

Response ID ANON-WDAT-7PXV-5

Submitted to Administrative and Financial Provisions Bill - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2025-08-19 12:04:17

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:

2 What is your email address?

Email:

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation, please state its name.

Organisation:
NI Assembly

4 Do you consent to your submission being published on the Committee's website and included in the Committee's report?

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

Clause 1: Strategic Investment Funding

5 Do you support the DoF having statutory power to lend funds for investment (in line with the Department's Investment Strategy)?

Yes

Please give details to support your answer and explain why.:

Clause 2: Economic support (DfE)

6 Do you support the DfE to be granted a power to provide financial assistance, including grants, loans, guarantees or indemnities?

Yes

Please give details to support your answer and explain why.:

Clause 3: Higher Education Funding

7 Do you support DfE having the power to provide loans to the higher education sector?

Yes

Please give details to support your answer and explain why.:

Clause 4: Support in relation to the employment and training

8 Do you support the removal of the requirement of approval from the DoF for arrangements and funding, in relation to the DfE supporting employment and training?

Yes

Please give details to support your answer and explain why.:

Clause 5: Classification or grading of tourist amenities (DfE)

9 Do you support the support Tourism NI having the legal power to operate a Visitor Experience Grading Scheme?

Yes

Please give details to support your answer and explain why.:

Clause 6: Support services for victims and survivors (TEO)

10 Do you support the TEO having the power to arrange or facilitate the provision of relevant services to an individual who is a victim and survivor of forms of abuse?

Yes

Please give details to support your answer and explain why.:

Clause 7: Asylum and immigration integration support services

11 Do you support TEO having the power to arrange or facilitate the provision of relevant services for Asylum and immigration integration?

Yes

Please give details to support your answer and explain why.:

Clause 8: Public appointment: Provision of development opportunities

12 Do you support The Executive Office having the power to provide provision of opportunities for people to acquire the skills or experience to hold public appointments?

No

Please give details to support your answer and explain why.:

Clause 9: Ending violence against women and girls

13 Do you support the The Executive Office to have the power to implement strategies in relation to ending violence against women and girls?

Yes

Please give details to support your answer and explain why. :

Clause 10: Supplementary

14 Do you agree that The Executive Office should be subject to 'limiting power' in certain instances?

Yes

Please give details to support your answer and explain why. :

Clause 11: Post graduate qualification in educational psychology

15 Do you agree that the Department of Education should have the power to provide grants or financial support for graduate qualification in educational psychology (or similar subject)?

Yes

Please give details to support your answer and explain why. :

Clause 12: Investigation of housing association tenancy fraud

16 Do you agree that the NI Housing Executive should have the power to undertake tenancy fraud investigation on behalf of registered housing associations?

Yes

Please give details to support your answer and explain why.:

Clause 13: Setting of rate of basic allowance for councillors

17 Do you agree that The Local Government Finance Act (NI) 2011 and the Local Government (Payment to Councillors) Regulations (NI) 2019 should be amended to transfer responsibility for setting the amount of the basic allowance to be paid to councillors from individual councils to the Department of Finance?

Yes

Please give details to support your answer and explain why. :

Clause 14: Discretion as to a particular Commissioners term of office

18 Do you agree that the Historical Institutional Abuse (NI) Act 2019 should be amended to enable the The Executive Office to appoint a Commissioner to Commission for Survivors of Institutional Childhood Abuse for a period less than 5 years, if required?

Yes

Please give details to support your answer and explain why.:

Clause 15: Northern Ireland Tourist Board

19 Do you agree that The Tourism (NI) Order 1992 should be amended to enable the DoE to exempt or impose certain fees (in exceptional circumstances)?

Yes

Please give details to support your answer and explain why. :

Clause 16: Marine Licensing

20 Do you agree that the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 should be amended to enable DAERA with greater powers to charge fees for activities for which a marine licence is required?

Yes

Please give details to support your answer and explain why. :

Clause 17: Travel concession passes

21 Do you agree to amending the Transport (NI) Order 1977 to provide the DfI with powers (via regulations) to impose a fee for the issue of a SmartPass or a duplicate SmartPass under the Concessionary Fares Scheme?

Yes

Please give details to support your answer and explain why. :

Clause 18: Advances out of Consolidated Fund: increase in limit

22 Do you agree to amending the Financial Provision (NI) Order 1998 to give power to the DoF advances from the Consolidated Fund when required?

Yes

Please give details to support your answer and explain why. :

Clause 19: Petroleum and minerals: removal of requirement for separate accounts

23 Do you agree with the removal of provisions within both the Petroleum (Production) Act (NI)1964 and the Mineral Development Act (NI)1969 to remove the requirement from the DoE to provide separate accounts showing the receipts and expenditure as the transactions are already included with the DoE resource accounts?

No

Please give details to support your answer and explain why.:

Clause 20: Appointment of auditor for Northern Ireland Audit Office

24 Do you agree to the amending of the Audit (NI) Order 1987 to transfer the responsibility for the appointment of the external auditor of the NIAO from the DoF to the NI Assembly Audit Committee?

Yes

Please give details to support your answer and explain why. :

Clauses 21, 22 & 23

Any other comments?

25 Are there any other comments you wish to make?

No

My other comments are: