



**Jim McManus**  
**Clerk to the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment**  
**Northern Ireland Assembly**  
**Room 346**  
**Parliament Buildings**  
**Ballymiscaw**  
**Stormont**  
**Belfast**  
**BT4 3XX**

**11 September 2015**

**Re: Call for Evidence in relation to the Credit Unions and Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Bill 2015 (the Bill)**

Dear Mr McManus

We refer to your letter of 2 July 2015 inviting written submissions to the committee stage of the Bill.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee for Enterprise, Trade & Investment (the Committee) in providing us with this opportunity and especially for its kind invitation in allowing the Irish League of Credit Unions (the ILCU) the opportunity to appear before it on 30 June 2015.

Further to the session on 30 June 2015, the ILCU would re-emphasise its appreciation of the interest that the Committee has shown to date in respect of introducing new legislation and powers for credit unions. The Bill is long awaited and we were pleased that it was introduced to the Northern Ireland Assembly on 24 June 2015.

We believe that the new Bill will modernise the legislation and the framework within which credit unions in Northern Ireland operate. It will allow credit unions to offer enhanced services to their members and prospective members; services which have not been available to them to date. The key new provisions for us are the ability to open accounts for corporate members and to offer interest bearing shares. We are pleased that these key provisions have been included in the Bill.

Broadly speaking we are satisfied with the contents of the Bill and we are anxious to see it enacted in a timely manner.

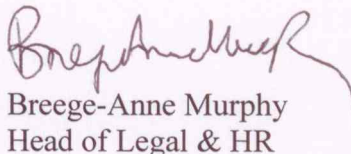
As the Committee is aware, we have some concerns with the manner in which unincorporated members are being dealt with under the legislation. We note that at the Committee hearing on 30 June 2015, the Committee had suggested that they would be seeking to obtain further clarification from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) as to whether

this area could be amended to better reflect our concerns. We therefore enquire as to whether DETI has been able to advise and clarify any further in this respect.

We would again like to reiterate our appreciation for the Committee's support with respect to this piece of legislation and indeed for its support for the credit union movement in general. I would also like to acknowledge the work of officials in the DETI and to thank them for their ongoing engagement with the ILCU in bringing forward this important Bill for the credit union movement in Northern Ireland.

If you or the Committee have any questions, we would be happy to assist in any manner felt most appropriate.

Yours sincerely



Breege-Anne Murphy  
Head of Legal & HR