

Jim McManus
Clerk to the Committee for Finance
Northern Ireland Assembly
Room 373, Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont
Belfast BT4 3XX

2 April 2020

Dear Jim

FUNCTIONING OF GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL

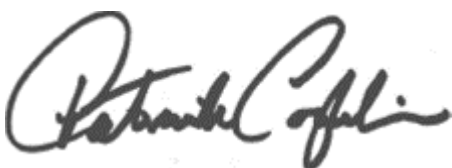
Thank you for your letter of 27 March inviting me and my colleagues, Dame Una O'Brien and Dr Keith MacLean, to comment on the draft Functioning of Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill.

We are grateful for the invitation, but feel that we should decline for the following reasons.

Since its establishment in February 2017, the RHI Inquiry has endeavoured to conduct its work fairly, independently and within its Terms of Reference. The publication of a lengthy and complex Inquiry Report on 13 March 2020 is the culmination of that work. The Report makes a series of detailed recommendations, but it also makes clear that how these recommendations are implemented in practice is a matter for the Executive and the NICS to consider and take forward.

I trust that you will appreciate that, without wishing to appear unhelpful, the Inquiry panel believes that we should let the Inquiry Report speak for itself. Therefore we do not intend to comment on the draft bill.

Yours sincerely



Patrick Coghlin
Chairman