

18 July 2024

Sara Steele
Democratic Services Officer
Legal and Civic Services Department
Belfast City Council

Via Email – steelsara@belfastcity.gov.uk

Dear Ms Steele

Notice of Motion – Bilingual Signage at Weavers Cross

I am writing to provide an update on the discussions we have had with various interested parties in connection with bilingual signage at Belfast Grand Central Station.

During recent weeks, we have met with a wide variety of groups, including Conradh na Gaeilge, Foras na Gaeilge, Ulster-Scots Agency/Boord o Ulst r Scots, Sinn F in, DUP, and Belfast South Community Resources, to discuss the issue. Translink’s position has been consistent throughout the meetings – a desire to listen to the issues raised and look for solutions, we provide a public transport service for all communities, and that we remain impartial on cross community matters and issues that may be perceived to be political in nature.

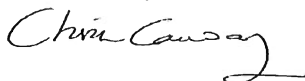
We have concluded that further dialogue on this issue within and between communities and political representatives will be required to reach a solution. We intend to reach out to Foras na Gaeilge and the Ulster-Scots Agency/Boord o Ulst r Scots to help facilitate this.

The station will open operationally later this year, but the project is not programmed for completion until late 2025, and there will be no official opening prior to this. This provides the benefit of both time and space for ongoing dialogue, alongside further clarity arising from the implementation of the Identity and Language (Northern Ireland) Act 2022.

Initial steps to accommodate the linguistic heritage of Belfast will be taken in advance of the operational opening during autumn 2024, including multi-lingual welcome and helpdesk signage, as well as significant ongoing arts and heritage work being undertaken to accommodate the vibrant linguistic and cultural heritage of the area; we are working with the local communities to deliver this. We are also working to deliver multi-lingual capability on our website in the period ahead.

I hope that you will find the foregoing useful.

Yours sincerely



Chris Conway
Group Chief Executive

www.translink.co.uk