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Oireachtais
Houses of the
Oireachtas

**An Comhchoiste um
Airgeadas, Caiteachas
Poiblí, Athchóiriúchán
Seirbhíse Poiblí agus
Digitíúchán, agus an
Taoiseach**

Teach Laighean
Baile Átha Cliath 2
D02 XR20
Guthán: (01) 618 3395
R/phost:
financecommittee@oireachtas.ie

**Joint Committee on
Finance, Public
Expenditure, Public
Services Reform and
Digitalisation, and
Taoiseach**

Leinster House
Dublin 2
D02 XR20
Tel: (01) 618 3395
E-mail:
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19 February 2026

Ref: **S - 2026 - 0039 - FIN**

Matthew O'Toole,
Chairperson,
Committee for Finance,
Northern Ireland Assembly
Room 346, Parliament Buildings,
Ballymiscaw,
Stormont, Belfast, BT4 3XX.

Issued to: nifiscalcouncilbill@niassembly.gov.uk

Dear Chairperson,

Many thanks for your letter which the Joint Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure, Public Services Reform and Digitalisation, and Taoiseach considered at their meeting on the 10 December 2025 regarding the Northern Ireland Fiscal Council Bill and sincere apologies for the delay in response.

On the matter of the Committee's relationship with the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council, this often relates to modules that the Committee is undertaking or on occasion, informal meetings. It may be helpful to contact the Committee on Budgetary Oversight who have more regular engagement with IFAC.

Further, the Committee would like to invite you to Leinster House before the Summer recess for an informal engagement and exchange of views on matters relating to Finance and Public Expenditure. Please note the Committee meets weekly on a Wednesday afternoon, so perhaps a Wednesday morning might suit for this engagement.

All communications with the Committee and me as Cathaoirleach should be sent via the Clerk. You are requested not to write directly to me.

If you require any further information regarding this matter, please contact the Clerk to the Committee, Caoimhe O'Rourke, at telephone 01-618 3395 or by email to financecommittee@oireachtas.ie.

Yours sincerely,

Cuirfear fáilte roimh chomhfhreagras i nGaeilge

Mairéad Farrell, T.D.
Cathaoirleach to the Committee

Cuirfear fáilte roimh chomhfhreagras i nGaeilge



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

Committee for Finance

Mairéad Farrell TD
Cathaoirleach
Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure, Public Service Reform
And Digitalisation, and Taoiseach
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2
D02 XR20

Issued via email to: financecommittee@oireachtas.ie

4th December 2025

Our Ref.: 2025/121

Dear Mairéad,

The NI Assembly Committee for Finance is currently scrutinising the Northern Ireland Fiscal Council Bill.

The Northern Ireland Fiscal Council Bill establishes the Council on a statutory basis and provides a legislative framework to underpin its work. The Bill sets out the functions of the Council, and deals with operational matters regarding annual reports, membership, finance and staffing.

Further information on the Bill can be found below:

- A copy of the [Bill](#) and Explanatory and [Financial Memorandum](#).
- The [Hansard report](#) of the Second Stage Assembly debate on the principles of the Bill that took place on 1 July 2025.
- A copy of the [New Decade New Approach agreement](#).
- A [research paper](#) prepared by the Assembly's Research and Information Service on the Bill.

At its meeting on 3rd December 2025, the Committee agreed that I should write to committees in neighbouring jurisdictions to better understand how they interact and engage with their local independent fiscal institution. In your case this would be the Irish Council Advisory Council. The Committee would be grateful if you would consider giving your views on your committee's relationship with the IFAC, highlighting how it supports your scrutiny work, whether it has appropriate powers and any changes your committee feels might be useful for it to better perform its functions.

**Matthew O'Toole, Chairperson, Committee for Finance,
Northern Ireland Assembly
Room 346, Parliament Buildings, Ballymiscaw, Stormont, Belfast, BT4 3XX.
Email: nifiscalcouncilbill@niassembly.gov.uk Tel. 028 9052 1799**

I would be grateful if you could submit your views electronically in Word format (not PDF) to: nifiscalcouncilbill@niassembly.gov.uk . If you cannot submit electronically you may send in a hard copy written submission to: The Finance Committee Clerk, Room 382, Parliament Buildings, Ballymiscaw, Stormont, Belfast, BT4 3XX. Organisations or individuals responding to this call for views should note that their written submission (either in whole or part) may be published on the Committee webpage and may be quoted in the Committee's report or referred to in Committee meetings (which are public and are broadcast).

Before sending us your views please read the [Northern Ireland Assembly Privacy Notice](#). This tells you how we process your personal data.

If you have any queries or require any further information about the call for evidence or the Committee Stage of the Northern Ireland Fiscal Council Bill the Committee Clerk, Peter Hall can be contacted via email: nifiscalcouncilbill@niassembly.gov.uk or by phone: 028 9052 1799. **A response would be very much appreciated at your earliest opportunity.**

Yours sincerely,

Matthew O'Toole MLA
Chairperson
Committee for Finance

**Matthew O'Toole, Chairperson, Committee for Finance,
Northern Ireland Assembly
Room 346, Parliament Buildings, Ballymiscaw, Stormont, Belfast, BT4 3XX.
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