

# Legal and Civic Services Department

## Democratic Services Section



Your reference

Being dealt with by Ms Eilish McGoldrick

Our reference EMcG240322RCDfC

Email [democraticservices@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@belfastcity.gov.uk)

Date 24th March, 2023

Colum Boyle  
Department for Communities  
Permanent Secretary  
Causeway Exchange  
1-7 Bedford Street  
Belfast  
BT2 7EG

Dear Permanent Secretary,

### **Rent Controls**

At its special meeting in February, Belfast City Council's City Growth and Regeneration Committee passed the following motion which had been proposed by Councillor Beattie and seconded by Councillor Duffy:

"The Committee notes the cost of privately renting a home in Belfast has risen significantly in recent years, making it increasingly unaffordable for many people, particularly those on low incomes and young families. The Committee: Wants to see costs for renters reduced; Acknowledges that legislation is required to protect renters from unfair rents, improve housing standards and end unfair letting fees; Recognises the introduction of rent controls is one way to help renters. Furthermore, the Executive needs to be back up and running and a Minister in place to progress this."

Accordingly, the Committee agreed to write to you, as Permanent Secretary for the Department for Communities, and the Head of the Civil Service to engage with the Council and other key stakeholders concerning rent controls in Belfast; and to support local community organisations and advocacy groups in their efforts to campaign for the

**Belfast City Council**, Legal and Civic Services Department  
City Hall, Belfast BT1 5GS  
Tel: 028 9032 0202 Textphone: 028 9027 0405  
Dx No.: 383 NR Belfast

introduction of rent controls and to ensure that the voices of renters and those affected by the housing affordability crisis were heard.

I look forward to receiving your comments on the issues raised by the Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eilish McGoldrick', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Eilish McGoldrick**  
Democratic Services Officer

CC: *Dr. J. Brady, Head of the Civil Service*