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Jim McManus
Clerk to the Committee for Finance
Room 373, Parliament Buildings
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27 April 2020

Dear Jim

FUNCTIONING OF GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL

Thank you for your letter of 27 March 2020, inviting me to comment on the Functioning of Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill.

I note the provisions of this Bill, and the objectives and background as contained within the Explanatory and Financial Memorandum.

A fundamental element of the 'New Decade, New Approach' agreement is the provision of a transparent, effective and accountable Executive. It is important that the measures detailed within the Agreement are implemented in full in due course.

Any further measures on transparency are a matter for the Assembly and Executive.

Yours sincerely,

**THE RT HON BRANDON LEWIS CBE MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND**