

**From the Office of the Minister  
DR CAOIMHE ARCHIBALD MLA**

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Department for the

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Craig a chara

## **COUNCIL MOTION REGARDING ULSTER UNIVERSITY REDUNDANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the motion passed by Belfast City Council following the recent announcement by Ulster University. I note the specific ask of me, as Minister for the Economy, requesting urgent intervention by the Stormont Executive to protect jobs and educational provision at Ulster University.

Ulster University is an autonomous institution and, as such, decisions relating to staffing are a matter for the University. I, along with my officials, will continue to engage with the University and I recognise that this will be a worrying time for staff, students and prospective students.

Like all Departments, the Department for the Economy's finances are extremely challenging. The Executive has repeatedly warned that the current funding position is unsustainable and has repeatedly called on the British Government to provide a fair and sustainable funding settlement to enable meaningful investment in transformation, while ensuring the continued delivery of high-quality public services. I am seeking additional grant funding to ensure a funding settlement that can deliver a sustainable Higher Education sector. I have also commissioned an independent analysis of the costs associated with Ulster University's multi-campus model.

In respect of educational provision, the University has advised that it will not be reducing the current number of courses available commencing in September 2026, and that all offers made to students will be honoured.

I welcome the Council's interest in this matter.

Is mise le meas

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Archibald'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'C' being particularly large and stylized.

**DR CAOIMHE ARCHIBALD MLA**  
**Minister for the Economy**