



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

## **Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister**

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**From:** Kathy O'Hanlon/Alyn Hicks  
**Date:** 26 June 2015  
**To:** Shauna Mageean  
Senior Assistant Clerk  
Ad Hoc Committee on the Public Services Ombudsperson Bill  
**Subject:** **Public Services Ombudsperson Bill**

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### **Complaints Standards Authority**

I refer to Paragraph (m)) of my memo of 4 June 2015.

At its meeting on 24 June 2015 the Committee considered the Ombudsman's views in relation to establishing the NIPSO as a Complaints Standards Authority on foot of the submission of the Scottish Ombudsman to the Ad Hoc Committee.

The Committee agreed to consider further the possibility of an amendment to the NIPSO Bill on this point and will be briefed on the approach taken in the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002 at its meeting on 1 July 2015.

### **Submission of the Audit Committee on the NIPSO Bill**

I refer to this submission which the Committee considered on 24 June 2015. The Committee noted in particular the points made at paragraphs 8-9 of the Submission and the potential for similar issues to arise in relation to the use of the same mechanism. However, the Committee does not propose to bring any amendment in this regard.

The Committee also considered the point raised in paragraph 16 of the Submission and discussed adopting this approach. However, the Committee considered that should the Commission use the power in Schedule 1, paragraph 6 to make an order by negative resolution reducing the salary of the NIPSO then the matter could be brought to the floor of the Assembly for debate by a Member of the Assembly praying against the order. The Committee considered that this was a sufficient safeguard.

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