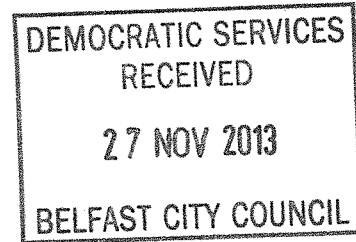


Our Ref. PON/jcd

26 November 2013



Ms. P. Scarborough  
Democratic Services Section  
Belfast City Council, Chief Executive's Department  
City Hall  
BELFAST  
BT1 5GS

Dear Ms. Scarborough,

I refer to your correspondence of 5 November 2013 to our Group Chief Executive, Catherine Mason. Mrs. Mason has asked me to respond on her behalf in relation to the issue which you raised.

We have been aware of concerns raised by elected members in relation to access/egress to the City Hall to/from the gated entrance on Donegall Square South since the 'Belfast on the Move' traffic management measures were introduced.

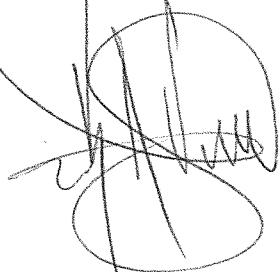
Translink representatives were involved in the Belfast City Centre Change Working Group and provided input to the designs that became part of Belfast on the Move. There was considerable debate around the siting of the bus gate to allow buses to move across from the near-side lane on May Street/Donegall Square South to the off-side lane to access Donegall Square West. This location was deemed by DRD to be the best option, bearing in mind the future requirements of the planned Belfast Rapid Transit scheme, and also taking into consideration the vehicular as well as pedestrian movements that still had to be catered for at the Donegall Square East/May Street and Adelaide Street/Donegall Square South junctions.

It is accepted that there is a level of benefit for all buses in using the bus gate in the peak periods, irrespective of whether or not they originate from May Street or Donegall Square East, and Metro drivers have been instructed to do so. However, this advantage is not as clear cut in the off-peak.

That said, buses must retain the flexibility of passing on either side of the bus gate, as ultimately Metro services 3, 4, 5 etc. need to position themselves to access the departure points in Donegall Square West and need to be in the off-side bus lane on Donegall Square South between its junctions with Linenhall Street and Donegall Square West.

I trust the foregoing is helpful and thank you for your interest in this project.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Philip O'Neill', written over a circular scribble.

PHILIP O'NEILL  
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER