



Date: 29th March 2017

Dear Chief Executive

As you will be aware, following the Election to the Assembly earlier this month discussions have been held aimed at forming a new Executive and appointing Ministers to departments. These discussions have not yet reached a conclusion and the statutory deadline for the formation of a new administration was reached on Monday afternoon. Consequently there are no Ministers and no Executive in place to approve a Budget for departments for the incoming financial year which starts on 1 April.

In the absence of a Budget Act, the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Finance will use powers assigned to him under Section 59 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, to release cash to departments on an interim basis and until such times as a Budget is agreed by Ministers and Budget legislation is put in place.

This is an interim measure designed to ensure that funds can continue to flow to maintain key public services until the necessary budget decisions can be taken by Ministers.

In these circumstances, I am attaching an interim contract for funding for your organisation. This will enable the provision of cash for the three months ended 30 June so that you can continue to provide services for this period. It must not however be taken to indicate that funding will continue after this date or that, if it does continue, it will do so at the same level for the remainder of this financial year. These further funding decisions will be considered alongside other spending priorities and in the context of whatever amount of money is eventually allocated to this department in a Budget for the incoming financial year.

Peter Toner
Head of Business Support and Charities Team