

## Appendix 3 – Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce Letter



Chief Executive's Office	
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Ref:	SW 23/1
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Ms Suzanne Wylie  
Chief Executive  
Belfast City Council  
City Hall  
Belfast  
BT1 5GS

4<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Dear Ms Wylie,

Belfast Chamber of Trade & Commerce, at a meeting of its Executive Council in 2017, unanimously resolved that it wishes to see the day of the annual Belfast Marathon moved from Monday to Sunday. The Chamber's reasons include:

1. While retailers normally enjoy an increase in trade on bank holiday's, on Marathon day trade in the city centre is only half of that experienced on an average Monday.
2. The Chamber believe that a Sunday Marathon would encourage more weekend visitors to participate in or support the event and visit Belfast.
3. The vast majority of Marathons internationally are held on a Sunday, moving the Belfast event to a Sunday may encourage greater participation by international athletes.
4. A Sunday event would benefit business in the city centre, who cannot open until 1pm.

Both Belfast Marathon Company and Belfast Chamber of Trade & Commerce are committed to bringing more people into Belfast. To that end, we would be keen to explore opportunities to work together to promote our respective and shared goals.

The Chamber would be grateful if the Belfast Marathon could be moved to a Sunday with effect from 2019.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Michelle Greeves

Cc: David Seaton  
Marathon Chair  
Belfast City Marathon

