



Department for

**Infrastructure**

An Roinn

**Bonneagair**

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From the office of the Minister for Infrastructure  
**Nichola Mallon MLA**

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Our reference: CORR-1739-2021  
29<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Ms McLornan

## **YORK STREET INTERCHANGE – REQUEST TO SHARE INDEPENDENT ASSURANCE REVIEW REPORT**

Thank you for your letter of 14 October 2021 to Minister Mallon on behalf of Belfast City Council, regarding the report generated from the recent York Street Interchange Independent Assurance Review. The Minister has read and considered the motion passed at the Belfast City Council meeting on 4 October 2021.

The Independent Assurance Review of the York Street Interchange scheme was carried out to provide the Minister with assurance on how the proposed scheme reflects her key Ministerial priorities and both Executive and Belfast City Council objectives, in particular:

- The Minister's priorities around focus on wellbeing, sustainable travel, creating thriving liveable places and communities, responding to the climate emergency and connecting people and opportunities;
- The Executive's priorities set out in New Decade: New Approach and the Outcomes Delivery Plan; and
- The scheme's strategic fit alongside the emerging policy context, for example, the Belfast Agenda, the Belfast City Council Development Plan Strategy and the emerging Transport Plans.

She also made clear the need to engage with local key stakeholders as part of this review.

You will be aware of my reply to your colleague Ms McGoldrick on 17 June 2021, on behalf of the Minister, when I explained that the Minister is not able to publish the report in accordance with Department of Finance guidance contained within DAO 02/20 (Section 8)

<https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dfp/DAOf0220att.pdf>.

Reviews must include frank and open exchanges with all of the interviewees and it is likely that interviewees would be much more guarded with their comments and less

willing to share express their views and information with the review team, if there was the expectation that future reports were to be published. Consequently this might potentially undermine the value of such reviews.

The further work which is being carried out to address the recommendations from the Independent Assurance Review which includes a placemaking and active travel review, is now well advanced and due to be completed in the coming weeks. The Minister will consider the report before deciding on the next steps for the scheme.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K MCFERRAN', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**KATHRYN MCFERRAN**  
**Private Secretary to the Minister**