



Your reference

Our reference SW/lc

Date 15 September 2021

Minister Hargey MLA
Department of the Communities
Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
BELFAST
BT2 7EG

Dear Minister Hargey

Pest control services and social housing tenants

I acknowledge your correspondence of 14 September 2021 in relation to the provision of Pest Control services by Belfast City Council.

I would like to advise you that the restricted service was always to be kept under review. This was a pragmatic decision made whilst trying to recover the service in June 2021 after it had been suspended. I would note that the NIHE and the Housing Associations have managed to deliver Pest Control services, via their contractors, throughout the pandemic when there was no service being provided by Belfast City Council.

Since then, the Council's People and Communities Committee has asked officers to plan towards returning the Pest Control Service to the wider tenure and requested, that officers engage in discussions with NIHE and Housing Associations around establishing a service level agreement to include a cost recovery or recharging arrangement that may assist better service delivery for all parties involved. We would also emphasise that when we return the service requests for all tenures, we will continue to operate under restricted covid control conditions and that unfortunately, we do anticipate longer waiting times for pest treatment appointments.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with NIHE to discuss this matter in early October and my officers will be in touch to arrange.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suzanne Wylie', written over a horizontal line.

Suzanne Wylie
Chief Executive

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