



COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS AND PRIVILEGES

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Assembly Restricted – CSP: In Confidence

Ms Paula Bradshaw MLA
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont
BELFAST
BT4 3XX

Emailed to: paula.bradshaw@mla.niassembly.gov.uk

14 February 2025

Dear Paula

RESPONSE TO ISSUES RAISED BY MR TIMOTHY GASTON MLA

At its meeting on 12 February 2025, the Committee on Standards and Privileges considered correspondence from Timothy Gaston MLA in respect of a complaint case against him relating to his conduct during proceedings of the Committee for The Executive Office which you were chairing. The complaint has been investigated by the Assembly Commissioner for Standards and, as part of the adjudication process, Mr Gaston has been afforded the opportunity to respond to the Commissioner's investigation report.

In his response, Mr Gaston has requested that, before it finalises its adjudication report on the case, the Committee seek a response from you in relation to concerns which he has raised arising from the following remarks which you are quoted as stating during your interview with the Commissioner:

"I just think that every week he comes and tries to find a way, whether it's transgenderism, whether it's against the Catholic Church, whether it's against..."

In his response to the Commissioner's investigation report, Mr Gaston adds, *"I am particularly anxious to challenge Ms Bradshaw's insinuation that I am sectarian and would be obliged if the Committee would ask her to furnish evidence to substantiate this prior to the reports publication"*.

The Committee agreed that I should write to you to seek your comments in this regard and to provide you with an opportunity to respond. Any response provided by you will be included in the Committee's report.

You should note that the complaint case is live and, as such, remains restricted until such time as the Committee has published its report; therefore, you should not discuss or disclose this request from the Committee in the meantime.

I should be grateful for a response by **12 March 2025**.

Yours sincerely

Cathy Mason
Chairperson of the Committee on Standards and Privileges

From: Bradshaw, Paula <paula.bradshaw@mla.niassembly.gov.uk>
Sent: 14 February 2025 10:27
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Assembly restricted - Committee on Standards and Privileges Confidential

Good morning [REDACTED],

I do not believe that I used the word 'sectarian'. If I did, please provide me with the section of the transcript where I did.

Many thanks.

Best wishes,

Paula

Paula Bradshaw MLA
Assembly Member for Belfast South
Alliance Party Chief Whip
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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 February 2025 12:10
To: Bradshaw, Paula <paula.bradshaw@mla.niassembly.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Assembly restricted - Committee on Standards and Privileges Confidential

Hi Paula

Just to clarify, Mr Gaston did not state you used the word "sectarian", but rather, your words quoted from the transcript, and included in the letter sent to you today, insinuate that he is sectarian. This is what he is asking you to substantiate.

Please let me know if you have any further queries.

[REDACTED]

From: Bradshaw, Paula <paula.bradshaw@mla.niassembly.gov.uk>

Sent: 14 February 2025 12:56

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Assembly restricted - Committee on Standards and Privileges Confidential

Good afternoon [REDACTED],

Thank-you for clarifying this.

Mr Gaston is entitled to his opinion and I have nothing more to add to this live investigation.

Best wishes,

Paula

Paula Bradshaw MLA

Assembly Member for Belfast South

Alliance Party Chief Whip

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