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Mr Shane McAteer Clerk Committee for Finance and Personnel Room 419 Parliament Buildings Stormont

Our Ref:MISC59/11-15

14 June 2012

Dear Shane,

UPDATE ON THE LEGISLATIVE CONSENT MOTION IN RESPECT OF THE DEFAMATION BILL: 20 JUNE 2012

As you know, we were working toward a legislative consent motion ("LCM") in respect of Clause 7 of the above Bill (statutory privilege) and the Committee had scheduled an update session for 20 June 2012.

I am writing to say that we were unable to secure the necessary consents within the required timescale and we will, therefore, no longer be pursuing the LCM.

Accordingly, I would, be grateful if you would arrange to remove the update session from the committee work programme.

Many thanks for your help.

Yours sincerely,

NORMAN IRWIN