



Commissioner for Standards

222 Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3XX

Tel: 028 9052 1220
Email: standardscommissioner
@niassembly.gov.uk

Ms Carál Ní Chuilín
Chair, Committee for Standards and Privileges
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3XX

4th June 2024

Re: Written comment on responses to 202100026 and 202100007

Dear Chair

Thank you for providing the opportunity to reply.

I note the points made by the respondent Ministers/Members as well as their disappointment at my conclusions. I also note that it is not unusual for Members to feel disappointed when they have been found by this Office to have breached their Code of Conduct.

I am content that both investigation reports contain the evidence, reasoning and my findings to the required standard of proof (that is, on the balance of probabilities). I believe the reports speak for themselves and, therefore, I do not wish to add anything further.

I thank the respondent (Mr Lyons) for highlighting an error in report 202100007 at Para 37 which should have read “FM Arlene Foster” rather than “FM Paul Givan”.

I am pleased that the five Ministers/Members subject to this complaint have stated that since taking up office in February 2024, they have been committed to discharging their duties in accordance with their respective Codes of Conduct and to working with others to ensure delivery for the people across Northern Ireland.

Yours sincerely

Melissa McCullough
Northern Ireland Assembly Commissioner for Standards