

Report on	Correspondence with the Department for Infrastructure
Date of Meeting	9 February 2021
Reporting Officer	Andrew Cassells, Director of Environment & Property
Contact Officer	Andrew Cassells, Director of Environment & Property

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	X

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update Members on Correspondence between the Council and the Minister for Infrastructure, Nichola Mallon MLA, in relation to Tree & Hedge Cutting – Roads (NI) Order 1993.
2.0	Background
2.1	Following a presentation to the Environment Committee at its December 2020 meeting in relation to Tree & Hedge Cutting the Committee requested that the Director of Environment & Property write to the Minister for Infrastructure, Nichola Mallon MLA in relation to the subject.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Following the adoption of the resolution at the Council Meeting held on the 17 December 2020 a letter was sent to the Minister on 18 th December 2020 and is attached to this report as Appendix 1.
3.2	A response, dated 25 January 2021, has now been received and is attached to this report as Appendix 2.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: None at this juncture
	Human: None at this juncture
	Risk Management: Clearly the matter of roadside trees and hedges presents a risk to the travelling public as has previously been identified. The responsibility for the risk lies with the Department for Infrastructure as the competent Roads Authority and the landowner where the relevant trees and hedges are situated.

4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: None at this juncture.
	Rural Needs Implications: None at this juncture
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members are asked to note the contents of the response received from the Minister for Infrastructure as dated 25 January 2021 and attached to this report as Appendix 2.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1: Letter to the Minister for Infrastructure dated 18 December 2020.
6.2	Appendix 2: Response received from the Minister for Infrastructure dated 25 January 2021.