

Response ID [REDACTED]

Submitted to Regional Balance Bill

Submitted on [REDACTED]

Introduction

1 What is your name?

name:

[REDACTED]

2 What is your email address?

email address:

[REDACTED]

3 Are you providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business?

Yes

If yes, please provide the name of the organisation or business below:

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Please note that this response is submitted on a draft basis and remains subject to formal consideration and approval by Ards and North Down Borough Council at its meeting on 30 September 2026. As such, the Council reserves the right to amend, supplement or withdraw any part of this submission following Council consideration. Any amendments or additional comments agreed by Council will be provided to the Committee for the Economy under separate cover.

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

yes:

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Regional Balance Bill

Clause 1 - Strategic Regional Balance Framework

6 Do regional economic and related disparities need legislation in order for them to be addressed appropriately?

Yes

7 Should the obligation on the development of a Strategic Regional Balance Framework sit with the Executive?

Yes

8 Does the Bill correctly set out what should be in the Strategic Regional Balance Framework including: the roles of Departments; the mechanisms to address disparity; the criteria and methodology for assessing regional disparities; the setting of targets and milestones; the use of cross-border data; the identification of a baseline year etc.

Yes

9 Does the Bill correctly set out the consultation process for the development of the Strategic Regional Balance Framework, its publication and revision?

Yes

10 Do you have any other comments on Clause 1 or suggested amendments for this clause?

Clause 1:

No additional comments

Clause 2 - Reporting, Review and Support Functions

11 Is it reasonable and sufficient to require all Departments in developing, adopting, implementing or revising any policy, strategy or plan, to have due regard to the need to reduce regional disparity and to the Strategic Regional Balance Framework?

Yes

12 Is it reasonable and sufficient to require all Departments to exercise their functions, so far as is reasonably practicable, in a manner calculated to contribute to the outcomes and targets set in the Strategic Regional Balance Framework?

Yes

13 Do you have any other comments on Clause 2 or suggested amendments for this clause?

clause 2 :

No additional comments

Clause 3 - Annual Reporting

14 Do you agree that all Departments should be required to report annually as to how they have reduced regional disparities in the preceding 12 month period?

Yes

15 Do you have any other comments on Clause 3 or suggested amendments for this clause?

If no, please explain below:

No additional comments

Clause 4 - Annual Reporting

16 Do you agree that the Department for the Economy should be required to report annually and the Minister make a related statement as to how all Departments have reduced regional disparities in the preceding 12 month period?

Yes

17 Do you have any other comments on Clause 4 or suggested amendments for this clause?

clause 4:

No additional comments

Clause 5 - Reviewing the Framework

18 Do you agree that the operation and effectiveness of the Framework should be revised by the Executive every 5 years?

Yes

19 Do you have any other comments on Clause 5 or suggested amendments for this clause?

clause 5:

No additional comments

Clause 6 - Guidance and Research

20 Do you agree that the Department for the Economy should provide guidance and information and undertake, commission or support research on regional disparities?

Yes

21 Do you have any other comments on Clause 6 or suggested amendments for this clause?

clause 6:

No additional comments

Clause 7 - Defining regional disparity and regions

22 Do you agree with how regional disparity may be defined by the Bill?

Yes

23 Should regional disparity indices be specified in the Bill?

Yes

24 What other indices should be used to define regional disparity?

clause 7 :

No additional indices proposed at this stage

25 Do you agree with how the Bill may define a region within Northern Ireland?

Yes

26 Do you have any other comments on Clause 7 or suggested amendments for this clause?

clause 7:

No additional comments

Clause 8 - Commencement and Short Title

27 Do you agree that the provisions of this legislation should be commenced immediately after Royal Assent?

Yes

28 Do you have any other comments on Clause 8 or suggested amendments for this clause?

clause 7:

No additional comments

Proposed Additions and Amendments

29 Please provide information on any other potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

No additional comments

Additional Comments

30 Please provide any additional comments on the Bill you feel should be considered.

additional comments:

No additional comments

Almost done...

31 If you provide an email address you will be sent a receipt and a link to a PDF copy of your response.

email: