

From the Office of the
Minister for Finance & Personnel



Department of
**Finance and
Personnel**

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Your reference:

Our reference: SUB 514/09

Declan O'Loan
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13 November 2009

Dear Declan

The Consideration Stage for the Financial Provisions Bill took place on the 3rd November 2009 and during the debate I undertook to write to you in response to questions raised on the proposed withdrawal of Clause 4 (Costs of district rates collection).

You asked if the proposed withdrawal of Clause 4 would impact on my Department's ability to delivery its Budget 2008-11 Efficiency Delivery Plan in terms of the "recognition of costs recovered in respect of rates collection".

The objective of Clause 4, as originally drafted, was to enable income associated with the cost of collecting rates on behalf of district councils to be recognised in the Department of Finance and Personnel's accounts. This income is already recognised in the department's budget and DFP had been seeking to increase the degree of transparency by reflecting it in the annual resource accounts. Thus the withdrawal of the Clause has not and will not have an impact on the delivery of the department's Efficiency Delivery Plan.

I trust this addresses the questions raised and look forward to your continued support in progressing this Bill through the Assembly.

A copy of this letter goes to the Speaker, Chair of the Committee for Finance and Personnel and will be placed in the library.

Yours sincerely

Sammy Wilson

SAMMY WILSON MP MLA