

Alison McCullagh
Chief Executive



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

Our Ref: Democratic Services

Date: 28 February 2023

Email: democratic.services@fermanaghomagh.com

Mr Adrian McCreesh
Chief Executive
Mid Ulster District Council
Dungannon Office, Circular Road
Dungannon
BT71 6DT

Dear Chief Executive,

Re: South West Acute Hospital

At the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 15 February 2023, Members asked that I write to you with regard to the WHSCT Public Consultation on the South West Acute Hospital (SWAH) and ask that your Council respond to the consultation in a positive manner and argue for the retention of the full suite of services at the Hospital.

The Council trusts you will give this issue due consideration and looks forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alison McCullagh".

Alison McCullagh
Chief Executive

POA2023/02232



HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

Cllr Cora Corry
Mid Ulster District Council
Burn Road
Cookstown
BT80 8DT

Your ref: C016/23
10 March 2023

Dear Councillor Corry,

Thank you for your letter of 30 January to the Chancellor of the Exchequer about energy bills support in Northern Ireland, specifically pressing for the removal of VAT on energy. I am replying as the Minister responsible for the UK tax system.

The Government has provided substantial energy support, including in Northern Ireland, with the Energy Price Guarantee (EPG) expected to save consumers who use both gas and electricity around £900 this winter; this is in addition to the £400 Energy Bills Support Scheme (EBSS). The EPG in Northern Ireland works very similarly to the scheme in Great Britain. The scheme provides households with equivalent financial support with their electricity and gas bills. All households in Northern Ireland receive an additional payment of £200 Alternative Fuels Payment, in recognition of the prevalence of alternative fuel usage in Northern Ireland.

Northern Ireland customers should receive the single payment of £600 or voucher, made up of the EBSS (£400) and the Alternative Fuel Payment (£200), by 28 February. This is a doubling of the £200 of support announced in February and is now a grant with no repayments.

Turning to energy support for businesses, on 9 January the Government announced that it would be launching a new energy support scheme for businesses, charities and the public sector. The new Energy Bills Discount Scheme will provide all eligible businesses and other non-domestic energy users across the UK with a discount on high energy bills until 31 March 2024, following the end of the current Energy Bill Relief Scheme. It will also provide businesses in sectors with particularly high levels of energy use and trade intensity with a higher level of support.

Through the current scheme, the Government provided an unprecedented package of support for non-domestic users through this winter. The new scheme strikes a balance between supporting businesses for a further 12 months, from April 2023 to March 2024, and limiting taxpayers' exposure to volatile energy markets, with a cap set at £5.5 billion based on estimated volumes.

The Government already recognises that families should not have to bear all of the VAT costs they incur to meet their needs, with domestic fuels such as gas, electricity and heating oil already subject to the reduced rate of VAT at 5 per cent of VAT. The Government's package of support to help households with their energy bills is far more generous than an additional VAT cut on domestic fuel and power, and there would be no guarantee that suppliers would pass on the discounts from this relief to all customers.

Businesses generally operate as part of the VAT collection process, paying VAT on their sales but recovering VAT on their purchases. This means that VAT registered businesses can normally reclaim any VAT incurred on energy costs, so they would not need a VAT reduction. Businesses with a VAT taxable turnover below £85,000 – so that is below the level at which they must register for VAT - can still choose to register for VAT, which would (subject to normal VAT rules) allow them to also recover VAT on their purchases, including energy costs. In addition, businesses that use gas or electricity below a de minimis level, which is set at around four times the average household consumption, are deemed to be in receipt of 'domestic supplies' and therefore can already benefit from a 5 per cent rate of VAT.

Thank you for making me aware of Mid Ulster District Council's concerns and suggestions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria Atkins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

VICTORIA ATKINS MP

Marie Ward
Chief Executive



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

Our ref: C/075/2023

15 March 2023

Dear Chief Executive

Re: Notice of Motion – Reduction in Voting Age

At a Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council held on 6 March 2023 the following motion was agreed:

"Newry Mourne and Down District Council calls for the voting age of 18 to be reduced to 16 and if this motion is adopted seeks the support of the remaining councils in Northern Ireland to write to the Secretary of State calling him to amend the necessary legislation to enable 16 year old and upwards to vote."

On speaking to the motion, many Members agreed this would be a positive way forward and would encourage young people, who are the future, to engage more fully in political life.

The proposer of the motion asked that the motion be circulated to the other 10 Council Chief Executives asking them to table at a future meeting of their Council.

Yours faithfully

Marie Ward
Chief Executive

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



Councillor Córa Corry
Chair – Mid Ulster District Council

celene.oneill@midulstercouncil.org

Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Upper Newtownards Road
BELFAST
BT4 3SQ

Tel: 02890520559

Fax: 02890520573

Email: peter.may@health-ni.gov.uk

Your ref:

Our ref: SINV-0058-2023

Date: 15 March 2023

Dear Córa

Thank you for your email of 22 February 2023 inviting me to meet in relation to a Women's Health Strategy for Northern Ireland.

The Department is currently going through a business planning and prioritisation process in the context of a very constrained financial outlook for the period ahead. While it will be difficult for us to progress every area we would like, and while there is currently no Minister in place to set overall policy priorities, the Department recognises that some coordinated action on improving women's health would be beneficial. Subject to capacity and other pressures facing the Department and HSC system, the approach would involve relevant policy and professional leads from across the Department engaging with health providers, clinicians and other stakeholders to identify and agree the priority actions that could be taken forward on women's health within our current resources.

This would combine much of the good work that is already ongoing across many women's health services (eg fertility, sexual and reproductive health services) with wider system reform (eg elective and cancer care), and would also aim to accelerate the necessary service developments in important areas such as gynae surgery and cervical screening, to name but a few. Progressing these issues fully is of course likely to require some investment, but in the meantime the Department's focus will be on maximising delivery within our current financial and staff resources.

In light of this, I am declining your invitation to meet at this time as my officials will engage with all key stakeholders as and when this work progresses.

Yours sincerely



Peter May

RECEIVED

Appendix E

Roger Wilson
Chief Executive

16 MAR 2023
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



**Armagh City
Banbridge
& Craigavon**
Borough Council

13 March 2023

Mr Adrian McCreesh
Chief Executive
Mid Ulster District Council
Circular Road
DUNGANNON
BT71 6DT

Dear Adrian

NOTICE OF MOTION – ENERGY COMPANY PROFITS

The Council at its meeting held on 27 February 2023 agreed the following Notice of Motion –

“That this Council notes the obscene profits recently announced by energy companies such as BP who have announced profits for 2022 of £22bn. At a time when families are facing the worst cost of living crisis in living memory these profits and the resultant increasing dividends for wealthy investors are an affront.

That this Council writes to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Jeremy Hunt MP, requesting that he look as a matter of urgency at a meaningful windfall tax on the profits of energy companies so that the money can be diverted to help workers and families during the challenging times we all face.

Also, that this Council writes to the Chief Executives of the other Councils asking them to also write to the Chancellor in similar terms.”

The Council would ask that your Council would send a letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer in similar terms.

Yours sincerely

Roger Wilson
Chief Executive

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The Palace Demesne
Friary Road
Armagh
BT60 4EL

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Civic Building
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BT32 3JY

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