheme is based on changes to the scheme and does not consult on the potential ending of the scheme, therefore precluding the outcome of the consultation.

The Committee would request that an explanation be provided of the decision not to include closure of the scheme given the consultation had not launched at the time of the MOR being provided.

The Committee would request a further update in 6 months' time on all ten recommendations.

If you could advise as soon as possible by email that the above date suits you and any supporting officials.

Please respond to the email address above by **Friday, 15th May 2026** providing names of any officials supporting you and the further requested information.

Yours sincerely



Daniel McCrossan
Chairperson
Public Accounts Committee

