

Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee

26 September 2023

Thank you for your letter of 29 June inviting us to comment on your draft changes to the Standing Orders relating to the refusal of legislative consent.

The Committee welcomes your consideration of our concerns as part of your examination of this issue which we raised with you in our letter of 15 February 2023.

The Committee is supportive of your draft Rule 9B.2A on motions refusing legislative consent and believes that this addresses our previous concerns.

With regards to the options for making lodging a motion mandatory we are of the view that there should be a requirement to do so in every case on the basis, as you say in your letter, that this “would ensure that there was some Chamber consideration of all LCMs, whether consent is recommended or not.”

On the question of timing we agree that providing greater flexibility where intergovernmental negotiations are ongoing would be appropriate and proportionate and therefore we support Option C.

The Committee is also supportive of your proposed changes to legislative consent memorandums in addition to the changes to the legislative consent motion rules.