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Ms Suzanne Wylie
Chief Executive
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Your reference: SW/lc

Our reference: SCORR-0640-2019

25 October 2019

Dear Suzanne

Thank you for your letter of 18 October setting out the detail of the motion passed at the 1st October meeting of the Belfast City Council.

The Department of Finance held extensive negotiations with the recognised trade unions in relation to the NICS pay award for 2018, following which an offer was made which was worth 2.05% overall on the pay bill for non-industrial staff in the NI Civil Service (NICS).

You will be aware that NICS Departments are faced with major constraints imposed by ongoing budgetary pressures on the Northern Ireland block. In determining the level of award, I was very mindful of the need to tackle low pay in the NICS and the award included a larger increase of 3% for administrative assistants and analogous grades with all others receiving a 1.25% uplift. In addition, staff who were eligible also received pay progression.

These were difficult decisions in financially constrained circumstances and the 2018 award was the best possible within these public sector pay constraints.

There are no plans to reopen negotiations on 2018 pay and I have already initiated negotiations on 2019 pay.

SUE GRAY