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Your ref: BF/JT

Our ref: COR/136/2012

7 March 2012

Dear Barry

Thank you for your letter of 16 February bringing to my attention the views of the Council's Development Committee on the recent review of High Streets by Mary Portas. I am grateful to the Committee for its welcome of my Department's plans to consider the implications of the Portas Review for Northern Ireland.

I should be grateful if you would advise the Committee that I will consider including Belfast city centre within any pilot project formulated by DSD in light of the Portas Review and will arrange to keep the Committee updated in this regard. I can also confirm that my officials are available to attend a future meeting of the Committee to discuss issues of mutual concern. I understand that Jackie Johnston has recently met with Shirley McCay to discuss the Portas Review and that they will continue to keep in contact as we move forward with the review.

Yours sincerely

Nelson McCausland

**NELSON McCAUSLAND MLA**  
**Minister for Social Development**

