

Councillor Paul McLean
Chair Mid Ulster Council

by email: Eileen.Forde@midulstercouncil.org
Member Support Officer

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Your reference:
Our reference: **133498-22**

21st February 2022

Dear Cllr McLean,

BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR INVESTMENT IN ROADS - MID ULSTER

Thank you for your letter dated 7th February 2022 regarding correspondence received from the Department for Infrastructure Minister Mallon in relation to *Budget Allocation for Investment in Roads - Mid Ulster* (Ref: CORR-2080-2021).

You have asked for clarity be sought on where the proposed works anticipated to be awarded in February 2022 will take place. The relevant text you have referred to from CORR-2080-2021 is

*... my officials have worked at pace to develop and implement a new asphalt resurfacing procurement strategy which consists of four phases with six new term contracts in each. The first phase, which includes **term contracts for** the Newry & Mourne, Down, Strabane, **Magherafelt, Dungannon** and Omagh, is currently out to tender **with an anticipated award in February 2022**. The second phase, which is scheduled to go to tender in January 2022 includes the Cookstown area....*

[emphasis added]

The anticipated award referred to relates to the first phase of Interim Term contracts for asphalt resurfacing. In this phase instead of 1 contract being awarded for Mid Ulster, individual term contracts will be awarded for Magherafelt and Dungannon. The Magherafelt Contract is the first of 2 that will operate within the remit of Mid Ulster North Maintenance section. The Dungannon Contract will operate within the remit of Mid Ulster South Maintenance section. There has been a slight delay in the award of Phase 1, and it has now slipped to March 2022.

The whole Roads & Rivers Procurement Programme can be viewed here: <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/node/5530>

With reference to your query about housing developments, Mid Ulster South Maintenance Section have been working on a resurfacing program of estates and

parcs and propose that this will commence in 2022/23 and will continue to be rolled out each year to address the deterioration of some of our parks and estates in the Section.

Mid Ulster North already have such a program in place which will be rolled out dependent upon suitable budget allocations.

I trust this response is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Gallagher', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Harry Gallagher
Divisional Roads Manager (Acting)
Western Division



Adrian McCreesh
Chief Executive
Mid Ulster District Council
Circular Road
Dungannon
Co. Tyrone
BT71 6DT

Sir Michael Lyons
Chairperson
Independent Review of Invest NI
info@investnireview.org.uk

23 February 2022
Our Ref: DC02/22

Via email:

adrian.mccreesh@midulstercouncil.org

Dear Adrian

Independent Review of Invest Northern Ireland - Stakeholder Engagement

As you will be aware, the Economy Minister announced an Independent Review of Invest Northern Ireland on 26th January. The Review will provide an independent assessment of the organisation's efficiency and effectiveness as well as its capacity to strategically align with, and operationally deliver, the 10X Economic Vision.

I am pleased to be leading the Review and am committed to ensuring all voices are heard during this evaluation. I intend to actively seek widespread evidence and opinion on the responsibilities and performance of the agency, so that the needs and ambitions of the different parts of Northern Ireland are fully reflected in our eventual conclusions.

An open Call for Evidence will shortly be published, and I would ask you to encourage a considered response from your authority in due course, however, I am also keen to meet appropriate representatives of your council to gauge their views.

I intend to visit Northern Ireland over the coming months and wish to engage in-person with as many key stakeholders as possible in the relatively short space of time that I have been afforded to carry out the Review. I recognise the importance of the voice of local government both for individual communities but also for Northern Ireland as a whole.

Given my time and resource constraints, I do not believe that separate in-person meetings are necessarily the best way to engage effectively but I would welcome your thoughts on how we might best design our consultation program to be both comprehensive and effective. I would be grateful if you could provide any views to info@investnireview.org.uk by 7 March 2022.

I hope to convene an early meeting of all the local authority chief executives to explore your views on the part which local government currently plays in economic development.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Lyons', with a large loop at the end of the signature.

Sir Michael Lyons
Chairperson
Independent Review of Invest NI



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www.nilgosc.org.uk

Councillor Paul McLean
Chair
Mid Ulster District Council

By email: Eileen.Forde@midulstercouncil.org

2 March 2022

Dear Councillor McLean

Council motion on Divestment

Thank you for your recent letter reporting the Council motion calling on NILGOSC to divest the pension scheme from any fossil fuel holdings.

NILGOSC is an active supporter of the 2015 Paris Agreement and has been taking action to mitigate climate risk since 2008. As a global investor it recognises climate risk as a key investment risk.

NILGOSC's approach to tackling climate risk is slightly different than that the Council has called for. We are focused on reducing global emissions, especially those of the world's largest emitters, rather than just the fossil fuel sector. We do this by working with others to engage with governments and companies on top of funding our own specific investments. NILGOSC is continuing to increase its holdings in low-carbon assets such as wind energy, solar, energy from waste, hydro, public transport, district heating and manufacturers for the renewable energy industry.

NILGOSC does not prohibit its fund managers from holding shares in companies from specific industries such as oil & gas, but does require its managers to take climate risk into account when making stock selection decisions and it continually reviews their decisions. Its holdings in oil & gas have reduced significantly. NILGOSC's core investment is the Legal & General Low Carbon Transition Fund, which has equivalent carbon emissions 70% lower than the standard global equity index.

For further information please see our [Responding to Climate change briefing note and our short video.](#)

Detailed Response

NILGOSC is both a global and a long-term investor therefore it expects the returns it receives on its investments to be affected by Climate Change. Research has indicated that traditional investment portfolios will be affected negatively, more so with each increase in temperature. **In 2008 NILGOSC published its Climate Risk Statement** which set out the action it would take to mitigate the risk of Climate Change to the pension fund. Following the action taken to date and with that planned for the future NILGOSC plans to deliver returns in line with its investment strategy.

NILGOSC has a fiduciary duty to its employers and members and must exercise its power to invest on investment grounds only, not for some other reason. It is not permissible to exclude from the fund any investments for non-investment reasons if it is likely to have an adverse impact on the returns achieved or lead to the fund being exposed to an unduly narrow and undiversified portfolio. Therefore NILGOSC makes decisions around investments on investment grounds only which includes taking into account the effects of Climate Risk on future values.

In 2019 NILGOSC almost halved the proportion of the fund invested in equities. This shift along with an increase in fixed income and infrastructure assets has significantly reduced the likelihood of a negative effect on returns in the scenario of temperature rises. However returns should be greater if the temperature rise is limited to 2°C or less therefore **NILGOSC supports the aims of the Paris Agreement**. It demonstrates its support through the various engagement activities it undertakes on top of the investment decision making process.

In essence NILGOSC has a 3 strand approach to mitigating climate risk:-

1. Engagement with Governments

As NILGOSC is a global investor it is *global* carbon emissions which cause us concern, rather than solely local emissions. We have therefore collaborated with other like minded investors around the world to encourage governments to take action aligned to the <2°C path. NILGOSC is a signatory to the [United Nations Principles of Responsible Investment](#) and is a member of the Institutional Investor Group on Climate Change. With these bodies we have called upon the [G20 and G7](#) governments at various times over the last number of years to take further action to meet their Paris commitments. With other UK investors we have more recently [written](#) to the United Kingdom prime minister to encourage further action and commitments to meet the UK's Net Zero by 2050 target. Closer to home we have contributed to DAERA's consultation on the NI Climate Bill. This type of engagement activity is regular and ongoing.

2. Engagement with Companies

NILGOSC is the owner of shares in many companies across the world. NILGOSC can exercise some degree of influence over these companies by the way it votes at company meetings. NILGOSC's policy is to vote at every meeting. In the year to 30 June 2021 NILGOSC voted at 185 meetings in 22 countries. It cast 2,222 votes of which 33% were against the company management's recommendation.

By far the more effective way to influence companies is by collaborating with other investors. NILGOSC is a member of [Climate Action 100+](#) which is an investor initiative to ensure the world's largest corporate greenhouse gas emitters take necessary action on climate change. The companies include 100 'systemically important emitters', accounting for two-thirds of annual global industrial emissions, alongside more than 60 others with significant opportunity to drive the clean energy transition. Launched in December 2017 at the One Planet Summit, Climate Action 100+ garnered worldwide attention as it was highlighted as one of 12 key global initiatives to tackle climate change. To date, more than 615 investors with more than USD \$60 trillion in assets under management have signed on to the initiative.

As an example of the effectiveness, in 2019, along with our Climate Action 100+ colleagues NILGOSC co-filed a resolution at the BP Plc AGM calling on it to disclose how its spending plans, emission policies and broader business strategy align with the Paris agreement. The resolution was supported by shareholders and by company management. This is a major step forward in aligning that company's business plan to a <2°C world and is an indicator of the influence shareholders can have over a company's activities.

3. Specific Investments

NILGOSC delegates the selection of individual investments held to its externally appointed fund managers and does not impose restrictions on environmental, social or governance (ESG) grounds alone. NILGOSC has however instructed its active fund managers to take account of climate risk considerations in its decision-making process, provided the primary financial obligation is not compromised. Where climate change produces a financial risk for a particular investment, NILGOSC expects this to be a fundamental part of the investment decision making process and monitors such decisions accordingly.

All active fund managers are instructed to engage, on NILGOSC's behalf, with those companies where ESG policies fall short of acceptable standards. NILGOSC requires all its external managers to provide regular reporting on such engagement activity and assesses its compliance through its quarterly balanced scorecard monitoring process.

NILGOSC seeks to ensure that the fund managers and consultants it appoints have the necessary expertise in assessing climate risk. NILGOSC assesses these capabilities at the selection and appointment stage through the tender process and applies mandatory ESG criteria. NILGOSC will only appoint fund managers and consultants who have demonstrated that they meet an acceptable threshold for ESG capabilities. In making investment decisions, NILGOSC will encourage its fund managers to address climate risks and opportunities in their investment research, analysis, decision making and engagement activities.

Through this process the level of high intensity carbon emitters has fallen within the NILGOSC portfolio. NILGOSC maintains a diverse portfolio covering all sectors but the direct holdings, for example, in the Utilities sector tilts towards those energy companies using renewable sources such as NextEra Energy, Eversource Energy, and Endsea. NILGOSC also has holdings in Tesla and NIO the electric car manufacturers. It should be noted however that equity holdings are subject to change.

NILGOSC's cornerstone investment is the Legal & General Low Carbon Transition Fund, which has equivalent carbon emissions 70% lower than the standard global equity index.

In addition NILGOSC is continuing to build up its Infrastructure portfolio and currently holds assets that are an important part of the emerging low-carbon economy. The assets are worldwide and include wind, solar, energy-from-waste and hydro power generators, public transport systems, district heating and manufacturers for the renewable energy industry. Within the last year we committed a further €50m to a [renewable energy fund](#).

Key documents

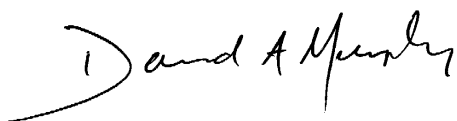
[Responding to Climate change briefing note](#)

[Climate Risk Statement](#)

[NILGOSC Climate Related Disclosure\(TCFD disclosure\)](#)

[Summary of Engagement and Initiatives](#)

Yours sincerely



David Murphy
Chief Executive

From:
To: [Councillor D Kerr](#)
Cc: [Eileen Forde](#)
Subject: RE: Recent Coalisland outages
Date: 15 March 2022 11:22:23

Dear Councillor Kerr

Following on from my earlier email and voice message left, I can confirm that there are a number of circuits providing electricity supply to customers in the Coalisland area. It is therefore more difficult to provide specific information on unplanned interruptions for a general area. The first two dates below apply to customers fed from the same circuit but the storm affected a wider customer base. I am happy to provide the following:

On 3rd February 2022, approximately 1,200 customers were affected by an unplanned interruption with supplies restored within 30 minutes.

On 16th February 2022 we had over 1,200 customers affected and after investigations replaced a High Voltage fuse unit. This fault would have accounted for any short interruption (transients) any customers may have experienced and the failure on the 3rd February.

On the 20th and 21st February following the storm, we had a number of both Low Voltage and High Voltage unplanned interruptions, with repairs being carried out or trees removed as required.

Thanks again for contacting NIE Networks.

*kindest regards
 Helena*

*Tel - 028 82 253242
 Ext - 44242*

From the **Permanent Secretary**
Dr Denis McMahon



Our reference:

Mr Roger Wilson

Email:
roger.wilson@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk;

Room E5.11,
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate,
Belfast
BT4 3SL, Northern Ireland
Tel: 028 9037 8116
Email: perm.sec@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk

14 March 2022

Dear Roger

REFUGEE SCHEMES: BRIEFING AND CO-DESIGN – FOLLOW UP TO MEETING HELD WITH SOLACE ON 14 MARCH 2022

Thank you to you and SOLACE colleagues for a highly constructive meeting, during which we discussed working together in partnership to respond to the needs of Ukrainian refugees entering Northern Ireland. As we discussed, this will be a very significant exercise and we will need to work together across government, central and local, and with other sectors. The key actions agreed at the meeting were:

- (1) Operational Plan to be produced, with input from local Government colleagues. **[Ian Snowden]**
- (2) Each District Council to provide a single point of contact as a first step. While we did not agree a specific deadline, it would be very useful to have names and contact details by close of play on **Wednesday, 16 March 2022** to nicssurge@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk. **[District Councils/SOLACE]**
- (3) District Councils to design and deliver Welcome Centres in their local areas, in partnership with public sector organisations and community and voluntary sector. This will include orientation centres, as well as centres with accommodation for short stays. The design work will feed into the Operational Plan and will need to be completed by **Close of Play on Wednesday, 23 March 2022**. **[District Councils/SOLACE with Government Departments]**

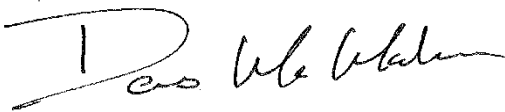


- (4) District Councils to provide local knowledge and information to inform the capacity exercise being led by Grainia Long (Housing Executive NI) as well as on an ongoing basis. [**District Councils/SOLACE**]
- (5) In the meantime Housing Executive NI to provide accommodation on an emergency basis, where required to meet urgent needs. [**Housing Executive NI**]
- (6) We recognise that actions will have financial consequences. In the first instance, we will need to make use of existing resources, as far as possible, recognising that additional resources may be required. This will be discussed further as the actions are costed. [**Local and Central Government**]
- (7) A central communications team will be established with Council colleagues. [**TEO Executive Information Service**]

We also agreed that SOLACE colleagues would consider how often to meet. We would propose the establishment of weekly stand-up meetings in the first instance, subject to the views of local Government colleagues. We will however be happy to be guided by you on this.

Once again I would like to thank you and colleagues for a very constructive meeting. I have no doubt that local Government will play a full role in this important work, as it has done in previous exercises, and I look forward to working with all of you as we move ahead.

Yours sincerely



DR DENIS McMAHON
TEO Permanent Secretary

cc: HOCS
John Kelpie
Marie Ward
Alison McCullagh
Jacqui Dixon
David Burns
Adrian McCreesh
Katrina Morgan
John Tully
David Jackson
Stephen Reid
Claire Carleton

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE™
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Joan McCaffrey
Alison Allen
Dawn McDowell
Moirá Doherty
Ian Snowden
Gareth Johnston
Karen Pearson
Tim Losty
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Doreen McClintock
Julie Cuming
Chris McNabb
Libby Kinney
Erin Craig
Claire Linney
Nicola Dorrian
Joanne Lappin
Louise Moore
Ursula Fay