



Subject:	Notice of Motion : Donations to Political Parties – Response from the Secretary of State
Date:	17 th February, 2017
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider the response from the Secretary of State in relation to the Council's Motion on Donations to Political Parties.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none">Note the response and take any such action as may be determined.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> The Council, at its meeting on 3rd January, passed the following motion on Donations to Political Parties, which had been proposed by Councillor Nicholl and seconded by Councillor Councillor McDonough-Brown: "This Council notes a motion passed in March, 2016, regarding the transparency of donations made to political parties, recognises the importance which the citizens of

<p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p>	<p>Belfast place on being able to trust their Elected Representatives to work for the common good, further recognises the corrupting influence which money can have on the political decision- making process and considers it unacceptable that donations to political parties continue to remain secret in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>The Council notes correspondence which was received from the previous Secretary of State, dated 5th April, 2016, stating that the time was not appropriate to move to full transparency, however, given current low levels of public confidence in transparency of Government, it calls on the new Secretary of State to immediately lift the exemption to reveal all declared donations to political parties since January 2014 and calls also on all political parties to voluntarily publish donations from this time."</p> <p>A response has now been received on behalf of the Secretary of State, a copy of which is attached. The response welcomes the Council's motion and confirms that the Secretary of State wrote to Northern Ireland's political parties earlier in January inviting their views on moving to full transparency and stating his desire to progress the matter.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> None</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Appendices - Documents Attached</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 - Response from the Secretary of State</p>