

CAROLYN HARRIS MP (SWANSEA EAST)



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Appendix A

Received  
- 7 AUG 2019  
Chief Executive

Mr Anthony Tohill  
Chief Executive  
Mid-Ulster Council  
Dungannon Office  
Circular Road,  
Dungannon  
BT71 6DT

6 August 2019

Dear Mr Tohill,

Last month saw the implementation of the Children's Funeral Fund in England, meaning that grieving parents will no longer have to pay for burial or cremation fees when their child dies. This follows similar funds which are already in place in Wales and Scotland.

I am aware that councils in Northern Ireland have attempted to help families by assisting with burial fees but that nationally many bereaved parents are still facing financial hardship at a time when they are already struggling with the death of their much-loved son or daughter.

In the absence of an assembly at Stormont, I understand the difficulties in securing a national fund, so I am reaching out to individual Councils across Northern Ireland in the hope that they will work with me.

I have contacted the permanent Secretary in the Department for Communities and the Secretary of State to petition for Northern Ireland to be brought in line with the rest of the UK. It would be wonderful if you would consider doing the same.

I would be happy to discuss this in more detail if you require any further clarification. Please contact Alexandra Landes in my office ([landesab@parliament.uk](mailto:landesab@parliament.uk)) if you would like her to arrange a telephone call.

Yours sincerely,

**Carolyn Harris**

**MP for Swansea East**



**Northern Ireland  
Fire & Rescue Service**

Appendix B

**NIFRS Headquarters**

1 Seymour Street  
Lisburn BT27 4SX

**T 028 9266 4221**

**F 028 9267 7402**

enquiries@nifrs.org  
www.nifrs.org

**Interim Chief Fire & Rescue Officer**  
Michael Graham

Date: 13 September 2019

Dear Anthony Tohill,

**RE: NORTHERN IRELAND FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE INTERIM SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL**

I am writing to you today regarding your request for more information on the Interim Service Delivery Model Arrangements that Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service are implementing from 12 August onwards.

The Interim Service Delivery Model Arrangements which are being introduced will not change operations in fire stations in the Mid Ulster District Council area. The fire stations in your council area will continue to operate as they have previously done so.

These measures that are being introduced in stations across Northern Ireland are designed to help the service deal with budgetary pressures.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Graham', written over a horizontal line.

Michael Graham

Chief Fire and Rescue Officer (Interim)

Martin Kearney  
Chair  
Mid Ulster District Council  
Circular Road  
DUNGANNON  
Co Tyrone

23 July 2019

Dear Martin

Appendix C

Received  
25 JUL 2017  
Chief Executive

**Re – Mid Ulster Council Traveller Working Group**

Thank you for your letter, dated 5 July 2019, in relation to Housing Executive attendance at the Mid Ulster District Council Traveller Working group.

I note that Council members are requesting that the Housing Executive reconsider a decision not to attend the working group. I would like to clarify that the Housing Executive proposed that the business of the working group would be incorporated into the work of the environmental services committee and that the Housing Executive would provide a written report two times a year to this committee covering traveller accommodation and site licencing.

I would like to stress that the Housing Executive is committed to continue its work on Traveller site identification in the Mid Ulster Council area and welcomes any assistance from the Council. However, servicing regular, quarterly working group meetings has proved to be challenging for the Housing Executive, as we service multiple Community Planning and other Council meetings with the five District Councils in the Region, which call on a limited number of officers on a regular basis.

I would propose that if it is not possible to incorporate reporting arrangements for the Traveller working group into the Environmental services committee; the Housing Executive would propose attendance at the group on an ad hoc basis when there are developments to report.

I hope this is of some assistance and can again reassure you that the Housing Executive is committed to work on identifying a suitable Traveller site in the Mid Ulster Council area

Yours Sincerely



**Comghal McQuillan**  
Regional Manager, South



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## **AUGUST HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN**

The Northern Ireland Housing Council met on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> August 2019 at 10.30 am in the Braid, Ballymena at the kind invitation of the new Chair, Alderman Tommy Nicholl

For Information, a report of the attendance is undernoted:-

### **Members Present**

Ald Tommy Nicholl	Mid & East Antrim Borough (Chair)
Cllr Anne-Marie Fitzgerald	Fermanagh & Omagh District (Vice Chair)
Ald Phillip Brett	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough
Cllr Nick Mathison	Ards & North Down Borough
Ald Jim Speers	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough
Cllr Michelle Kelly	Belfast City
Ald Allan Bresland	Derry City & Strabane District
Ald Amanda Grehan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City
Cllr Catherine Elattar	Mid Ulster Borough

### **Members Apologies**

Ald John Finlay	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough
Cllr Michael Ruane	Newry, Mourne & Down District

The Housing Council's considered various routine items at the Meeting, followed by detailed discussions on the undernoted matters:-

- Members received a power-point presentation by Caroline Connor, Assistant Director from the Housing Executive on the **Chronic Homelessness Action Plan**.
- The Housing Executive's Chief Executive gave a verbal update on **Housing Executive's Business from the June Board Meeting** (no meeting was held in July), which included the following items:-
  1. Draft Annual Report and Accounts for Year Ending 31 March 2019
  2. Housing Executive's Finance Report as at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019
  3. Final Draft 2019 – 2020 One Year Corporate Business Plan
  4. Monkscoole House Rathcoole
  5. Approval to remedy Contracts awarded to Company in Administration
  6. Relets and Actionable Voids Analysis and Voids Action Plan 2019-2022
  7. Homelessness Strategy Year 2 Annual Report and Strategy Update
  8. Supporting People Provider Investment Fund
  9. Health & Safety proceedings and works at 58 Downpatrick St, Rathfriland
  10. Supporting People Programme – Progress Status Update
  11. Community Safety Strategy Action Plan Update

- Members then received an update from Paul Price and David Polley Department for Communities, on the **Departments' Housing Top Issues** to date, which included:-
  1. Social Newbuild starts
  2. Co-ownership
  3. New Shared Neighborhoods (TBUC)
  4. Programme for Social Reform
  5. Fundamental Review of Social Housing Allocations Policy
  6. Reclassification of Northern Irelands Social Housing Providers
  7. Supporting People Delivery Strategy
  8. Homelessness Strategy
  9. St Patrick's Barracks, Ballymena
  10. Regulation of the Private Rented Sector
  11. Increasing Housing Supply
  12. Affordable Warmth Scheme
  13. NIHE Rent Scheme
  14. Welfare Reform Mitigation payments
- Representatives from the **Chartered Institute of Housing**, Eileen Patterson and Justin Cartwright, addressed Members to provide an insight into the work of the Institute.

The next Housing Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> September at 10.30 am in the Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council area in the Antrim Civic Centre.

Should you require any further information or have any questions regarding the content.

### **Contacts**

#### **Chair**

Tommy Nicholl

[Ald.nicholl@midandeastantrim.gov.uk](mailto:Ald.nicholl@midandeastantrim.gov.uk)

Mobile: 07970012520

#### **Secretary**

Kelly Cameron

The Housing Centre

2 Adelaide Street

Belfast BT2 8PB

[Kelly.cameron@nihe.gov.uk](mailto:Kelly.cameron@nihe.gov.uk)

Tel: 028 95982752

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Liam Hannaway  
Chief Executive

Appendix E

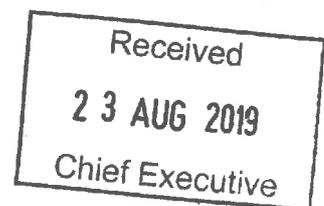


Comhairle Ceantair  
an Iúir, Mhúrn  
agus an Dúin  
**Newry, Mourne  
and Down**  
District Council

M/2

20 August 2019

Mr Anthony Tohill  
CEO  
Mid Ulster District Council  
Council Offices  
Circular Road  
Dungannon  
BT71 6DT



Dear Mr Tohill

**Re: TV Licensing for the over 75s**

At a meeting of Newry Mourne and Down District Council held on Monday 5 August 2019, the following Notice of Motion was agreed:

*"This Council notes with serious concern the plans that the British Broadcasting Corporation has announced relating to the means testing of the provision of TV licensing for the over-75s.*

*The Council agrees to request that the BBC immediately cease these plans and agrees also that the Chairperson of Council convenes a meeting with BBC senior officials and the Newry and Mourne Senior Citizens Consortium to hear at first hand the impact that this decision will have on our most valued and respected Citizens of Newry, Mourne and Down."*

Members were unanimous in their robust opposition to the plans announced by the BBC relating to the means testing of the provision of TV licensing for the over 75s and are seeking support for this Motion from all Councils across N. Ireland.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

**Mr Liam Hannaway**  
**Chief Executive**

/PM

Legal and Civic Services Department

Democratic Services Section



Belfast  
City Council

Your reference

Being dealt with by Mrs. L. McLornan

Our reference LM/MO

Ext. 6077

Appendix F

Date 12th September, 2019

(By email)

**FAO: Mr. Anthony Tohill, Chief Executive**

Dear Mr. Tohill,

**Equal Protection for Children Legislation**

Belfast City Council, at its meeting on 2nd September, passed the following motion which had been proposed by Councillor Heading and seconded by Councillor Lyons:

"This Council notes and welcomes the work of the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People's work in promoting positive parenting and Equal Protection for Children.

In recognition of this work by the NICCY and in support of other agencies such as the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, this Council will write to Assembly Party Leaders, the Executive Office and other NI Councils to champion the inclusion of Equal Protection for Children legislation in the Programme for Government, which would remove the defence of reasonable chastisement for parents who physically punish their child and provide more support and guidance for parents to promote constructive and effective ways to encourage better behaviour and development for their children."

I would welcome any comments which you may wish to make in relation to the motion.

Yours faithfully,

*Louise McLornan*

Democratic Services Officer

**Belfast City Council**, Legal and Civic Services Department  
City Hall, Belfast BT1 5GS  
Tel: 028 9032 0202 Textphone: 028 9027 0405  
Dx No.: 383 NR Belfast



**INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE**

**From the Permanent Secretary  
and HSC Chief Executive**

Appendix G



Mr Martin Kearney  
Chairman Mid Ulster District Council  
[chair@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:chair@midulstercouncil.org)

Castle Buildings  
Upper Newtownards Road  
BELFAST, BT4 3SQ  
Tel: 02890520559

Email: [richard.pengelly@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:richard.pengelly@health-ni.gov.uk)

Our ref: RP4475  
SCORR-0692-2019

Date: 23 Aug 2019

Dear Martin

Thank you for your email of 23 July and the subsequent email from your colleague Helen Gormley of 25 July requesting that a public consultation event on stroke services is held in the Mid Ulster area.

As you will be aware, a number of public consultation events have taken place across Northern Ireland. These events have primarily taken place in those areas with acute stroke units where the proposals in the Reshaping Stroke Care consultation document could, depending on the preferred model to be identified after the consultation, have the greatest direct impact.

To that end, the Department has hosted one consultation event in the Northern Trust in Coleraine and three in the Western Trust, with two in Enniskillen and one in Derry/Londonderry.

I am content that this has provided an opportunity for people in the area to participate in a consultation event and, consequently, it would not be my intention to hold a further public consultation meeting in the Mid Ulster area.

However, I would strongly encourage people to respond to the consultation which has now been extended until 30 August 2019. They can do so either by completing the questionnaire available at <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/reshaping-stroke-care> or by emailing comments to [StrokeConsultation@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:StrokeConsultation@health-ni.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely



**RICHARD PENGELLY**



**Oifig an Leas-Uachtaráin | Office of the Vice-President  
53-55 Falls Road, Belfast BT12 4PD**

**T: (028) 90347350**

**E: [VP@sinnfein.ie](mailto:VP@sinnfein.ie)**

By email: [info@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:info@midulstercouncil.org)

06 August 2019

Cllr Martin Kearney  
Chair, Mid Ulster Council  
Cookstown Office  
Burn Road  
Cookstown  
BT80 8DT

Dear Martin

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding the motion proposed by Sinn Féin Councillor Donal McPeake and agreed by Council:

***“That this Council; welcomes the range of reports recently published which highlight the serious risk of greater hardship for many within our community, if Welfare Mitigation's do not continue beyond March 2020. These reports include:***

- ***Welfare Reform: Mitigations on a Cliff Edge***
- ***Cliff Edge Coalition NI***
- ***NIAO: Welfare Reforms in NI.***

***It calls on all parties to support the need to continue Welfare Mitigation's beyond March 2020 and further; Calls on the DfC to take all steps necessary to ensure the Mitigation's scheme will continue to help the most vulnerable in our community.”***

Firstly, I would like to commend Mid Ulster Council for highlighting this very important issue.

In 2015, Sinn Féin sought and secured an agreement, with other political parties in the Stormont Assembly, for a mitigation package from Executive funds to offset some of the worst aspects of the British Government's imposition of welfare cuts. In addition, a number of changes to the administration of Universal Credit were also secured.

The reports listed above have demonstrated just how beneficial the mitigation package has been in terms of protecting the most vulnerable in this society.



**Oifig an Leas-Uachtaráin | Office of the Vice-President  
53-55 Falls Road, Belfast BT12 4PD**

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They have shown how almost 40,000 tenants here do not pay Bedroom Tax because of the mitigations, how families have been protected from the Benefit Cap and how many others have benefited from a range of other supplementary payments.

The financial package of welfare mitigation measures is in place until March 2020.

Sinn Féin is committed to seeking agreement with the other parties to commit to continue mitigation measures beyond that date. Inter-party and departmental discussions are ongoing and we will continue to participate in these as we seek a positive outcome.

My colleague and party spokesperson on Welfare and Poverty, Alex Maskey MLA, would welcome the opportunity to meet with you should you wish to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle O'Neill".

Michelle O'Neill MLA  
Assembly Leader & Vice-President

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Councillor Martin Kearney  
Chair  
Mid Ulster District Council  
Ballyronan Road  
Magherafelt  
BT45 6EN

Appendix I

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17<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Dear Councillor Kearney

I refer to your letter dated 4<sup>th</sup> July, regarding the motion passed at a meeting of Mid Ulster District Council.

A Full Duty Applicant is a person to whom the Housing Executive owes a duty under the homelessness legislation, Article 10(2) of the Housing (NI) Order, 1988.

The awarding of homelessness status (Full Duty Applicant status) is set out in the criteria laid down in The Housing (NI) Order 1988.

Where a person presents to the Housing Executive as homeless, we will respond in accordance with this law and commence our enquiries.

The Housing Executive is prohibited from taking a blanket approach to awarding Full Duty Applicant status to residents living in a homeless hostel.

A full duty applicant is a person who passes all four tests for homelessness. Our enquiries will determine whether or not the applicant meets the four statutory homelessness tests, which are defined in law.

Those four tests, which are applied, are:-

1. Homeless/threatened with homelessness;
2. Eligible for assistance;
3. In priority need; and
4. Unintentionally homeless.

Assessments are carried out on an individual basis by the Housing Executive and when enquiries are complete, a Notification of Decision is given in writing to the applicant. If an individual's circumstances change, we would encourage them to visit us to be re-assessed.

I trust this answers your query.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C Bailie". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

C Bailie  
**Chief Executive**



Northern  
Ireland  
Office

**Secretary of State for  
Northern Ireland**

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Follow us on Twitter @NIOgov

Councillor Martin Kearney  
Mid Ulster District Council  
Cookstown Office  
Burn Road  
Cookstown  
BT80 8DT  
[info@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:info@midulstercouncil.org)

12 August 2019

Dear Councillor Kearney,

Thank you for your letter dated 5 July to the Prime Minister regarding an all-Ireland Animal Abuse Register. I am replying on behalf of the Prime Minister.

This issue is devolved in Northern Ireland and therefore for the Northern Ireland Civil Service to consider in the absence of an Executive. The request has been brought to the attention of the relevant Northern Ireland Civil Service departments who will need to consider the practical and legislative implications of creating such a register, taking into account any views expressed by the Irish Government on the proposal.

Yours sincerely,

**RT HON JULIAN SMITH MP  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND**

**From the Permanent Secretary**  
Dr Denis McMahon



Department of  
**Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs**

[www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk)

Your reference N/A  
Our reference SCORR-0231-2019

Mr Martin Kearney, Cllr  
Chair  
Mid-Ulster District Council  
Cookstown Office  
Burn Road  
Cookstown  
BT80 8DT

Permanent Secretary's Office  
Room 636, Dundonald House  
Upper Newtownards Road  
Ballymiscaw  
Belfast BT4 3SB  
Telephone: 028 9052 4608  
Email: [perm.sec@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:perm.sec@daera-ni.gov.uk)

4 September 2019

Dear Mr Kearney,

### **Animal Welfare Conviction Register**

Thank you for your letter, which you sent to the Prime Minister's Office, in which you advised that Mid-Ulster District Council has proposed the establishment of an all-island register of individuals convicted of animal welfare offences. I am responding as policy responsibility for the welfare of animals sits with the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).

The establishment of a central offenders' register of those convicted of animal welfare offences is a topic which was been raised several times in the past, most notably by the Northern Ireland Assembly during the review of the implementation of the Welfare of Animals (Northern Ireland) Act 2011 ("the Review"). The Review established that the creation of such a register does not fall solely within the gift of the Department. Conviction data is classed as sensitive personal data which is strictly controlled and managed through the Criminal Record Viewer, which is part of the wider Causeway system and comes under remit of DoJ.

Three bodies are responsible for enforcement of the 2011 Act: DAERA (for farmed animals), Councils (for non-farmed animals) and PSNI (for more serious animal welfare offences such as animal fighting and wild animals). Each body is responsible for following up on disqualification orders made following cases they investigated to ensure that the person is not keeping animals in contravention of the order and for taking any appropriate enforcement action. Each body therefore retains information on disqualification orders made following cases they investigated. However, where a disqualification order is made, for example following a DAERA case relating to farmed animals, that order could in some instances also encompass a ban from keeping non-farmed animals. Subsequently, following the Review, the Department secured access to the Criminal Record Viewer for Council Welfare Staff and Departmental enforcement staff.

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contact the Department via the Next Generation Text  
Relay Service by dialling 18001 + telephone number.



The Review also considered the creation of an accessible central register in some depth and concluded that it should not be done for a number of reasons. Firstly, access for non-statutory bodies to this information would engage difficult and complex issues regarding Freedom of Information, Data Protection, the rehabilitation of offenders and protecting certain human rights, particularly the Right to Life, the Right to a Family Life and the Right to Privacy.

Although the right to privacy may be interfered with by a public body, provided that it is in accordance with national law and is necessary in a democratic society, the necessity for third party access must be considered in light of the statutory role of the three enforcement bodies who are responsible for the protection of animal welfare in respect of people subject to disqualification orders. Effective enforcement of disqualification orders should provide adequate protection for rehomed animals in this regard.

Secondly, it was clear, following the Review, that there was no demand among rehoming charities for access to this data. During the course of the Review, Departmental officials met with animal charities and re-homing organisations to discuss the technical issues that would be encountered, in the event a register could be created. It became apparent that these organisations would incur significant costs if they wished to access and use conviction data. For example, putting the necessary arrangements in place to facilitate third party access to the DoJ Criminal Record Viewer would require entering data sharing arrangements with potential users and putting in place procedures to ensure information is kept secure and utilised only for the intended purposes. In addition, these organisations would also need to ensure that they have IT systems and administrative controls to manage the data in compliance with data protection laws. They commented that the home visits and other checks they perform on potential adopters are likely to discourage disqualified people from applying for animals in any event, and they were not aware of any disqualified person ever having applied for an animal in the past.

Officials from the Department have met with the DoJ within the last month to re-examine the possibility of third party access and the controls that an organisation would need to implement and the situation remains unchanged.

I trust that you find my reply helpful and I hope that this response clarifies the Department's position.

Yours sincerely



**DR DENIS McMAHON**  
Permanent Secretary

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Mr. Martin Kearney  
info@midulstercouncil.org

25 July 2019

**Our Ref:** IUKA190368

Dear Mr. Kearney,

The Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr. Simon Coveney T.D., has asked me to thank you for your letter addressed to An Taoiseach including the text of a resolution adopted by Mid Ulster District Council concerning animal cruelty and proposing the introduction of an all-island Animal Abuse Register.

The Tánaiste appreciates the Council's concerns about these matters and has asked me to let you know that in this jurisdiction the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) has responsibility for animal welfare issues in accordance with the provisions of the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013. That Department also has responsibility for North South cooperation in the area of agriculture, including animal health and welfare.

Copies of your correspondence have therefore been forwarded to Mr. Michael Creed T.D., Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine for attention.

I hope that this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

  
pp Clare Brosnan  
Private Secretary