



Department for  
**Communities**  
www.communities-ni.gov.uk

**Level 9**  
**Causeway Exchange**  
**1-7 Bedford Street**  
**Belfast**  
**BT2 7EG**

Telephone: (028) 9051 2692  
e-mail: [private.office@communities-ni.gov.uk](mailto:private.office@communities-ni.gov.uk)  
Our ref: SUB 0255-2026  
Date: 25 March 2026

Colm Gildernew MLA  
Chairperson, Committee for Communities  
Room 430  
Parliament Buildings  
Belfast  
BT4 3XX

Dear Colm,

**The Social Security (Removal of Two Child Limit) (Consequential Amendments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026**

I am writing to you in accordance with paragraphs 19 and 20 of the Guidance for Departments on Delegated Legislation (SL1 Pre-Introductory Stage) (November 2025) ('the Guidance') to request that the Committee consider the SL1 for these Regulations in a shortened timeframe.

To align with the timescale for the corresponding GB Statutory Instrument (SI) being brought forward by DWP (the Social Security (Removal of Two Child Limit) (Consequential Amendments) Regulations 2026), the normal timelines and processes under the Guidance cannot be met.

The Universal Credit (Removal of Two Child Limit) Bill which will abolish the two-child limit has completed its legislative passage and received Royal Assent on 18 March 2026 and will come into force from 6 April 2026. As a result of this reform some consequential amendments are required to secondary legislation to come into operation from the same date. It was not possible to submit the proposals for Committee consideration until the Bill had been granted Royal Assent.

A draft of the corresponding NI Statutory Rule (SR) and Explanatory Memorandum are attached for your information.

I am satisfied that ensuring the orderly making of this parity legislation in line with DWP timeframes gives rise to exceptional circumstances which require deviation from the normal process and timeframes set out in the Guidance.

I would be grateful if the Committee would agree to approve the SL1 in the requested shortened timeframe in light of these exceptional circumstances.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gordon Lyons', written in a cursive style.

**GORDON LYONS MLA**

**Minister for Communities**