



Department for

Communities

An Roinn

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Department for

Commonities

www.communities-ni.gov.uk

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Your ref: 09.04.2024 P&C SS/JT

Our ref: TOF 1411-2024

31 May 2024

Via email: steelesara@belfastcity.gov.uk

Dear Sara,

Dilapidated Buildings

Thank you for your letter dated 19 May 2024 to the Minister for Communities on whose behalf I am providing this response.

You advised that Belfast City Council's People and Communities Committee met on 9 April 2024 and consequently agreed to write to the Minister and to the Department for Finance seeking the allocation of a package of funding to address derelict buildings in the city.

The Department does not currently have any funding programme which would assist Councils be more effective tackling the problems associated with dilapidation.

The Department has previously operated a discretionary grant scheme, known as Urban Development Grant scheme, which encouraged and supported developers to invest in improving vacant, derelict, or underused land and buildings to improve their appearance and to back into use. Presently, the Urban Development Grant programme is not open for applications.

The Northern Ireland Executive has now agreed a 2024/25 budget and Minister will allocate this funding envelope against existing commitments and Ministerial priorities.

The implications of this budget allocation need to be clearly understood and Minister is working with the Senior Team to consider the budget position and the decisions that will be required to live within our allocation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anna Slevin". The script is cursive and somewhat informal.

Anna Slevin

Belfast Regeneration Directorate