

Thank you for offering Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council the opportunity to provide a response on the Deaths, Still Births and Baby Loss Bill introduced on 25 March 2025.

However, please accept my apologies for the delay in replying.

As Registrar for Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council, I would strongly support that permanent legislation is put in place permitting the remote registration of still births and deaths to continue. This has transformed the registration of Deaths and Still-births, leading to a more efficient service, and first and foremost providing an empathetic and compassionate service to the bereaved.

We welcome the measures being taken to address the current differences in the registration of births and still births between same-sex female couples and opposite-sex couples. All legislation that promotes equality is to be supported.

We also support the introduction of the facility for parents to have the option to obtain a Baby Loss Certificate, when parents have experienced this loss before 24 weeks of the pregnancy. The General Register Office have advised this will be completed centrally, rather than through the District Registration Offices, this will therefore not have an impact on the service delivery, which would have been my only concern.

I wish to request that the information contained in this response is treated as confidential.

Kind regards

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Registrar

[Redacted]

**Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council**

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