

ALLIANCE PARTY INITIAL COMMENTS ON DRAFT PAPER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF STRAND ONE

Para 1. To facilitate the representation of smaller parties, the Assembly should have 108 seats with 6 members elected by PR/STV from each of the 18 parliamentary constituencies.

Para 2. The functions devolved should cover **AT LEAST** the responsibilities of the six current NI departments.

Para 3(iv). Members would have to formally identify themselves as Unionist, Nationalist, or Non-Aligned in order to satisfy the requirements of this sub-paragraph.

Para 5. a. This model does not give sufficient strategic, policy and budgetary direction as would be possible in a cabinet-style model. Necessary changes would include freeing the Chair and Deputy Chair of Departmental responsibilities to enable them to concentrate on coordination and leadership.

b. We believe that Justice should be a devolved Department and, therefore, would have a Departmental (not non-Departmental) Committee.

Para 9(vi). It may be necessary to have procedures to remove not only a post-holder but a whole party from office in certain extraordinary circumstances.

All references to post-holders in this paper should bear the description 'his/her'.