



Northern Ireland Assembly

Northern Ireland Fiscal Council Bill Notice of Amendments tabled on 9 January 2026 for Consideration Stage

Clause 2, Page 1, Line 13

At end insert—

‘(c) at certain intervals, provide estimates of the budgetary implications of proposals by certain political parties.’

Mr Matthew O'Toole

Clause 3, Page 2, Line 11

At end insert—

‘(bb) consideration of the extent to which the proposed budget is aligned with the most recently agreed Programme for Government required under section 20(3) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.’

Mr Matthew O'Toole

Clause 4, Page 2, Line 34

At end insert—

‘(bb) the Council’s view of the impact of duplication in the delivery of public services on fiscal sustainability, and’

Mr Matthew O'Toole

New Clause

After clause 4 insert—

‘Costing proposals by political parties

4A.—(1) The Council must provide estimates of the budgetary implications of proposals by certain political parties, during certain intervals.

(2) In so doing, the Council may request such information as it requires of any Northern Ireland Executive Department, and that Department must provide such information as soon as is reasonably practicable.

(3) For the purposes of section (1), the “certain intervals” are—

- (a) for any political party which forms the Assembly Opposition, within the meaning of section 1 of the Assembly and Executive Reform (Assembly Opposition) Act (Northern Ireland) 2016,
 - (i) prior to the publication of a proposed budget for a financial year, and
 - (ii) the period between an Assembly election and the agreement of a Programme for Government by the Executive Committee, and
- (b) for any political party which is represented by at least one member of the Northern Ireland Assembly, a period of six months ending on the first day of the month in which an Assembly election is due to be held under section 31(1) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, or, where an election is scheduled for another date, the six months leading to that date.

(4) Paragraph 3 of Schedule 2 to this Act does not apply for the purposes of this section.⁷

Mr Matthew O'Toole