

Northern Ireland (Ministers, Elections and Petitions of Concern) Bill

AMENDMENTS TO BE MOVED ON REPORT

Clause 2

BARONESS RITCHIE OF DOWNPATRICK

Page 3, line 27, at end insert –

“(3A) In section 20 –

- (a) in subsection (5) for “subsections (6) to (9)” substitute “subsections (6) to (10)”, and
- (b) at the end insert –
“(10) Decisions by a Northern Ireland Minister made for the purpose of giving effect to any domestic or international legal obligations may be taken without recourse to the Executive Committee.””

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment would ensure that Northern Ireland Ministers are able to take decisions required in pursuance of legal obligations without referral to the Executive Committee, including within ‘caretaker’ periods where a Minister remains in office in the absence of an Executive Committee.

After Clause 2

BARONESS RITCHIE OF DOWNPATRICK
BARONESS SUTTIE

Insert the following new Clause –

“First Minister and deputy First Minister to be referred to as Joint First Ministers

The First Minister and deputy First Minister elected under the Northern Ireland Act 1998 are to be referred to as Joint First Ministers, and all references in that Act (other than to their election) to the First Minister and deputy First Minister are to be read as references to the Joint First Ministers.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This new Clause provides that First Minister and deputy First Minister be referred to as Joint First Ministers reflecting their identical status, powers and responsibilities.

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11 January 2022
