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Sara Steele
Democratic Services
Belfast City Council

Your Ref: SP&R 15.12.2023 SS/JT

17 April 2024

Dear Sara,

Thank you for your note of 24 January 2024.

We are delighted that the City Council approved planning permission last night for two major developments on the Dublin Road, the Kainos HQ and QUB student accommodation. These flagship developments are a vote of confidence in Belfast City Centre and will help kickstart wider regeneration on Dublin Road and southern Great Victoria Street. LQ BID are delighted to support both major anchor institutions as they develop these exciting schemes.

Unfortunately, this means that the lease for Trade Market will expire as planned on 31 July 2024. LQ BID have actively supported Trade Market since inception, including providing a grant of £5,000 for a new mural, lending our professional PR support to secure positive press coverage, and running successful events within their space to boost footfall. However, we recognise the facility was always designated as a meanwhile use and are grateful to Kainos for generously enabling the use of their land in the first place.

As you are aware LQ BID has a short-term lease to operate the adjacent Bankmore Square as a public green space until March 2025. However, we are not permitted to transfer this lease, so any requests from third parties would initially be a matter between the landowner (the Department for Infrastructure) and the potential applicant. LQ BID will fully consider any request from the Department to surrender or modify our lease prior to its expiry, but to date no such request has been received.

I hope this helps clarify the matter and thank you again for your enquiry.

Yours sincerely,



Christopher McCracken

Christopher McCracken
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