

Claire McCanny  
Senior Assistant Assembly Clerk  
NIPSO AD Hoc Committee  
Room 276  
Parliament Buildings  
Stormont Estate  
Belfast  
BT4 3XX

10 June 2015

Dear Claire,

**The Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsperson (NIPSO) Bill**

Your letter of 12 May 2015 inviting comments on the proposed NIPSO Bill refers.

The Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister welcomes the work undertaken by the Committee for OFMDFM in bringing this Bill forward and is supportive of its policy intentions.

However, following introduction of the Bill in the Assembly, the Office of the Legislative Counsel (OLC), which has overall responsibility for the integrity of the Northern Ireland Statute Book, has completed a technical scrutiny of the Bill. The OLC critique of the Bill has since been passed to the Assembly Bill Office. The Department considers it essential that the drafting concerns and deficiencies identified in that analysis be fully addressed for the Bill to proceed further.

The Department is content for the Bill Office to make the OLC critique available to the Committee on a confidential basis. It has been agreed that officials from the Assembly Bill Office and OLC will continue to liaise on the necessary drafting changes.

I am copying this letter to the Clerk of the Committee for OFMDFM in light that Committee's interest in the Bill and so that its members are aware of the situation.

**COLETTE KERR**  
**DALO**

cc: Clerk, Committee for OFMDFM