



Department for

**Communities**

[www.communities-ni.gov.uk](http://www.communities-ni.gov.uk)

An Roinn

**Pobal**

Depairtment fur

**Commonities**

**From: The Minister**

**Level 9**

**Causeway Exchange**

**1-7 Bedford Street**

**Belfast**

**BT2 7EG**

Telephone: (028) 90512692

e-mail: [private.office@communities-ni.gov.uk](mailto:private.office@communities-ni.gov.uk)

Our ref: CORR 0351-2025

Date: 13 June 2025

Cllr Tracy Kelly  
Mayor  
Belfast City Council

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

Dear Cllr Kelly,

**WELFARE CHANGES: THE PATHWAYS TO WORK: REFORMING BENEFITS AND  
SUPPORT TO GET BRITAIN WORKING GREEN PAPER**

I refer to Barry Flynn's letter dated 15 April 2025, detailing Belfast City Council's concerns regarding the UK Government's recently published 'Pathways to Work: Reforming Benefits and Support to Get Britain Working' Green Paper.

I acknowledge the Council's concern about the changes and the uncertainty created by the UK Government proposals. I have made clear my strong opposition to the proposed welfare cuts, and I have raised my concerns directly with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and Labour Government Ministers.

I am committed to the delivery of a welfare system that protects those who need it most; encourages employment for those who can work; promotes the skills and advancement of people in employment; and that supports people who can't work.

My officials continue to work closely with the Department for Work and Pensions to understand the full impacts and implications for Northern Ireland.

DWP will be holding a consultation event in Northern Ireland on the afternoon of 16 June in Belfast. The details are available on the Department for Work and Pensions website (<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/pathways-to-work-reforming-benefits-and-support-to-get-britain-working-green-paper>) Places at this event will be limited, but of course you can also submit your views online/in writing/by email. I would encourage you to engage with the consultation process. It is important that key stakeholders bring their views to the table and make Northern Ireland's voice heard.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gordon Lyons', written in a cursive style.

**Gordon Lyons MLA**  
**Minister for Communities**

Cc Barry Flynn Barry Flynn [FlynnBarry@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:FlynnBarry@belfastcity.gov.uk)