

FROM THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH,  
SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY  
Michael McGimpsey MLA



Department of  
**Health, Social Services  
and Public Safety**

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AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta  
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÁNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydënter Heisin  
an Fowk Siccar**

Mr Liam Steele  
Head of Committee and Members Services  
Belfast City Council  
City Hall  
BELFAST  
BT1 5GS

COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS' SERVICE			
30 JUL 2008			
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REFERENCE: 48179			
REFERRED TO: J. Langan			

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Your Ref: JH/TM

Our Ref: COR/950/2008  
29<sup>th</sup> July 2008

*See Liam*

Thank you for your letter of 2 July about the proposed new regional hospital for children and women. I welcome your notification of the Motion passed by the Council at its meeting on 1 July in support of this very important project.

My Department did not receive adequate funding in the current budget allocation. In that context I recently commissioned a Review of Capital Priorities over the next 10 years. Trusts have submitted initial lists of prioritised projects and meetings are ongoing to agree those priorities to inform a report on the Review in September. As I have stated previously I am actively considering all medium to longer-term strategic investment proposals, including the regional hospitals for women and children.

Departmental officials have been working closely with the Belfast Trust to finalise proposals for the new hospital. The Trust is currently finalising the business case for submission to my Department for assessment. In the context of the Review of Capital Priorities and capital allocation over the next 10 years the Trust will consider in the revised business case phased options for the proposed development including the possibility of advance site clearance and enabling works. Only when the business case has been submitted and scrutinised can a decision on funding and timing of the project be taken. A decision on this project will of course need to be taken alongside decisions on other competing capital investment priorities.

I hope you find this helpful and I thank the Council for its interest in this project.

*Regards,  
Michael*

**Michael McGimpsey MLA**  
**Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety**

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