

Matthew O'Toole MLA  
Chairperson  
Committee for Finance  
Room 382, Parliament Buildings  
Stormont, Belfast  
BT4 3XX

25/RW/CQ/125

22<sup>nd</sup> August 2025

Dear Matthew,

**Re: Administrative and Financial Provisions Bill**

Thank you for your letter dated 22<sup>nd</sup> July (Ref: 2025/063) requesting my views on the Administrative and Financial Provisions Bill.

I am unable to respond in full to this consultation at this time and understand that this Bill, being largely technical in nature, has not been subject to public consultation in its entirety. My office has not been involved in the development of any of the clauses as drafted. I do recognise that some of the draft legislation does engage areas that involve children and young people namely, the power to make loan funding available to the higher education sector, and powers for the Executive Office relating to services for the integration of refugee and asylum seekers, the undertaking of activity in respect of the Strategic Framework on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls. My office has previously supplied advice to government relating to these areas of policy and strategy relating to the rights of children and young people, which must be underpinned by proper funding.

Therefore, I recommend that the Department undertake a screening, and if required, conduct a Child Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) on the relevant clauses of the Bill to ascertain any impact on children's rights that particular clauses may have. As NICCY has previously advised, a CRIA can support the systematic assessment and communication of the impact of a proposal or measure on the rights, needs and interests of children and young people. The

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process is meant to be continuous, from assessment of anticipated impact through to a review and evaluation of actual impact.

CRIAs examines the potential impacts on children and young people of laws, policies, budget decisions, programmes and services as they are being developed and, if necessary, suggests ways to avoid or mitigate any negative impacts. NICCY advises that is done prior to the decision or action being set in place, however I encourage the Department to consider this for the Bill at this stage.

My office will also do our best to respond to queries or requests for advice on undertaking CRIAs and are more than happy to issue guidance should that be required.

Yours sincerely

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**Chris Quinn**  
**Commissioner**

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**Chris Quinn**  
Commissioner

**Northern Ireland  
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for Children and  
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