



Department for

Communities

www.communities-ni.gov.uk

From: The Private Secretary

5th Floor
Lighthouse Building
1 Cromac Place
Gasworks Business Park
Ormeau Road
Belfast
BT7 2JB

e-mail: Private.Office@communities-ni.gov.uk

Tel: (028) 90829034

Ms Sara Steele
Democratic Services Section
Belfast City Council
Chief Executive's Department
City Hall
BELFAST
BT1 5GS

Our ref: INV-1495-2016

19 September 2016

Dear Ms Steele

Thank you for your letter dated 8 September 2016 requesting a meeting with Minister Givan MLA to discuss the wider fuel poverty agenda.

Minister and his predecessors have received a number of requests from Belfast City Council to discuss fuel poverty. Minister has asked me to reassure the Council that fuel poverty is a key priority for this Department. Officials met with Council representatives on 24 May 2016. Minister Givan MLA met with Suzanne Wylie, Belfast City Council Chief Executive and Party representatives from Belfast City Council on 13 September 2016 to discuss a partnership approach to delivery on common priorities for Belfast and the region. This included the Department's proposed Social Strategy, which will include fuel poverty. Minister Givan reassured the representatives during that meeting that they would be consulted regarding the development of the Executive's Social Strategy.

I am sure you can appreciate that Minister's diary is very committed; however, in the event that Minister is unavailable senior officials can meet to discuss areas of concern. Where concerns are identified Officials will provide feedback to Minister for consideration.

Members of the Democratic Services Committee may have been unaware that Minister Givan met with the Council on 13 September 2016. You may wish to speak to Ms Wylie to obtain an update on the meeting.

Yours sincerely



 **PAMELA BAXTER**
Private Secretary

From the Office of the Minister

Ón Aire



Department of

Finance

An Roinn

Airgeadais

www.finance-ni.gov.uk

Tel: 028 9081 6711

Guth:

E-mail: private.office@finance-ni.gov.uk

R-phost:

Your reference:

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Our reference: INV/1221/2016

Ár dtagairt:

Mrs Sara Steele
Democratic Services Section
Belfast City Council
Chief Executive's Department
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS

16th August 2016

Dear Sara

Thank you for your letter of 1st August 2016 to Máirtín Ó Muilleoir MLA requesting a meeting to discuss funding including a mechanism for reallocation of underspends for the Affordable Warmth Scheme.

The Minister has read your letter and whilst he appreciates the Council Members' concerns and frustration, it is the Minister for Communities to determine the priorities within his budget.

The Minister would encourage you to pursue your engagement with Department for Communities at both official and Ministerial level.

On this occasion, the Minister therefore respectfully declines your invitation.

Yours sincerely

G. Cahoon

PP SEAN KERR
PRIVATE SECRETARY TO MÁIRTÍN Ó MUILLEOIR

