



Subject:	Response received from Department for Communities re Local Government (Remote Meetings) Regulations (NI) 2024
Date:	21st June, 2024
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.	
Insert number <input type="checkbox"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Information relating to any individual2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime	
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

No

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To note the correspondence received from Department for Communities.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the correspondence as set out in the report.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	The Committee will recall that, at the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 19th April, 2024, it was agreed to write to the Minister for Communities requesting that the Local Government (Remote Meetings) Regulations (NI) 2024 be brought forward as quickly as possible.
3.2	The Committee is advised that a response has been received from Mr. Anthony Carleton, Director Local Government and Housing Regulation, Department for Communities.
3.3	<p>In his response he advises <i>“the Minister is committed to bringing forward these regulations, within as short a timeframe as possible, using enabling powers in the Local Government (Meetings and Performance) Act (NI) 2021.</i></p> <p><i>These regulations will be subject to the draft affirmative procedure in the Assembly which means that, once they are finalised and laid in the Assembly, a motion to approve them must be tabled, and considered in plenary session of the Assembly.</i></p> <p><i>It is the intention of the Minister to have these regulations made, subject to Assembly approval, before the Assembly summer recess.”</i></p>
3.4	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None associated with this report.
3.5	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None associated with this report.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Response from Department for Communities.

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