

From the Office of the Minister



Department of

**Enterprise, Trade
and Investment**

www.detini.gov.uk

NETHERLEIGH
MASSEY AVENUE
BELFAST
BT4 2JP
Tel: 028 90 529452
Fax: 028 90 529545

E Mail: private.office@detini.gov.uk

Our Ref: DETI COR 604/2013

Mr Barry Flynn
Democratic Services Officer
Chief Executive's Department
Room G38
City Hall
BELFAST
BT1 5GS

17 December 2013

Dear Mr Flynn

Thank you for your e-mail of 5 December 2013 regarding financial assistance for Belfast Zoo. The Minister has read your correspondence and asked me to respond on her behalf.

Belfast Zoo is an important asset for both residents and visitors. Belfast Zoo continues to deliver high standards which were recognised by the award of 'Best Visitor Experience' at NITB's Tourism Awards 2013.

The Department through the Northern Ireland Tourist Board's (NITB) funding schemes has provided financial assistance in excess of £400,000. Unfortunately, there are currently no funding schemes available through NITB. Furthermore NITB does not support the operational or maintenance costs of tourist attractions.

Belfast Zoo is welcome to apply to NITB's future funding schemes which will be based on competitive scoring and criteria.

In respect of Exploris any funding has yet to be confirmed. The Minister is not aware of any operational or maintenance support being offered to Exploris.

Yours sincerely

GLYNIS AIKEN
Private Secretary to Arlene Foster MLA

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES			
SP & R	P & L	HOUSING	AUDIT
H & ES	T P	G R	COUNCIL
23 DEC 2013			
LIC	DEVEL	TRAN	
REFERENCE	43910		
REFERRED TO			