



Cllr Dominic Molloy
Eileen.Forde@midulstercouncil.org

Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
BELFAST, BT4 3SQ
Tel: 028 9052 2556
Email: private.office@health-ni.gov.uk

Your Ref:

Our Ref: COR-1003-2024

Date: 6th February 2024

Dear *Dominic*,

Thank you for your letter of 31 January 2024 to the Department's Permanent Secretary, Mr Peter May regarding the treatment of Cystic Fibrosis. I have now been appointed to the position of Health Minister and as such will respond on behalf of the Department.

My Department has a formal link with the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) under which NICE Technology Appraisals are reviewed locally for their legal and policy applicability in Northern Ireland. Whilst there is a process to check the guidance for legal and policy applicability here, there is no reassessment of the clinical or cost evidence used by NICE in coming to its decisions and forming its advice. Where found to be applicable, they are endorsed for implementation within Health and Social Care (HSC) organisations. This link has ensured that Northern Ireland has access to up-to-date, independent, professional, evidence-based guidance on the value of health care interventions.

As you are aware, NICE recently issued draft guidance on the use of Kaftrio, Orkambi and Symkevi for consultation: [Consultation | Ivacaftor-tezacaftor-elexacaftor, tezacaftor-ivacaftor and lumacaftor-ivacaftor for treating cystic fibrosis \[ID3834\] | Guidance | NICE](#). The current draft guidance does not recommend that Kaftrio, Orkambi and Symkevi are routinely available on the NHS because the most likely cost-effectiveness estimates from current economic modelling are substantially above the range that NICE considers an acceptable use of NHS resources.

Consultation on the draft guidance closed on Friday 24th November 2023. The draft guidance is not NICE's final guidance, and I can advise that comments received during this consultation were considered by NICE at a further appraisal meeting on 14th December 2023. Furthermore, NICE has now determined with key stakeholders that additional steps and further discussions are required, however, NICE will continue to liaise with key stakeholders to determine the most appropriate next steps before the next draft guidance is issued. A date for final guidance is yet to be determined, which the Institute has also stated will incorporate the recent licence extension to Kaftrio to include paediatric patients aged 2 to less than 6 years.

When final guidance is issued by NICE, my Department will consider it under the usual process for NICE technology appraisals as per the guidance set out in circular HSC (SQSD) 12/22 which is available at:

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/doh-hsc-sqsd-12-22.pdf>

The NICE draft guidance is clear that the recommendations are not intended to impact on patients already receiving treatment with Kaftrio, Orkambi or Symkevi, who will be able to continue treatment until they and their HSC clinician consider it appropriate to stop.

I trust you will find this response helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robin Swann', is positioned above the printed name.

Robin Swann MLA
Minister of Health

RE: Correspondence from Mid Ulster District Council



Bratton, Neil <Neil.Bratton@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk>

To Eileen Forde

Cc DfI Western Manager PS



Reply



Reply All

You forwarded this message on 12/02/2024 17:02.



C007.24 DfI Footpath Maintenance.pdf
146 KB



Reply all with PDFs shared as A...

Eileen,

As this is an operational matter it has been passed to myself for a direct reply.

Myself and the local Section Engineers are content to meet with interested parties to discuss general footpath maintenance in the Mid Ulster area. If possible can you suggest a few dates and we will try to accommodate. Content to meet in the Council offices if that make things easier.

Regards

Neil Bratton

Network Maintenance | Western Division | Co. Hall, Omagh

Tel: 028 867 68138 | Email: neil.bratton@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk



Your Ref:

Our Ref:

Date: 10 January 2024

Email: john.news@fermanaghomagh.com



Fermanagh & Omagh
District Council
Comhairle Ceantair
Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí

Alison McCullagh
Chief Executive

Mr Robert Burns
Chief Executive
Monaghan County Council
County Offices
The Glen
Monaghan
H18 YT50

Dear Mr Burns

A5-N2 Cross Border Committee proposed name change.

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council discussed the proposed name change of the A5-N2 Cross Border Committee at the Environmental Services Committee meeting held on 6 December 2023. Members resolved that Council does not support the proposed name change of A5-N2 Cross Border Committee to the 'N2 A5 Ten-T North West Transport Corridor Committee'. This position was ratified at the full Council meeting on 09 January 2024. In particular Members are concerned that the proposed name change would remove the focus from the A5, at a time when the Department for Infrastructure is considering the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) Public Inquiry report.

Members have asked that I write to the Chair of the Committee and to the other Councils involved with the Committee to advise you of Fermanagh and Omagh District Council's position and concerns in that regard.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John News', written in a cursive style.

John News
Director of Environment and Place

Copied To:

Councillor Brian McKenna, Chair, A5-N2 Cross Border Committee
Mr John Kelpie, Chief Executive, Derry City and Strabane District Council
Mr John G McLaughlin, Chief Executive, Donegal County Council
Mr Adrian McCreesh, Chief Executive, Mid Ulster District Council

northern Ireland Water

PO Box 1026
Belfast
BT1 9DJ
www.niwater.com

Tel: 0345 7440088



Eileen.Forde@midulstercouncil.org

13 February 2024

Dear Dominic

Re: Your ref: C013.24 – NI Water contact details

Thank you for your letter, received 2 February 2024 from Eileen Forde, further to previous correspondence reference matters above.

I am sorry to read of any difficulty or frustration Councillors have experienced in using NI Water's dedicated phone line for Elected Representatives (0345 3006461) to query local matters and request updates, particularly following local work and surface reinstatement carried out by our contractors.

I asked our team to check on this, and whether there were any calls received from Mid-Ulster Councillors which were outstanding an update at the time of writing. NI Water records show that we had a total of two cases in which an update was due, which had not quite been provided at the time of receipt of your letter, a call from Cllr Clement Cuthbertson regarding a defective pipework investigation, and a call from Cllr Dan Kerr who I believe had raised this perceived issue previously at a Council meeting, regarding a manhole replacement job. Calls were returned to both Councillors last Monday 5 February. While the cases in question may have been open for a slightly longer period of time than usual, I do not believe there was any issue with a lack of updates being provided. NI Water is rigorous in the management of our Service Level Agreement (SLA) for written and telephone queries from members of the public, and Elected Representatives, and is committed to providing regular updates and holding responses on all queries received that take a little longer to address and close.



Our Departmental Liaison Officer John Kelly phoned Eileen last week to discuss this. I understand that the request from Cllr Kerr is to have a single point-of-contact in NI Water for 'Estates Management', which we would take to mean for queries relating to contractor work on site and subsequent surface reinstatement. Eileen mentioned in the call that DfI - Roads Service were able to provide such a single point-of-contact. NI Water differs from Roads Service, both in that we are a multi-disciplinary organisation, and don't have separate regional offices for North, West, South, East. We don't have a single member of staff who would oversee contractor surface reinstatements for a given region, rather any queries about a given reinstatement would, once received, be raised with the relevant local Field Manager for either Water or Wastewater, and for the specific department within each of those sections, i.e. we have a separate Field Manager for planned works, emergency / reactive works, works involving leakage or repair & maintenance on our own existing networks, or works involving providing new pipework services for new developments.

Because we cover so many areas, i.e. because we are multi-disciplinary, a given surface reinstatement job could fall under one of a variety of Field Managers. Rather than provide public contact details for every Field Manager and relying on members of the public or Elected Representatives to know to which specialisation a job they have a query about relates; we simply ask that members of the public direct all queries to Waterline on 0345 7440088 and that Elected Representatives make use of the aforementioned dedicated phone line for them.

For written queries, the e-mail address is the same for everyone: waterline@niwater.com.

Our dedicated Customer Service teams then pick up any and all queries received, direct them to the appropriate Field Manager, and relay a prompt update to the person who has contacted us as soon as possible, and within a regulated SLA.

Any Councillors who feel that their queries have not been addressed in a timely manner should of course not hesitate to chase us up, however, as advised above, at the time of writing there were, according to our records, only two contacts from Mid Ulster Council awaiting an update, and these were ultimately provided.

In short, the Elected Representatives phone line on 0345 3006461, or Waterline e-mail inbox at waterline@niwater.com, remain the point-of-contact at NI Water for any and all queries from local Councillors.

I hope you find this response helpful.

Yours sincerely



Sara Venning
Chief Executive





THE HONOURABLE THE IRISH SOCIETY
54 CASTLEROE ROAD,
COLERAINE,
COUNTY LONDONDERRY
NORTHERN IRELAND BT51 3RL

Telephone: 028 7034 4796
e-mail: duanef@irishsociety.co.uk
website: www.honourableirishsociety.org.uk

Secretary & Chief Executive **Duane Farrell**

09 February 2024 (via e-mail)

Ref: Review of Local Advisory Committee

Dear Chair

I am writing to you further to the recent commitment by the Court of The Honourable The Irish Society to undertake a review of the Local Advisory Committee (LAC). As you will be aware, the responsibility of the Local Advisory Committee is:

“To make recommendations to the Society’s Court on projects or causes where assistance from the Society in any form would be appropriate and desirable, within the delegated budget.”

The committee, which is now in its 50th year, is an essential element of the Society’s governance structure and supports the delivery of the Society’s charitable purposes through the committee’s local knowledge both of organisations and of community priorities.

I would welcome feedback from Mid Ulster District Council and your nominated members of the Local Advisory Committee in relation to

- the spread of membership across elected members
and
- the operation of the committee and support of the Society to the committee in undertaking its work

with a view to informing this review and shaping recommendations which will be considered by the Court in April 2024. With this timeline in mind, can I request that feedback is returned to me by 29 February 2024.

Beyond the general areas indicated above, we have been purposefully broad in our approach to this review in the first instance to allow relevant feedback from your organisation and your nominated delegates to the LAC.

Please feel free to contact me if you wish to discuss this request. Otherwise, I look forward to hearing from you.

At the upcoming Local Advisory Committee Meeting on 04 March 2024, we are providing a warm lunch after the meeting and inviting members to stay and discuss, in person, thoughts on this review with trustees of the Society.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Duane Farrell', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Duane Farrell

cc Adrian McCreesh, Chief Executive, Mid Ulster District Council