

**FROM: AMANDA PATTERSON
CRIMINAL POLICY & LEGISLATION DIVISION
ACCESS TO JUSTICE DIRECTORATE
December 2016**

See distribution below

Claire Sugden

JC Correspondence: Letter from Paul Frew on Publication of FFA Working Group Report

Issue:	Following your oral evidence session to the Committee on 1 December, Paul Frew has written to request clarification on the publication of the Working Group report.
Timing:	Routine.
Presentational Issues:	Response reflects public statements already issued.
FOI Implications:	Policy development.
Financial Implications:	N/A
Legal implications:	N/A
Legislative Implications:	N/A
Justice Comm. Referral:	A draft letter to the Committee is attached.
Executive Referral:	N/A.
Recommendation:	That you approve the draft letter for issue to Paul Frew.

Detail

At your oral evidence session to the Justice Committee at its meeting on 1 December, Trevor Lunn MLA, Doug Beattie MLA and Clare Bailey MLA all asked a number of questions relating to the report of the Working Group on Fatal Fetal Abnormality and the publication of the report. Paul Frew has now written to seek clarification on the publication of the report. He has also written a similar letter to the Health Minister.

2. You last wrote to the Justice Committee in October 2016 (copy attached at **Annex C**) in response to a letter from Paul Frew asking when the working group report would be made available to the Committee and your timescale for submission of the report to the Executive.

Recommendation

3. That you approve the draft letter to Paul Frew at **Annex A** which reflects recent statements made by the Health Minister to the Assembly, where she indicated your joint intention to publish the report after it has been considered by the Executive. (Hansard extract and AQW response attached at **Annex B**)

AMANDA PATTERSON

S. 40

cc
David Lavery
Brian Grzymek
Tim Logan

S. 38 / S. 40

Alison Grundle
Ken Mack

DRAFT RESPONSE FOR SIGNATURE BY CLAIRE SUGDEN MLA

Paul Frew MLA
Chairperson
Committee for Justice
Room 242, Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw,
Stormont
Belfast

December 2016

Thank you for your letter of 6 December in which you request clarification as to whether the Report of the Working Group on Fatal Fetal Abnormality will be published.

At the time the Working Group was established, its remit was to report its findings to me and to the Health Minister. We are now actively considering the report, which has been shared with the First and Deputy First Ministers, and will submit joint proposals to the Executive in the New Year. It is our intention to publish the report after it has been considered by the Executive.

I should be grateful if you would bring this letter to the attention of Committee members.

I am also copying this letter to the Health Minister.