

Mr Shane McAteer
Clerk of the Committee,
Standards and Privileges
Parliament Buildings
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3XX



Gary Middleton MLA
Member of the Northern Ireland Assembly for the Foyle Constituency

23rd May 2024

Dear Mr McAteer

Further to your letter dated 10th May 2024, I am writing to you in your capacity as Clerk of the Standards and Privileges Committee, to set out some comments in respect of the matters raised within the report.

I am disappointed by the conclusions reached by the Commissioner and I would again reiterate my position as set out during the investigation by the Commissioner.

For the record I would like to take this opportunity to highlight a factual inaccuracy within the report.

As a Junior Minister in the Executive at the time, I was not in the position to, nor did I have the power to nominate another Minister to attend the North South meeting on my behalf in the case of which I was unable to attend.

I do however welcome the fact that the Commissioner has completed her work. It is worth noting that the period and backdrop during which the events being investigated took place were politically fractious and difficult, with the collapse of confidence across elements of our society, and it is well understood that when sufficient political progress was secured leading to the re-establishment of the Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive, all parties were able to fully participate in the democratic institutions to which we have been elected.

On that basis, and upon taking office, as a Member of the Northern Ireland Assembly I am committed to discharging my duties in accordance with my obligations and to continue to work on behalf of my constituents.

Yours sincerely

Gary Middleton MLA