



**From the Permanent Secretary
Katrina Godfrey**

Cllr Seán McPeake
Chair
Mid Ulster District Council
Magherafelt Office
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Telephone: (028) 9054 1175
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Your reference:
Our reference: COR-0015-2019
29 January 2019

Dear Sean

MEETING REGARDING BYPASSES AT DUNGANNON, COOKSTOWN & MONEYMORE

Thank you for your correspondence of 10 January 2019.

Your request to meet is very timely as the Department is currently developing a new suite of transport plans. The suite includes the Regional Strategic Transportation Network Transport Plan which will consider improvement schemes for major roads and Local Transport Plans for each Council area. In addition, we have recently resumed preparatory work on the A29 Cookstown bypass and it would I imagine be useful for the Council to receive a fuller briefing on this scheme and its place in the wider Transport Plan.

With this in mind, I have arranged that my senior colleague, Tom Reid, who leads our work on Transport Planning will make himself available for the discussion you propose. Tom will be accompanied by a senior colleague from our Roads side. Stephen Wood Programme Manager of the Transport Plans, will also attend. Tom's office will make contact with Eileen Forde as you suggest to arrange a suitable date and time.

I hope this is helpful and look forward to hearing the outcome from what should be a useful discussion.

Yours sincerely

Katrina Godfrey

KATRINA GODFREY



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Dear Seán

WASTEWATER TREATMENT CAPACITY ISSUES

Thank you for your letter dated 11 January 2019 regarding the sewerage capacity issues across the Mid Ulster District Council area and specifically in Dungannon. I am aware that colleagues from the Department and NI Water met with the Council previously on this issue and had useful engagement.

As you will know, NI Water has also been engaging with the Council on the development of your Local Development Plan. As part of this engagement, NI Water provided details of areas across Northern Ireland where wastewater treatment works are at, or near, capacity. In areas where the existing public sewerage system is currently operating above design capacity, NI Water is not currently approving new connections to the existing public sewerage network. This is because further connections to the existing overloaded infrastructure may cause out-of-sewer flooding impacts upon existing customers.

In 2014, NI Water completed and agreed its Price Control business plan for the years 2015-2021, known as PC15. At that time, NI Water agreed with both the Utility Regulator and Environmental Regulator, a prioritised list of the areas and infrastructure where investment was most required. However, the availability of funding also determines how much of the proposed investment can actually take place during PC15.

I am pleased to inform you that Dungannon WWTWs is included within the prioritised list of projects to be completed during PC15 and the treatment works is currently scheduled to be upgraded in 2021.

I am conscious that I have arranged for senior colleagues from the Department to meet you following your letter about local roads schemes. I can arrange for a senior colleague from the Department's Water and Drainage Policy Division to join that meeting to cover both areas of interest in a joined up manner if the Council would find that helpful.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of Katrina Godfrey in cursive script.

KATRINA GODFREY

PERMANENT SECRETARY
Derek Baker



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Mr Séan McPeake
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21 January 2019

Dear Mr McPeake

CURRICULUM SPORTS PROGRAMME

Thank you for your letter of 21 December 2018 advising that the Council has discussed and expressed concern at the ending of funding for the Curriculum Sports Programme.

At the outset it might be helpful if I explain that no decision has been taken to end the Programme. Whilst the Department is not yet able to confirm funding for a 2019/20 Programme, officials have had positive engagement with both GAA and IFA on the development of a Programme for 2019/20 should funding become available.

The Department provided funding of £750,000 to enable the GAA and IFA to deliver the Programme in primary schools during 2018/19. A range of potential options were explored to continue to fund the Programme through to the end of the current financial year but this was not possible because of the continuing financial pressures across all parts of the education sector. Additional in-year funding for the Programme was also sought from the Department of Health and Department for Communities but unfortunately they were not in a position to provide support.

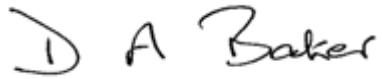
The Department of Finance announced on 22 November 2018 that the Department would be allocated a further £35.9m as a result of the monitoring round; however, this funding was to be used to address its opening budget over-commitment, enable schools to access budget surpluses accumulated in prior years and to provide further support for Special Educational Needs and School Maintenance programmes.

I acknowledge the positive impact the programme has had on pupils and staff since its inception in 2007. There has been significant investment by the Executive in the Programme with over £11 million allocated to it since 2010/11. This financial year the Ulster GAA will have delivered 19,000 coaching sessions and the IFA 16,200 coaching sessions.

The Department remains committed to working constructively with the GAA and IFA in delivering quality physical education support for children in our schools.

I trust this explains the Department's position.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D A Baker". The letters are cursive and connected.

DEREK BAKER

PERMANENT SECRETARY
Derek Baker

Mr Derek McCallan
Chief Executive
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21 January 2019

Dear Mr McCallan

CURRICULUM SPORTS PROGRAMME

Thank you for your letter of 4 January 2019 requesting the restoration of funding for the Curriculum Sports Programme in the new financial year.

At the outset it might be helpful if I explain that no decision has been taken to end the Programme. Whilst the Department is not yet able to confirm funding for a 2019/20 Programme, officials have had positive engagement with both GAA and IFA on the development of a Programme for 2019/20 should funding become available.

The Department provided funding of £750,000 to enable the GAA and IFA to deliver the Programme in primary schools during 2018/19. Whilst a range of potential options were explored to continue to fund the Programme through to the end of the current financial year, it was not possible because of the continuing financial pressures across all parts of the education sector. Additional in-year funding for the Programme was also sought from the Department of Health and Department for Communities but unfortunately they were not in a position to provide support.

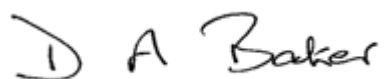
While the Department of Finance announced on 22 November 2018 that the Department would be allocated a further £35.9m as a result of the monitoring round, this funding was to be used to address its opening budget over-commitment, enable schools to access budget surpluses accumulated in prior years and to provide further support for Special Educational Needs and School Maintenance programmes.

I recognise the benefits of the Programme outlined in your letter and I also acknowledge the positive impact it has had on pupils and staff since its inception in 2007. There has been significant investment by the Executive in the Programme with over £11 million allocated to it since 2010/11. This financial year the Ulster GAA will have delivered 19,000 coaching sessions and the IFA 16,200 coaching sessions.

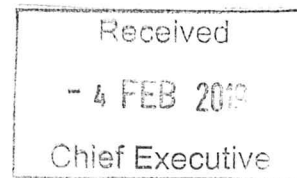
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Yours sincerely

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DEREK BAKER



Appendix D

Our ref: DB/CR/vo/CE27

29 January 2019

Mr A Tohill
Chief Executive
Mid Ulster District Council
Dungannon Office
Circular Road
Dungannon
BT71 6DT

Dear ~~Mr~~ Tohill **ANTHONY**

Public Enquiry in Relation to ill Treatment of Patients at Muckamore Abbey

At a meeting of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council held on 22 January 2019, the following Notice of Motion was unanimously agreed:

“Following the recent revelations of ill treatment of patients at Muckamore Abbey, this Council calls on the Department of Health to hold a public Enquiry. If a decision cannot be made in the absence of a Minister, this Council calls on the Secretary of State to step in and authorise such an Enquiry”.

It was agreed that this Notice of Motion be forwarded to all other councils in Northern Ireland seeking their support in calling for a Public Enquiry into the treatment of patients in Muckamore Abbey and, accordingly, I should be grateful if you would have this matter considered by Mid Ulster District Council.

Yours sincerely

D BURNS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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



Cllr Seán McPeake
Council Chairperson
Mid Ulster District Council

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Our ref: RP3505
SCORR-0009-2019

Date: 12th February 2019

Dear Cllr McPeake

Thank you for your letter of 21 December 2018, following the motion recently passed by Mid Ulster District Council regarding interim changes to paediatric and perinatal pathology services from early 2019. Apologies for the delay in responding.

The Department is very aware that these measures may add to the distress experienced by families at a devastating time in their lives, and deeply regret that this step has had to be taken. I can assure you that every effort has been made to find an alternative that would have allowed the Belfast-based service to be retained, however this has proved unachievable in the short term due to the significant challenges faced in this specialty across the UK and Republic of Ireland (RoI). I can also assure you that ongoing strenuous efforts will be made by the Health and Social Care (HSC) system to find a long-term solution.

The Belfast HSC Trust has undertaken four national and international recruitment campaigns since July 2015, however no applications have been received. An open-ended recruitment process with an agency specialising in international recruitment is ongoing. The Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) has approached every NHS provider of paediatric pathology services across the UK, as well as those in RoI, however, and regrettably, no organisation was found that could provide continuity through an in-reach service to Northern Ireland for the provision of hospital perinatal and paediatric post mortems. The need to secure an interim arrangement with Alder Hey Hospital has therefore been necessary to ensure that a perinatal and paediatric pathology service can continue to be offered from 2019.

Looking at the medium to longer term, following on from engagement between the HSCB and RoI providers, officials from Northern Ireland and the RoI are considering the feasibility of an all-island approach to the delivery of paediatric pathology services. However, it is important to acknowledge at this stage that any potential solution is unlikely to be deliverable in the immediate future, due to current capacity constraints in RoI, and the time required for new trainees to specialise in this area.

In the meantime, the HSCB will work closely with the relevant Royal Colleges and training organisations to encourage and support training in this specialty in the future. Work is also under way to assess the feasibility of using new emerging technologies, for example, imaging, minimally invasive and non-surgical post-mortems, which could potentially provide parents with many of the answers they need, and which could be provided locally. This work will continue over the coming months.

The interim arrangements provided at Alder Hey include an expedited service to support traditional funeral times in Northern Ireland, and a faster turnaround of post mortem reports within 56 days rather than 3-6 months. For further information I refer you to the advice published by the HSCB at

<http://www.hscboard.hscni.net/interim-changes-paediatric-pathology-services/>.

Finally, I assure you that all families concerned will continue to be fully supported by bereavement midwives, bereavement co-ordinators, pathology, mortuary and other clinical staff to ensure that they receive the care and advice they require.

Yours sincerely

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

RICHARD PENGELLY