



**From: James Elliott**

**Causeway Exchange  
1-7 Bedford Street  
Belfast  
BT2 7EG**

Telephone: 07919764691  
e-mail: [James.Elliott@communities-ni.gov.uk](mailto:James.Elliott@communities-ni.gov.uk)  
Our ref: TOF 1412-2024  
Date: 31st May 2024

Mrs Sara Steele  
Legal and Civic Services Department  
Democratic Services Section  
Belfast City Council

Via email: [steelesara@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:steelesara@belfastcity.gov.uk)

Dear Sara,

### **Social Supermarkets 2024-25**

Thank you for writing to Minister Lyons to reiterate the need for funding to be made available to Councils for Social Supermarkets and to highlight the essential services they offer to their local communities and seek additional funding.

As the lead official for the Social Supermarket Programme, Minister Lyons has asked me to respond on his behalf.

At this time the Departmental budget for 2024/25 has not been agreed. However, to enable Councils to continue to provide financial support for the Social Supermarkets, in the respective areas, arrangements were made for up to 25% of the 2023/24 budget allocation to be made available as an interim measure. I can confirm that those payments have been issued.

I can also advise that I have reflected feedback received from yourselves, and a number of other Council areas, who have indicated a desire to see increased funding to meet demand should additional funding become available. The outcome of the



ongoing budget exercise will be communicated to Councils as soon as possible to enable final plans to be made for the year.

Yours sincerely,

**James Elliott**

**Head of Access to Food**