



Office of the Ombudsman  
Oifig an Ombudsman

The Right Honourable Lord Morrow  
Chairperson  
Ad Hoc Committee on the Public Services Ombudsperson Bill  
Northern Ireland Assembly

30 June 2015

**Re: Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsperson Bill**

Dear Lord Morrow

I was very glad to have had the opportunity to meet with your Committee and hope that my participation proved useful to you in your scrutiny of the Bill. While reviewing the draft Hansard transcript of the session I had cause to reflect on my response to one of the questions and I hope you won't mind me offering some further thoughts.

The issue of procurement was raised and in my response I spoke of the fact that access to the courts is often the most appropriate way to address any concerns. However, on reflection, I wanted to add a little about the issue as it affects smaller contractors and traders. In the past, I have had occasion as an Ombudsman to consider complaints about tendering processes from smaller businesses, for whom access to the courts was either unavailable or disproportionately expensive. It is clear to me that the consideration of such complaints is indeed an appropriate role for an Ombudsman and should be possible in the context of the new legislation in Northern Ireland.

I hope these comments are of benefit to you, and would be happy to assist further if you would find that helpful.

Yours sincerely

Peter Tyndall  
Ombudsman