



Our Ref:

Your Ref:

Date 21 March 2024

Anthony Carleton  
Director of Local Government  
and Housing Regulation Division  
Level 4  
Causeway Exchange  
1-7 Bedford Street  
BELFAST BT2 7EG

Dear Mr Carleton

**COUNCIL REMOTE / HYBRID MEETINGS – RESPONSE FROM BELFAST CITY COUNCIL**

I am writing in response to your letter dated 12 March 2024 to Council Chief Executives in relation to Minister Lyons' proposal to bring forward regulations giving councils the flexibility to hold meetings by remote/hybrid means using the powers in the Local Government (Meetings and Performance) Act (NI) 2021.

The Council is fully supportive of the proposal to introduce legislation which would allow remote/hybrid meetings to be held on a permanent basis.

The Council would wish to query the requirement for Regulation 2 Paragraph 5. This paragraph formed part of the original regulations (The Local Government (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of District Council Meetings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020).

This paragraph is applicable where only remote meetings are permitted and in person meetings are not available. If, as per Paragraph 6, Councils are to have discretion around whether or whenever to have remote meetings then Regulation 2 (5) is no longer required.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nora Largey', written over a white background.

**Nora Largey**  
Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal & Civic Services

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