



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**Committee for Justice  
Room 242**

**Parliament Buildings**

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**From: Christine Darrah  
Clerk to the Committee for Justice**

**Date: 6 July 2015**

**To: Claire McCanny  
Senior Assistant Clerk  
Ad Hoc Committee on Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsperson  
Bill**

**cc Paul Gill  
Clerk**

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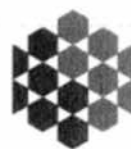
At a recent meeting the Committee for Justice considered a response from the Department of Justice in relation to the justice aspects of the Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsperson (NIPSO) Bill.

The Committee agreed to forward a copy of the response, which is attached, to the Ad Hoc Committee for information and consideration.

**Christine Darrah  
Clerk to the Committee for Justice**

**Enc.**

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER



Department of  
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Our ref SUB/713/2015

Christine Darrah  
Clerk to the Committee for Justice  
Northern Ireland Assembly  
Parliament Buildings  
BELFAST  
BT4 3XX

4 June 2015

Dear Christine,

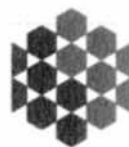
**NORTHERN IRELAND PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSPERSON (NIPSO)  
BILL**

Thank you for your letter of 29 May 2015 seeking the Department's views/comments about the above.

The Department is content that the Bill contains provisions relating to the combination of the functions of the Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Ombudsman (NIJAO), for which we are responsible, with those of the proposed new Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsperson (NIPSO). These provisions were included at the Department's request and with the support of the Committee.

We also understand that the Chair of the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister intends to propose amendments to these provisions in relation to the funding of the NIJAO function and the termination of the current incumbency. The Department is also content with these amendments.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER



Department of  
**Justice**  
[www.dojni.gov.uk](http://www.dojni.gov.uk)

Included among the listed authorities in Schedule 3 are authorities relating to policing and justice. The Department notes that this may require further consideration and subsequent amendment to ensure that the list is current. There is the potential for an additional authority to be added to the bodies listed under the policing, criminal justice and law section. The Department is currently seeking to determine if this is necessary and the Senior Assistant Assembly Clerk to the NIPSO Ad Hoc Committee has been alerted to this possibility.

**TIM LOGAN**  
**DALO**



**NORTHERN IRELAND  
ASSEMBLY  
COMMITTEE FOR JUSTICE**

Tim Logan  
DALO  
Department of Justice  
Castle Buildings  
Stormont Estate  
Belfast  
BT4 3SQ

29 May 2015

Dear Tim

**THE NORTHERN IRELAND PUBLIC SERVICE OMBUDSPERSON (NIPSO) BILL**

At its meeting on 21 May 2015, the Committee for Justice considered correspondence from the Ad Hoc Committee undertaking scrutiny of the Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsperson Bill requesting the views of the Committee on the proposed Bill. The Ad hoc Committee highlighted a number of justice related provisions within the Bill as follows:

- Schedule 3 of the Bill details the listed authorities relating to policing, criminal justice and law which will fall under the remit of the proposed new Office of the Ombudsperson;
- Part 4 of the Bill 'The Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Ombudsman' provides that: "Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsperson is, by virtue of holding that office, the Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Ombudsman"; and
- Schedule 6 provides for 'Amendments consequent upon Ombudsperson being Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Ombudsperson'.

The Committee for Justice agreed to request the views/ comments of the Department of Justice on the relevant parts of the Bill and in particular any issues regarding the provisions.

I would appreciate a response at your earliest convenience and if possible prior to the Committee meeting on Thursday 4 June given the Ad Hoc Committee is intending to complete its scrutiny of the Bill within a very short timeframe.

Yours sincerely

*Christine Darrah*

**Christine Darrah  
Clerk to the Committee for Justice**