



**Oifig on Aire Stáit**  
Office of the Minister of State

**Our Ref : C/ CE - 2020/510**

**10<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

Cllr. Cathal Mallaghan,  
Mid Ulster District Council,  
Cookstown Office,  
Burn Road,  
Cookstown.  
**BT80 8DT**

Dear Cathal,

I refer to your recent request for excavation works at Kilmainham Gaol, to uncover remains of Joe Brady, Daniel Curley, Michael Fagan, Thomas Caffrey and Tim Kelly in the Invincibles Yard.

Once enquiries have been completed in the matter you have raised, you will receive a substantive response.

Yours sincerely,

*PP Derek Donohue P.S.*

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Patrick O'Donovan,  
Minister of State at the Office of Public Works and Flood Relief

Marie Ward  
Chief Executive



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

Our ref: C180/2020

15 December 2020

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

Dear Mr Tohill

**Re: Coronavirus Pandemic impact on Further and Higher Education Students**

At the Council Meeting held on Monday 7 December 2020 the Notice of Motion from Fermanagh & Omagh District Council was tabled and Members of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council unanimously agreed to fully support the Motion:

**“Due to the ongoing Coronavirus Pandemic Fermanagh and Omagh District Council recognises the unprecedented strain that further and higher education student from our district are facing”.**

I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

**Marie Ward**  
**Chief Executive**

Received  
- 5 JAN 2021  
Chief Executive



**From the Permanent Secretary  
Katrina Godfrey**

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

Adrian McCreesh  
Chief Executive  
Mid Ulster District Council

Room 701  
Clarence Court  
10-18 Adelaide Street  
BELFAST  
BT2 8GB  
Telephone: (028) 9054 1175  
Email: [katrina.godfrey@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk](mailto:katrina.godfrey@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk)

Your reference:  
Our reference: PSDFI 3/21  
7 January 2021

Dear Adrian

### **DUNGANNON BYPASS**

Thank you for your letter received 11 December 2020 regarding a bypass of Dungannon. First I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Chief Executive of Mid Ulster District Council and wish you every success in that role

As you may know, we are currently preparing a Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan (RSTNTP) which will set out future investment and improvement for our strategic transport networks, by road, rail and bus, to 2035; and reflect the Department's commitment to improving connectivity for the benefit of our economy and communities across Northern Ireland. It will also help to inform the priorities for future development of the main road networks, including the A28/A29 Link Corridor running from Newry to Coleraine.

We recognise the congestion that occurs as a result of the volume of traffic passing through the towns/city along this corridor, in particular Armagh, Dungannon and Cookstown. We are keen to investigate ways to create more livable places that are not adversely impacted by heavy through traffic. This will be carefully considered as part of the RSTNTP proposals and the Minister intends to publish her draft plan for public consultation in late 2021.

We will be meeting with the Council in the coming months as part of our wider engagement under the Roads Order and this would be a good opportunity to provide an update on the draft plan. In the meantime, and particularly in the context of our work on the Mid South West Growth Deal, we will continue to keep in touch to ensure a fully integrated approach to land-use and transport planning.

Yours sincerely

**KATRINA GODFREY**

Chief Executive

11<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Councillor Cathal Mallaghan  
Chair  
Comhairle Ceantair  
Lár Uladh  
Mid Ulster District Council  
Dungannon Office  
Circular Road  
Dungannon  
BT71 6DT

Dear Councillor,

With reference to your correspondence of 6 Jan 2021, I share your concern at the delays experienced at Antrim Hospital and at other hospitals across Northern Ireland in recent weeks. You will appreciate that this is a symptom of system-wide pressure and is a result of normal winter pressures combined with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I can assure you it is never our intention to delay the transfer of patients from ambulances into our Emergency Department (ED). Unfortunately, patients delayed in ED awaiting admission to a ward is not a new situation and has happened on many previous occasions, particularly during winter pressure periods. Pre-COVID, we were able to cohort patients in ED awaiting admission, which allowed the department to maintain flow more efficiently. The complication that has arisen due to COVID is that patients suspected of being COVID positive who require hospital admission must remain isolated in ED until a side room in the hospital becomes available or there is laboratory confirmation of the patient's COVID status to allow us to place patients in cohorted wards.

Antrim Hospital in particular has experienced high levels of COVID admissions from early November and those figures have continued to rise throughout the second and now third surges of COVID-19.

You are no doubt aware of the current modelling from the Department of Health, which indicates a likely third peak of COVID-19 in mid-January. As we prepare for this scenario, we are taking a wide range of actions. These include:

- An increase in our ICU capacity in Antrim Hospital from 7 to 14 beds
- A phased increase in COVID inpatient beds to accommodate the projected growth in demand across Antrim and Causeway hospitals
- Additional piped oxygen capacity for our acute inpatient wards

Bretten Hall, Antrim Area Hospital Site, Bush Road, ANTRIM, BT41 2RL  
Tel: 028 94426273

[jennifer.welsh@northerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:jennifer.welsh@northerntrust.hscni.net)



- Improved responsiveness of our lab-based COVID testing and the securing of new point of care testing equipment to facilitate rapid reporting to assist us in the safe placing of patients in hospital wards and to inform timely discharge
- Increased COVID step-down capacity in our community hospitals and care homes
- Additional rapid response domiciliary care capacity to facilitate discharge from hospital
- Redeployment of staff from lower priority areas to support ICU, inpatient wards and other key services
- Ongoing support for care homes to help protect the most vulnerable in our society with daily surveillance across the 125 privately-run care homes in our Trust area and the provision of Trust support where required to assist the care home sector
- Implementation of the Phone First model across the Trust area to assist the public in navigating access to the most appropriate service
- A range of support measures for managers and staff to maintain physical and psychological wellbeing through this very difficult period
- A vaccination programme whereby we have given a first dose to 2,000 care home constituents and 2,700 care home staff along with over 7,000 Trust staff
- Delivery of the regional Nightingale enhanced therapies and rehabilitation unit at Whiteabbey Hospital.

The situation we find ourselves in as Health and Social Care providers can only be described as unprecedented and we are working extremely hard to maintain services for those most in need. Our staff, many of whom are your constituents, have risen to all of the challenges that this year has brought us and continue to provide the best possible care and treatment to all of our patients and clients.

I trust this provides some assurance of our active preparation for what is likely to be a very difficult month of January. We appreciate the ongoing support from our local councils, and would welcome any assistance you can provide, including promoting Phone First before attending our Emergency Departments, encouraging your constituents to adhere to the lockdown guidance, and availing of their vaccination when offered, thereby helping to protect us all.

Yours sincerely



Jennifer Welsh  
Chief Executive

Bretten Hall, Antrim Area Hospital Site, Bush Road, ANTRIM, BT41 2RL  
Tel: 028 94426273

[jennifer.welsh@northerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:jennifer.welsh@northerntrust.hscni.net)



**From:** Development Plan <[developmentplan@fermanaghomagh.com](mailto:developmentplan@fermanaghomagh.com)>

**Sent:** 12 January 2021 12:55

**To:** Mid Ulster Info <[info@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:info@midulstercouncil.org)>

**Subject:** [Mimecast - Suspicious Message] The Fermanagh and Omagh Local Development Plan (LDP) Draft Plan Strategy – Submission to Department for Infrastructure and Availability of Submission Documents

Your Ref

Our Ref: ES13 Submission for IE

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Email: [developmentplan@fermanaghomagh.com](mailto:developmentplan@fermanaghomagh.com)



**Alison McCullagh**  
Chief Executive

**Planning Department**

Mid Ulster District Council

Dear Sir/Madam,

**RE: The Fermanagh and Omagh Local Development Plan (LDP) Draft Plan Strategy – Availability of Submission Documents**

As a statutory 'consultation body', I write to you to advise you that in accordance with Section 10 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and Regulation 20 of The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, the council submitted the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Local Development Plan 2030 – Draft Plan Strategy and supporting documents to the Department for Infrastructure on 18 December 2020, for consideration as part of the Independent Examination process.

In accordance with Regulation 21 of the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, I also write to notify you that the Draft Plan Strategy and supporting documents are available for inspection. The Draft Plan Strategy and supporting documents submission are available on the Council's website at [www.fermanaghomagh.com](http://www.fermanaghomagh.com).

In light of current COVID-19 restrictions, the submission documents will not be available for public inspection at our offices at this time. When restrictions are relaxed, we will facilitate inspection of documents by appointment only between the hours of 9.00am and 5.00pm Monday to Friday at Strule House, 16 High Street Omagh, Co Tyrone, BT78 1BQ and County Buildings, 15 East Bridge Street, Enniskillen, Fermanagh, BT74 7BW. If you wish to register for an appointment to view the documents when circumstances allow, please email

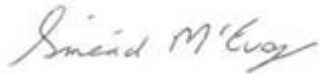


[developmentplan@fermanaghomagh.com](mailto:developmentplan@fermanaghomagh.com) or telephone 0300 303 1777 for an appointment.

There is no opportunity to make any representations at this stage.

Should you have any queries regarding this notification, please contact the Local Development Plan Team at the telephone number above, or email [developmentplan@fermanaghomagh.com](mailto:developmentplan@fermanaghomagh.com).

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Sinead McEvoy'.

Sinead McEvoy  
Principal Planning Officer (Development Plan)

**GERALDINE FEE**  
Director, Tourism and Telecoms Division



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E-mail: [Jennifer.Hobson@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:Jennifer.Hobson@midulstercouncil.org)

15 January 2021

Dear Adrian

## **PROJECT STRATUM**

Thank you for your correspondence of 21 December 2020, regarding the joint DfE/Fibrus meeting with the Broadband Working Groups held on 7 December 2020. Apologies for the delay in responding.

You have raised a number of issues and I will respond to these in turn:

### **1. Premises Out of Scope**

(1.1) *The physical addresses and postcodes for the 354 premises in Mid Ulster.*

**Answer:** A data file is embedded at **Annex A** listing these premises. This includes Irish Grid references and latitude and longitudes.

(1.2) *Digital GIS Shape files to allow Council to map exactly where these premises are located (as shown on DFE's map during your team's Powerpoint presentation on 7 December 2020).*

**Answer:** Unfortunately, we do not hold the data in the format requested. The maps were generated using specialist data tools in the 'R' computer language. Data has been provided as above and should permit a GIS specialist to generate mapping information.



- (1.3) *As DfE has removed these premises from Project Stratum, it is incumbent upon the Department to guarantee these premises will receive a future proofed FTTP solution too. Please confirm that this will be the case.*

**Answer:** As indicated during the discussion on 7 December, the Department will seek to ensure that no premises are left without a viable solution and it continues to be the aspiration of the Department to maximise NGA broadband coverage across the intervention area. Discussions have already been advanced with DCMS and now, with Fibrus Networks on board, we are working to identify the solutions and costs to bring those premises into this intervention, working within the rules and guidelines that permit government intervention in this industry sector.

## 2. Reduction in the Number of Premises in the Intervention Area

- (2.1) *Please provide a table, showing a breakdown by district council area where the 19,000 premises are located which DfE has removed from the “white postcode list”.*

**Answer:**

Local Government District	Number of premises reclassified in February 2020
Antrim and Newtownabbey	1,394
Ards and North Down	1,264
Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon	2,458
Belfast	218
Causeway Coast and Glens	1,619
Derry City and Strabane	720
Fermanagh and Omagh	2,408
Lisburn and Castlereagh	1,433
Mid and East Antrim	1,099
Mid Ulster	3,023
Newry Mourne and Down	2,759

- (2.2) *Provide evidence of how, when and by whom (provider) the premises in Mid Ulster removed from the “white postcode list” will be appropriately addressed to receive access to a minimum 30mbps service.*

**Answer:** A data refresh exercise was undertaken by Openreach on a national basis through December 2019 and January 2020. Openreach provided new information to the Department on 27 January 2020, shortly after the launch of the Invitation to Tender process for Project Stratum.

The information indicated that the initial data provided by Openreach in response to the Open Market Review and State aid public consultation was no longer up to date.

The Department took the opportunity to revise the Speed Coverage Template at that time, to ensure that all eligible NGA 'White' premises were accurately captured, and to ensure that suppliers bidding for the contract were not disadvantaged. The revised target intervention area was, therefore, finalised to coincide with the ITT phase of procurement. We also invited other bidders participating in the process to provide updated data related to the target intervention area, but the vast majority of the premises affected were related to the national data refresh exercise conducted by Openreach. Further details can be found at:

<https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/consultations/economy/addendum-to-omr-response-project-stratum.pdf>

The implication for Project Stratum was that there were a significant number of premises categorised as 'White' that the refreshed Openreach data suggested could already access broadband services of 30 Mbps or greater, or would be able to do so within the period of the OMR. Therefore, in line with State aid guidance, those premises were re-categorised as 'Grey' or 'Black' and removed from the intervention area as part of the OMR process.

(2.3) *Will such premises in Mid Ulster be guaranteed a future proofed FTTP solution?*

**Answer:** These premises are outside the scope of Project Stratum and fall within Openreach's own commercial deployment. It is for Openreach to comment on the technology deployed or to be deployed to provide Next Generation Access services to those premises, which the supplier has indicated is currently available or will be provided within the required period.

### **3. Remaining Premises in Mid Ulster without Superfast Broadband after Project Stratum**

(3.1) *Please provide DfE's definition of NGA Coverage.*

**Answer:** Based on the EU Broadband Guidelines and clarified by BDUK (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2016-nbs-tech-guidelines>), Next Generation Access networks rely wholly or partly on optical elements and are capable of delivering an enhanced broadband capability compared to existing basic broadband networks. Current qualifying NGA technologies are fibre-based networks (FTTx), advanced upgraded cable networks (DOCSIS 3.0) and certain advanced wireless access networks capable of delivering reliable high speeds.

(3.2) *Does DfE hold any information on the location of the 0.6% of premises in Mid Ulster, not included in Project Stratum. If so, Council would request this information be shared with us, to identify the locations of the remaining addresses (including postcodes) requiring intervention.*

**Answer:** See answer to 1.1

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Geraldine Fee". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'G' and a distinct 'F'.

**GERALDINE FEE**

Director, Tourism and Telecoms Division