Dear Mr Downey,

**RE: EAST BELFAST TRANSLINK DEPOT**

I refer to your letter of 9th April 2019 regarding the Council’s request to enter into discussions with the Department in relation to exploring viable new locations for the East Belfast Translink Depot.

At present, Translink has no plans to relocate the depot. The East Belfast depot continues to play a central role in delivering efficient urban public transport as it is ideally based to keep operational costs to a minimum. However, the Department would not completely rule out the relocation of the depot in the longer term but would need reassurance that an alternative would offer a similar level of efficiency and cost effectiveness and could be achieved with no financial detriment to Translink.

I am aware that the Council has commissioned a study to examine alternative sites within the city. If the objective is to identify realistic options for further consideration by Translink, these issues would need to be fully addressed.
If it would be helpful, I am content to meet with representatives of the Council to discuss this matter further.

Yours faithfully,

SIAN KERR
Director,
Public Transport Division,
Department for Infrastructure.