

From the office of the Minister for Infrastructure
LIZ KIMMINS MLA

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Our reference: COR- 1768-2024
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Dear Sara,

HILL STREET, BELFAST - PEDESTRAINISATION

Thank you for your letter, dated 15 October 2024, in which you ask that the Minister revisits the decision to put work on the pedestrianisation of Hill Street on hold.

I apologise for the delay in responding to you, unfortunately significant staffing constraints within Eastern Division is having an impact on response times.

An informal consultation on the proposal to pedestrianise Hill Street has been carried out for which the Department got nine replies. While most were in favour of the pedestrianisation scheme, the majority wanted to retain full vehicle access. However, this would not be in keeping with the objective of a pedestrianised area which is to remove traffic during certain periods for the general benefit of pedestrians.

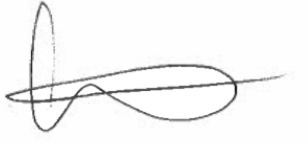
Therefore, this requires further engagement with individual businesses to explain this position and to attempt to negotiate a scheme which works for everyone.

Unfortunately, due to the extensive time that this type of engagement requires, and the current significant pressures on staff as well as their involvement with high priority work such as the Belfast Grand Central Station, the Sydenham Bypass resurfacing scheme and the McKinstry Road/ Derriaghy Road/ The Cutts improvement scheme, it was necessary to put work on the Hill Street proposal on hold at present.

Officials are keeping the position under review and would hope to follow up the informal consultation feedback in the coming months as staffing resource permits.

I trust this information is helpful and fully explains our position on this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large loop followed by a horizontal stroke and a smaller loop.

Emma Stockman
Private Secretary to the Minister