

From the Office of the
Minister for Finance & Personnel

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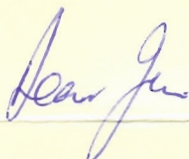
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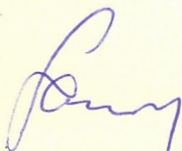


Thank you for your letter which arrived in my office by e-mail on 15 November seeking clarification of a number of matters in relation to PMS. This followed my response to a recent Assembly Question (AQO 460/11).

Many of the details as to exactly how the proposed loan to the PMS Administrator and the Mutual Access Fund will operate have yet to be finalised and I am not in a position to respond to all of your questions in detail.

As Minister for Finance and Personnel I can however confirm the reasons why the proposed solution requires Executive and Assembly approval of the Budget. This is because, while the spending review has provided the Executive with the spending power to finance the proposed £175 million loan to the Administrator and the Government's contribution to the Mutual Access Fund, these monies will flow through the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment who must have Executive agreement and Assembly legislative authority for all of their expenditure. The contribution from the Church will also require such budgetary authority if it is to flow through DETI. The Executive's proposed £25 million allocation to the Mutual Access Fund must also be agreed by the Executive and authorised by the Assembly as part of the Budget process.

Yours sincerely



SAMMY WILSON MP MLA