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Your reference:
Our reference: *SUB-0298 2021*
Date: *30 September 2021*

Dear Peter

FINANCIAL REPORTING (DEPARTMENTS AND PUBLIC BODIES) BILL

Please find attached a proposed consequential amendment that the Minister intends to make to the Financial Reporting (Departments and Public Bodies) Bill at consideration stage.

As highlighted to the Committee by officials at a previous evidence session, this amendment will clarify that the directions on Estimates as issued by the Department of Finance will also relate to the Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman.

Whilst this was always the intention, this consequential amendment will expressly provide for Estimates direction within the Public Services Ombudsman Act (Northern Ireland) 2016.

Officials have engaged with other independent bodies which have individual Estimates and have concluded that no further amendments are required.

I hope this is helpful in the Committee's consideration of this Bill.

Yours sincerely



DEPARTMENTAL ASSEMBLY LIAISON OFFICER

Financial Reporting (Departments and Public Bodies) Bill

AMENDMENTS TO BE MOVED AT CONSIDERATION STAGE

BY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

Clause 1, Page 1, Line 3

Leave out 'follows' and insert 'mentioned in subsections (2) to (4)'

Clause 1, Page 2, Line 34

At end insert—

'(5) In consequence of subsection (2), in section 2(2) of the Public Services Ombudsman Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 (list of powers exercisable in relation to the Ombudsman), after paragraph (c) insert—

- “(d) the power of the Department of Finance under sections 8A and 8B of the Government Resources and Accounts Act (Northern Ireland) 2001 to issue directions in relation to estimates for the Ombudsman.”.