



Committee for Finance

Addendum Report on the Cyber Security and Resilience (Network and Information Systems) Bill

Ordered by the Committee for Finance to be published on [14th October 2026]

Addendum to Report: NIA 181/22-27 Committee for Finance

Contents

Powers and Membership	3
Further Committee Consideration	5
Conclusion	6
Links to Appendices.....	8
Appendix 1: Minutes of Proceedings	8
Appendix 2: Minutes of Evidence	8

Powers and Membership

Powers

The Committee for Finance is a statutory departmental committee established in accordance with paragraphs 8 and 9 of Strand One of the Belfast Agreement and under Assembly Standing Order No 48. The Committee has a scrutiny, policy development and consultation role with respect to the Department of Finance and has a role in the initiation of legislation

The Committee has power to:

- consider and advise on Departmental budgets and annual plans in the context of the overall budget allocation;
- consider relevant subordinate legislation and take the Committee Stage of primary legislation;
- call for persons and papers;
- initiate inquiries and make reports; and
- consider and advise on matters brought to the Committee by the Minister of Finance.

Membership

The Committee has nine members, including a Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, and a quorum of five members. The membership of the Committee is as follows:

Mr Matthew O'Toole Chairperson)

Ms Diane Forsythe (Deputy Chairperson)

Dr Steve Aiken OBE

Mr Gerry Carroll

Miss Deirdre Hargey

Mr Harry Harvey**

Mr Brian Kingston***

Miss Áine Murphy*

Mr Eóin Tennyson

*Miss Áine Murphy replaced Miss Jemma Dolan with effect from 7 September 2026.

**Mr Harry Harvey replaced Mr Paul Frew with effect from 23 September 2025.

***Mr Brian Kingston replaced Mr Phillip Brett with effect from 23 September 2025.

Further Committee Consideration

1. In its [12th Report](#), the Finance Committee concluded that following consideration of the Legislative Consent Memorandum laid on 9th June 2026, the Committee for Finance was content with Minister for Finance's motion to seek the Assembly's endorsement of the Legislative Consent Motion:

"That this Assembly endorses the principle of the extension of the provisions of the Cyber Security and Resilience (Network and Information Systems) Bill to Northern Ireland".
2. On 17th June 2026, the Department of Finance informed the Committee that it was still its intention to seek the Assembly's legislative consent to the Cyber Security and Resilience (Network and Information Systems) Bill extending to Northern Ireland. The Department also highlighted that the Bill's progress in Parliament was ongoing.
3. At the Committee meeting of 9th September 2026, Members agreed to ask the Department of Finance for an update briefing.
4. Accordingly, a the Department briefed Committee on 23rd September 2026 and updated Members on developments since the Committee's report had been published. The Hansard transcript for the briefing can be found in Appendix 2 of this addendum. During the briefing, the official reflected that the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) has been incorporated into the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) as part of the machinery of government changes in Whitehall but that this has not provided any practical problems for officials.
5. Officials noted that the Bill has moved through to the House of Lords. DCMS tabled amendments to the Bill at Committee Stage in the Lords. Amendments that were accepted by the Lords were largely technical in nature. There is a definition of "load control", in clause 6 there is an activity undertaken for "system balancing purposes" was amended. There was the requirement for

managed service providers to consider any data associated with the service, had it been compromised, rather than the narrow definition of only data relating to users of that particular service.

6. DCMS put forward other amendments to strengthen the management of risks arising from vendors supplying operators of essential services, but those amendments were not moved.
7. The Committee asked questions on the amendments that were not accepted by the Lords. The Government had proposed amendments aimed at strengthening oversight of vendors supplying operators of essential services, but those amendments were not accepted in the Lords. Officials noted, however, that the proposals indicate the Government's policy direction.
8. The Bill therefore may change during parliamentary “ping-pong”, The Department confirmed that they analysed all the amendments, both those accepted and those not moved. Their assessment was that they did not engage devolved competence, it would not require a further legislative consent motion and no additional LCM action is therefore required.
9. At its meeting of 30 September 2026 the Committee agreed to contact the Department regarding the EU Proposed Directive on digitalisation and common specifications to seek the relevance of the Directive to the LCM and confirmation that this has been considered in relation to Legislative Consent. The Department subsequently confirmed that the Directive does not impact the LCM.

Conclusion

10. Officials indicated that Assembly consideration of the LCM should take place before the Bill completes its parliamentary passage in accordance with the Sewel Convention and that the Lords Report Stage is currently scheduled for 26 October 2026.

11. Minutes of the proceedings from 23rd September, can be found in **Appendix 1** of this addendum.

Links to Appendices

Appendix 1: Minutes of Proceedings

View Minutes of Proceedings of Committee meetings related to the report

Appendix 2: Minutes of Evidence

View Minutes of Evidence from evidence sessions related to the report

This Report can be made available in a range of formats including large print, Braille etc. For more information please contact:

Committee for Finance
Peter Hall (Clerk to the Committee)
Northern Ireland Assembly
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont
Belfast BT4 3XX

Telephone: 028 90 521903

Email: committee.finance@niassembly.gov.uk

X (Twitter): @NIAFinanceComm