



Northern Ireland Assembly

Committee for Finance

Chief Executives of Councils

Issued via email

9th May 2025

Our Ref: 2025/032

Dear Chief Executive,

Deaths, Still-Births and Baby Loss Bill

The NI Assembly Committee for Finance would like to hear your views on the Deaths, Still-Births and Baby Loss Bill. If you are not the most appropriate person to respond, the Committee would be grateful if you could forward this letter to the relevant colleague who would be able to respond.

The Bill was introduced by the Finance Minister, John O'Dowd MLA, on 25th March 2025. The purpose of the Bill is to amend the law relating to the manner of notification of deaths and still-births and the manner of giving particulars relating to them. It will also provide a legislative basis for the introduction of a baby loss scheme and will address differences in registration processes for births and still-births between some same-sex female couples and opposite-sex couples.

Further information on the Bill can be found below:

- A copy of the [Bill](#) and [Explanatory and Financial Memorandum](#).
- The Hansard report of the [Second Stage Assembly debate](#) on the principles of the Bill that took place on 7 April 2025.
- The [Hansard report of the briefing session with Department of Finance officials on the principles of the Bill on 7 May](#) 2025 (available when published)
- A [research paper](#) prepared by the Assembly's Research and Information Service on the Bill. (available when published)

Matthew O'Toole, Chairperson, Committee for Finance,
Northern Ireland Assembly
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Email: deathsstillbirthsbabyloss@niassembly.gov.uk Tel. 028 9052 1799

How to submit your views

Your submission should be structured to address the specific clause of the Bill. If appropriate, it should include any amendments you wish to propose to the text of the Bill.

Written submissions should be sent electronically in Word format (not PDF) to: deathsstillbirthsbabyloss@niassembly.gov.uk. If you cannot submit electronically you may send in a hard copy written submission to: The Finance Committee Clerk, Room 382, Parliament Buildings, Ballymiscaw, Stormont, Belfast, BT4 3XX.

Organisations or individuals responding to this call for views should note that their written submission (either in whole or part) may be published on the Committee webpage and may be quoted in the Committee's report or referred to in Committee meetings (which are public and are broadcast).

The Committee recognises that in some circumstances people may prefer for their evidence to be treated as confidential, or published anonymously. If you wish to do this, please make this clear when submitting your evidence.

Before sending us your views please read the [Northern Ireland Assembly Privacy Notice](#). This tells you how we process your personal data.

If you have any queries or require any further information about the call for evidence or the Committee Stage of the Deaths, Still-Births and Baby Loss Bill The Committee Clerk, Peter Hall can be contacted via email: deathsstillbirthsbabyloss@niassembly.gov.uk or by phone: 028 9052 1799.

A response would be very much appreciated by **Monday 9th June 2025**.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew O'Toole MLA
Chairperson
Committee for Finance