

23 April 2020

Committee Clerk
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Dear Sir/Madam

Call for Evidence: Functioning of Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill

The Carnegie UK Trust welcomes the opportunity to respond to the call for evidence on the Functioning of Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill. The Trust works to improve the lives of people throughout the UK and Ireland, by changing minds through influencing policy, and by changing lives through innovative practice and partnership work. Our [Strategic Plan \(2016-2020\)](#) takes a holistic approach to wellbeing and outlines our work as focusing on '[Enabling Wellbeing](#)'; '[Flourishing Towns](#)'; '[Fulfilling Work](#)'; and '[Digital Futures](#)'.

EVIDENCE BASE

The Carnegie UK Trust has been actively involved in promoting wellbeing in policy since the establishment of the first [Carnegie Roundtable on Measuring What Matters in Scotland](#) in 2010. Since 2011 we have published [case studies](#) of how governments and civil society organisations measure wellbeing in France, the USA, and Canada; made recommendations on [next steps for the Scottish National Performance Framework](#); funded a [policy assessment tool](#) which uses wellbeing indicators to critique policy proposals; set out steps for developing a [wellbeing framework in Northern Ireland](#); produced [guidance on wellbeing frameworks for cities and regions](#); convened an [international roundtable discussion](#) on the successes and challenges of developing high-level strategies based on wellbeing and translating this to policy action; and developed a UK-wide programme on the [Enabling State](#) which explores public service approaches which give citizens and communities more opportunity to shape the services that they receive and to contribute to their own wellbeing. Our project [Embedding Wellbeing in Northern Ireland](#) is providing financial and in-kind support to Community Planning Partnerships in the local authority areas of Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council; Derry and Strabane District Council; and Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council to implement a local wellbeing outcomes approach through their Community Plan.

FUNCTIONING OF GOVERNMENT FOR IMPROVED SOCIETAL WELLBEING

The Trust welcomes the provision in clause 12 in the Functioning of Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill to lay a report in the Northern Ireland Assembly on the functioning of government on a biennial basis, and to bring forward by statutory provision or other means, as appropriate, proposals to improve the functioning of government.

An effective, functioning government is key to improving societal wellbeing. Through its [Embedding Wellbeing in Northern Ireland](#) project, the Trust has identified the ways of working required by the

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Chair: Sir John Elvidge
Chief Executive: Sarah Davidson

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Northern Ireland Executive in order to improve wellbeing outcomes as prevention; co-production; long-term; integration; and collaboration. The Programme for Government should be used as the tool through which to achieve these ways of working, and as a result, a co-ordinated, consistent and functional Executive.

The Trust believes that all Northern Ireland Executive Ministers should demonstrate personal leadership in ensuring the delivery of the outcomes-based approach in the Programme for Government. A cultural shift is required to work in a way that embodies co-production and a diffusion of leadership, and this will only be achieved through clarity on the different legitimacies of different groups, such as elected politicians; Ministers; special advisers; and civil servants. The ways of working should be clearly linked to improving long-term societal wellbeing outcomes, and these groups should learn from Northern Ireland's Community Planning Partnerships in implementing this approach. Reporting to the Northern Ireland Assembly on a biennial basis will improve accountability, transparency and public awareness of these ways of working, and the progress made towards improving the societal wellbeing outcomes in the Programme for Government.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

We hope that you find these comments helpful. We would be delighted to speak with you further on our experiences in Northern Ireland and internationally. If you would like to discuss our response or would like to find out more about our work please contact me via email at lauren@carnegieuk.org.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lauren Pennycook". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lauren Pennycook
Senior Policy and Development Officer
Carnegie UK Trust