

**From the Minister of Finance**

Councillor Paul McLean  
Mid Ulster District Council

Private Office  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Clare House  
303 Airport Road West  
BELFAST  
BT3 9ED  
Tel: 028 9081 6216  
Email: [private.office@finance-ni.gov.uk](mailto:private.office@finance-ni.gov.uk)

Your reference: C174/21  
Our reference: INV-0354-2021

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021

**WITHOUT PREJUDICE**

Dear Councillor McLean,

**REQUEST TO MEET TO DISCUSS THE MATTER OF RATE SETTING AND ONGOING LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

Thank you for your letter of 30 September 2021 about arranging a meeting to discuss the matter of rate setting and the ongoing legal proceedings currently in place.

I feel that such a meeting would be welcome, and would be happy to meet with you to discuss this matter. I am advised that such a discussion will need to take place on a Without Prejudice basis due to the ongoing litigation in this area.

My Private Office will be in touch to arrange a suitable date and time, and to seek a meeting agenda, which will be required prior to any meeting arrangements being finalised.

Yours sincerely



**CONOR MURPHY MLA  
MINISTER OF FINANCE**

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

Date: 20 September 2021

Email: Democratic.services@fermanaghomagham.com



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

Alison McCullagh  
Chief Executive

To: All Council Chief Executives on the island of Ireland

Dear Chief Executive,

**Re: Motion – Syringes for Cuba Campaign/End the Blockade**

At the Council meeting held on 7 September 2021, the following Motion was approved by the majority of votes cast: -

**That this council states its' continued opposition to the illegal and inhumane blockade of Cuba by the USA. Notes that, prior to the pandemic, this blockade has prevented essential supplies such as fuel entering the country which has far-reaching consequences. Further notes, with increased concern, the impact that this blockade is having during the Covid-19 pandemic whereby essential medical supplies, needed to save lives, are being restricted;**

**That this council sends its' solidarity to all those in our district who have loved ones in the country. Further, that this council sends our solidarity to Cuba through the Cuban Ambassador to Ireland, Hugo Ramos, and that we invite the Ambassador to meet with our council to express this directly and hear about how this blockade is affecting citizens in our district; That this council notes, despite the pressures caused by the imposition of unjust sanctions, the positive role that Cuba has played in providing practical solidarity and support to so many countries in the global struggle against Covid-19;**

**That this council praises the efforts of the Cuban Solidarity Forum Ireland, supports their 'Syringes for Cuba' campaign, and highlights this campaign to the people of our district using any means available to us. Further, that this council invites representatives from the Cuban Solidarity Forum Ireland to meet with council to update us on the campaign and ongoing situation;**

**That this council writes to both Health Ministers on the island to request that they explore ways in which assistance could be provided to assist in medical supply provision to Cuba. Further, that this council requests that,**

on behalf of the people of our district, both Health Ministers advocate for the inclusion of any successful medications and treatments, including those developed in Cuba, in the fight against Covid-19;

That this council notes the most recent vote on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021 by the UN General Assembly, and every vote since 1992, to demand the end of the US blockade by the international community;

That this council, on behalf of those in our district with loved ones in Cuba as well as everyone in our district who would benefit from Cuban Covid-19 medications, calls on the US government, via the US Ambassador to Ireland, to bring this blockade to an end, particularly due to the devastating effect it is having during the Covid-19 pandemic;

Finally, that this motion is circulated to all councils on the island of Ireland and that they are requested to adopt a similar position.

As outlined in the Motion, the Council requests that your Council adopts a similar position with regard to the Syringes for Cuba Campaign/End the Blockade.

The Council will also be making representations to the other relevant stakeholders as mentioned above in the Motion.

The Council looks forward to receiving your response in due course.

Yours sincerely



**Alison McCullagh**  
Chief Executive

RECEIVED  
30 SEP 2021  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Charlie McConaghy  
65 Main Street  
Portrush  
Co. Antrim  
BT56 8BN  
02870823265

Mid Ulster District Council  
Dungannon  
Dungannon Office  
Circular Road  
Dungannon  
BT71 6DT

Dear Council members,

'Proposed Arboretum'

I will be posting a copy of the attached in the Belfast Telegraph, Newsletter and Irish News this coming week.

Good manners require me to inform you of its content.

*'In Northern Ireland we have lost over 2500 people to Covid 19.*

*Is now the time to plan an Arboretum? Using native trees as a lasting memorial to honour and reflect on the lives of our dearly departed victims of Covid 19.*

*Should we now press our local Councils to set out a formal Arboretum of reflection, with a tree for each victim of Covid 19?*

*If you are interested, I would like to hear from you. My gmail is: [charliemcconaghy1@gmail.com](mailto:charliemcconaghy1@gmail.com)*

Kind regards,



Charlie McConaghy



From the office of the Minister for Infrastructure  
**Nichola Mallon MLA**

Councillor Paul McLean

[Eileen.Forde@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:Eileen.Forde@midulstercouncil.org)

Room 708  
Clarence Court  
10-18 Adelaide Street  
BELFAST  
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Email: [Private.office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Private.office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk)

Your reference:  
Our reference: CORR-1656-2021  
12<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Cllr McLean

## **RESURFACING**

Thank you for your letter dated 30 September, to Minister Mallon, seeking an update on the award of contracts to undertake asphalt resurfacing in the Mid Ulster District Council area.

DfI officials are progressing the procurement of 3 open tender asphalt resurfacing contracts in the Mid Ulster area to a total value of approximately £4m. It is anticipated that the contract to resurface a large section of the A29 Cookstown to Moneymore dual carriageway and the East Circular road in Cookstown will be awarded in October. Two further contracts to resurface a large section of A6 Glenshane Road and sections of the A5 and B34 near Ballygawley will be tendered and awarded early in the new year.

The documents for the tendering of new measured term asphalt resurfacing contracts are under development and it is anticipated that contracts for the Magherafelt and Dungannon areas of MUDC will go to tender in October 2021 and be awarded in January 2022. The Cookstown area contract is scheduled to go to tender on December 2021 and to be awarded in April 2022.

The Road Recovery Fund resurfacing work is also well underway and the contractor is working their way through this large programme. The value of work to be delivered this year under the Recovery Fund in Mid Ulster is approximately £2.6m and this work will be ongoing until the end of March 2022.

I trust you find the above information helpful and that it provides reassurance that the Department remains committed to delivering much needed investment on the roads infrastructure in your area.

**KATHRYN MCFERRAN**  
Private Secretary to the Minister



Councillor Paul McLean  
Chair  
Mid Ulster District Council  
Cookstown Office  
Burn Road  
Cookstown  
BT80 8DT

Office of the Chief Executive  
Public Health Agency  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor South  
12-22 Linenhall Street  
BELFAST  
BT2 8BS

Tel: 028 95363406  
Website: [www.publichealth.hscni.net](http://www.publichealth.hscni.net)

11 October 2021

Your Ref: C176/21



Dear Councillor McLean

Thank you for your letter of 30 September.

The policy in respect of school-aged contacts of confirmed cases of Covid-19 is set by the relevant Departments and approved where necessary by the Executive. You will be aware of the joint statement issued by the Ministers of Health and Education on 9 September which set out the rationale for the recent changes (<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/doh-joint-memo-from-DE-and%20DoH-%20Ministers.pdf>).

The Public Health Agency (PHA) has always been responsible for the contact tracing of school aged children. Until the recent change, this was supported by schools identifying the in-class contacts and issuing letters to these children via the established system for parent communications. The PHA worked with the school staff in risk assessing each situation to identify contacts and the Contact Tracing Service was responsible for identifying contacts outside of the school setting. School staff played an important role but the process itself was much more complex and involved than this.

As the definition of a school-aged close contact has now changed and children are not deemed automatically to be close contacts by virtue of sharing a classroom, the number of in-school contacts has reduced considerably. It is not clear therefore what additional administrative burden has been placed on staff due to this change.

Support for schools is available via a dedicated Education Authority (EA) helpline and there is a process in place whereby EA staff can escalate situations to the PHA for further consideration and advice as required. Additionally, our public health specialists monitor the epidemiology of the disease within schools and will actively contact principals to discuss issues as we identify them.



There are specific arrangements for special schools and pre-school education settings in acknowledgement of the particular issues at play in these establishments.

The PHA has worked closely with the Departments of Health and Education as well as the Education Authority in engaging with the education sector – including trade unions – and I am confident that our approach is the most effective way to manage cases in the school-aged population.

We are of course keeping a close eye on progress and as a learning organisation will not hesitate to implement change when there is evidence to show that it is required.

I trust this is helpful and I am grateful for the Council's interest in the matter. If you have further questions or comments on contact tracing, the Deputy Director ([Jennifer.lamont2@hscni.net](mailto:Jennifer.lamont2@hscni.net)) of the service will be happy to discuss.

Yours sincerely



**Aidan Dawson**  
**Chief Executive**

cc Dr Elizabeth Mitchell, Director of Contact Tracing

FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH



To: Key Stakeholders

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

Your Ref:

Our Ref: SUB-0978-2021

Date: 17 September 2021

Dear Colleagues

**ORGAN DONATION BILL: INTRODUCTION OF SOFT OPT-OUT ORGAN DONATION – CONSULTATION ANALYSIS REPORT**

I am writing to advise you that my Department will be publishing its consultation analysis report following the formal 10 week public consultation undertaken on the introduction of Soft Opt-Out Organ Donation. The report will be published on the Department of Health's website on 17 September 2021.

In advance of this, I enclose a copy of the consultation analysis report and my Departments response within the report.

The vast majority of respondents expressed broad support for the introduction of a statutory opt-out system for organ donation in Northern Ireland. No issues were raised which will cause me to deviate from the policy intention as outlined in the public consultation. I am also delighted to confirm that the draft Organ and Tissue Donation (Deemed Consent) Bill was introduced in the Assembly on 5 July 2021.

I look forward to engaging with you going forward and I hope that you find this letter helpful.

Yours sincerely



**Robin Swann MLA**  
**Minister of Health**



Home Office



Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing & Communities

**Emma Haddad**

Director General, Asylum  
and Protection

**Home Office**

1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Peel Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF

**Catherine Frances**

Director General,  
Local Government, Strategy  
and Analysis

**Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing and Communities**

4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Fry Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF

20 October 2021

Dear Local Authority Chief Executive,

**Afghanistan Resettlement Programme – New DLUHC Regional Engagement Team**

We would like to set out how the cross-Government teams will work to support the hugely important and valued local work to resettle Afghan families across the UK.

Councils are playing a vital role in pledging offers of accommodation and the provision of wraparound services to enable individuals to integrate quickly within our society and begin to flourish and lead fulfilling lives. We would like to thank all councils for their continued efforts, and we are very grateful for the ever-growing number of pledges of accommodation and generous offers of support. As of 18 October, councils have offered 925 properties to support the resettlement and relocation of Afghan citizens and their families.

We continue to work collaboratively across national and local government, and with partners including the voluntary and community sector, to support individuals who have recently arrived from Afghanistan. The collective aim is to make sure they are supported out of bridging accommodation and welcomed into our communities as quickly as possible.

We recognise the challenging nature of this ask and know this is in the context of the ongoing response to the pandemic and associated workforce strains, and in addition to the significant efforts to accommodate individuals as part of the wider asylum dispersal.

We also appreciate there is still a lot of detail to work through in relation to Afghan resettlement and we are continuing to work at pace across Government to:

- Finalise and issue funding instructions for the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) and Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme (ACRS)
- Clarify outstanding policy questions, including in relation to British Nationals; and

- Revise and circulate updated FAQs.

As you will know, the Home Office already works closely with councils through the Strategic Migration Partnerships (SMPs) to secure offers of support including properties and carry out the operational role of matching families to accommodation. We are now augmenting the existing system and the joint SMP and Home Office engagement structures because of the unprecedented nature of the challenge given the size of the population to resettle.

DLUHC has created a new team of regional leads to further support the Home Office's longstanding operational engagement through SMPs. The team will work closely with councils in each of the regions and the three Devolved Administrations to better understand the intrinsic problems of pledging accommodation and act as a conduit to escalate issues cross-government, helping to remove barriers and support councils in making further offers of support. In addition to unlocking pledges of accommodation, the team is designed to have strategic conversations with councils about the wider asylum and resettlement pressures, for example, around integration, community tensions, accommodation issues and wraparound services.

Our intention is to establish an iterative conversation with councils over the coming months to improve policy decisions that impact on the work you are doing. The team will work in a complementary role alongside colleagues in the Home Office and SMPs and jointly report into Minister Atkins as the Minister responsible for overseeing ARAP and ACRS. A list of the Home Office leads and DLUHC single points of contact for each SMP region is at Annex A.

To promote effective working with councils, we have been able to address some key gaps already, for example, the production of Frequently Asked Questions and webinars. Over the coming weeks, the regional engagement leads from DLUHC will contact councils to identify how best to offer further support. We hope that, through this collaborative work, we can create the infrastructure that will enable councils to support more Afghan families to be suitably accommodated and integrated within your communities.

We look forward to working with you.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Frances  
Director General Local Government, Strategy and Analysis  
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities



Emma Haddad  
Director General Asylum and Protection  
Home Office



## Annex A – List of Home Office and DLUHC contacts

DLUHC Afghan Local Engagement Team - Regional/ Country leads		
Region/ Country	Lead	Email
East Midlands	Adam Rolewicz	<a href="mailto:Adam.Rolewicz@communities.gov.uk">Adam.Rolewicz@communities.gov.uk</a>
East of England	Jayne Kelly	<a href="mailto:jayne.kelly@communities.gov.uk">jayne.kelly@communities.gov.uk</a>
London	Jill Augustin	<a href="mailto:Jill.Augustin@communities.gov.uk">Jill.Augustin@communities.gov.uk</a>
North East	Mick Goodwin	<a href="mailto:michael.goodwin@communities.gov.uk">michael.goodwin@communities.gov.uk</a>
North West	Soraya Sanatian	<a href="mailto:Soraya.Sanatian@communities.gov.uk">Soraya.Sanatian@communities.gov.uk</a>
South East	Adedayo Akinfolajimi	<a href="mailto:Adedayo.Akinfolajimi@communities.gov.uk">Adedayo.Akinfolajimi@communities.gov.uk</a>
South West	Melissa Cock	<a href="mailto:Melissa.Cock@communities.gov.uk">Melissa.Cock@communities.gov.uk</a>
West Midlands	Shaun Delaney	<a href="mailto:Shaun.Delaney@communities.gov.uk">Shaun.Delaney@communities.gov.uk</a>
Yorkshire and Humber	Mick Goodwin	<a href="mailto:michael.goodwin@communities.gov.uk">michael.goodwin@communities.gov.uk</a>
Northern Ireland	Daniel Steel	<a href="mailto:daniel.steel@communities.gov.uk">daniel.steel@communities.gov.uk</a>
Wales	Davina Manu	<a href="mailto:davina.manu@communities.gov.uk">davina.manu@communities.gov.uk</a>
Scotland	Rosie Critchlow	<a href="mailto:rosie.critchlow@communities.gov.uk">rosie.critchlow@communities.gov.uk</a>
Team leader	Laura Clark	<a href="mailto:Laura.Clark@communities.gov.uk">Laura.Clark@communities.gov.uk</a>
Home Office Afghan Local Engagement Team - Regional/ Country leads		
Region/ Country	Lead	Email
East Midlands, North East, Y&H	Nichola Henwood	<a href="mailto:Nichola.henwood@homeoffice.gov.uk">Nichola.henwood@homeoffice.gov.uk</a>
East of England, West Midlands, Wales	Annette Evans	<a href="mailto:Annette.evans4@homeoffice.gov.uk">Annette.evans4@homeoffice.gov.uk</a>
London, North West, Scotland	Jack Evans	<a href="mailto:Jack.evans11@homeoffice.gov.uk">Jack.evans11@homeoffice.gov.uk</a>
South East, South West, Northern Ireland	Adam Bell	<a href="mailto:Adam.Bell@homeoffice.gov.uk">Adam.Bell@homeoffice.gov.uk</a>
Team leader	Mandy Bailey Melanie Johnson	<a href="mailto:Mandy.bailey@homeoffice.gov.uk">Mandy.bailey@homeoffice.gov.uk</a> <a href="mailto:Melanie.johnson@homeoffice.gov.uk">Melanie.johnson@homeoffice.gov.uk</a>

**From:** [Wright, Elaine](#)  
**To:** [Eileen Forde](#)  
**Subject:** Correspondence from Mid Ulster Council  
**Date:** 15 October 2021 14:08:56  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[C176.21 SHSCT Shane Devlin CEO re GP Out of Hour Services.pdf](#)

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Dear Cllr McLean

Thank you for your letter of September 30<sup>th</sup>, ref: C176/21.

The Urgent Care Out of Hours Service is a telephone-based service, offering advice and treatment to everyone living in the Southern Health and Social Care Trust area with urgent medical symptoms that cannot wait until their own GP reopens.

With increasing demand right across health and social care and particularly unscheduled care services, the Urgent Care Out of Hours Service has been experiencing significant pressures.

At the beginning of August, due to difficulties of staffing rotas, we consolidated services at our Daisy Hill and Craigavon Area bases, temporarily closing the Armagh, South Tyrone and Killeel centres.

These arrangements will remain in place throughout October while the review of Urgent Care Out of Hours Service is ongoing.

As a telephone-based service, this temporary change should only affect the minority of patients who need to attend for a base appointment. Patients should always call first to access our team of GPs, Pharmacists and Nurses. Most people will

receive telephone advice and a small number may require a home visit.

Kind regards, Shane

Shane Devlin  
Chief Executive

