



Subject:	Motion: Proposed Future Development – Writers’ Square – Response from Department for Communities
Date:	19th February, 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
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 a response which has been received on behalf of the Minister for Communities to a motion on the Proposed Future Development of Writers’ Square, which was passed by the Council at its meeting on 1st February.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is requested to consider the response and to take such action thereon as may be determined.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	At the Council meeting on 1st February, the following motion, which was proposed by Councillor Groogan and seconded by Councillor McKeown, was passed: “This Council recognises the significance of Writer's Square to the city of Belfast as a public and civic space and its historical significance. This Council calls upon the Department for Communities to ensure that any development brief relating to Writers’

	<p>Square respects the civic use of the Square as a place facilitating lawful protest and celebration. Further, the Council calls upon the Department to ensure that the setting of St Anne's Cathedral is protected.</p> <p>The Council will write to the Minister for Communities to that effect.”</p>
3.2	A letter has been received from Mr. C. Donnelly, Director of Belfast Regeneration Directorate, on behalf of Minister Hargey. A copy of the letter is attached.
3.3	Mr. Donnelly points out that the Minister and her Department has noted the content of the Council's motion and that it will be given further consideration should the Minister decide to proceed with a development brief for the Square.
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.4	None associated with this report.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.5	None
4.0	Document Attached
	Response from DfC