



Your reference

Our reference RPA/KH/003

Date 12 October 2013

Mark H Durkan,
Minister of the Environment
DoE Private Office
8th Floor Goodwood House
44-58 May Street
Belfast
BT1 4NN

Dear Minister,

Establishment of Belfast Statutory Transition Committee

I refer to your letter, dated 29 August 2013, regarding the establishment of the Belfast Statutory Transition Committee in line with the requirement set out in Regulation 3 of the Local Government (Statutory Transition Committee) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2013. This letter had been brought to the Belfast Voluntary Transition Committee, at its meeting on 6 September 2013, and it was agreed that the Council await the outcome of your deliberations as set out below.

Belfast City Council agreed that it would *“defer consideration of a report in relation to the creation of the Belfast Statutory Transition Committee to enable the Minister for the Environment to consider the nominees to the Statutory Transition Committee by Lisburn City and Castlereagh Borough Council”*

In your letter, reference is made to correspondence issued to both Lisburn City Council and Castlereagh Borough Council indicating that both councils have acted contrary to the spirit in which the regulations were made and in which the associated guidance was issued, namely, to ensure fair, equal and proportional political representation for those citizens transferring to the new Belfast City Council from April 2015. Reference is also made to officials possibly drafting amending regulations which will specify exactly how the nomination process should proceed.

Subsequently correspondence has been received from both Lisburn City Council, 25 September 2013, and Castlereagh Borough Council, 03 October 2013, confirming the nominations to the Belfast Statutory Transition Committee as set out below. It is our understanding that both Councils have written to the Department setting out the nominations.

Lisburn City Council Nominations

- Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor M.H Tolerton (DUP)
- Councillor John Drake (Independent)



Castlereagh Borough Council Nominations

- Councillor Denny Vitty (DUP)
- Councillor Chris McGimpsey (UUP)

At a further meeting of the Belfast Voluntary Transition Committee on 11 October 2013, it was agreed that the Council should write seeking further clarification on the departments' intentions in regards to the nominations to the Belfast Statutory Transition Committee.

In the interim, the Council remains fully committed to the delivery of the local government reform programme and continues to take forward necessary preparatory work through the Belfast Voluntary Transition Committee. Engagement and discussions are also underway with officials from the three councils around important convergence related matters including, for example, the possible transfer of assets and liabilities, staff transfer, service convergence matters.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter McNaney', written over a large, stylized blue circular mark.

Peter McNaney
Chief Executive