

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MINISTER



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Dear Lou's,

Thank you for your e-mail of 10 February inviting me to consider and comment on Belfast City Council's motion opposing the Department for the Economy's proposed cuts to the higher education budget.

Unfortunately in these unprecedented times all government departments are facing significant financial pressures and may have to make difficult decisions on their budgets. As you are aware, the Finance Minister has recently announced that in the absence of an Executive to agree a Budget, he has decided to pause the public consultation of the draft Budget 2022-25 for now. A new Executive will take further decisions on how the Budget process will proceed. I therefore do not consider it is appropriate for me to offer any further comment at this time.

Regards

*Michelle M'Ueer*

**Michelle McIlveen MLA**  
**Minister of Education**