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Mr Ben Brown
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Dear Mr Brown

I refer to your Freedom of Information Request of 10th July. The Department has opted to answer your 4 questions separately and this response addresses Question 2:

"Please supply the process this department went through, including Ministerial involvement, in the drafting of the Civil Service's submission to the review of the operation of the Freedom of Information Act by the Westminster Justice Committee"

DETI was invited by the Office of the First and deputy First Minister (OFMDFM) to consider the Ministry of Justice (MOJ)'s memorandum to the Westminster Justice Committee and provide input to the NICS response to the Committee's call for evidence.

Departmental officials considered and agreed with the arguments and recommendations expressed by MOJ.

The Department advised OFMDFM of this and confirmed that it did not wish to add any comments.

Following receipt of the draft NICS response prepared by OFMDFM, DETI's Permanent Secretary was briefed by Departmental officials who recommended he endorse the draft at a meeting of the NICS Permanent Secretaries Group.

When a copy of the final response was forwarded by OFMDFM, DETI's Permanent Secretary confirmed that he had no additional concerns or issues to raise.

An FOI Factsheet containing information on FOI procedures and useful contact points is attached for your information.

Yours sincerely

Rozzi Langford (Mrs)
Information Management Unit