



Department for

Infrastructure

An Roinn

Bonneagair

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**From the office of the Minister for Infrastructure
Nichola Mallon MLA**

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Our reference: CORR-0939-2021

17th June 2021

Dear Ms McGoldrick

YORK STREET INTERCHANGE INDEPENDENT ASSURANCE REVIEW AND UPDATE ON SAFE CYCLE NETWORK

Thank you for your letter of 27 May 2021 to Minister Mallon on behalf of Belfast City Council's, City Growth and Regeneration Committee, requesting information ahead of the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) half-yearly presentation to the Special Committee meeting that will be held on 23 June 2021. The Minister has read your correspondence and has asked me to respond.

You have requested a copy of the York Street Interchange Independent Assurance Review report for dissemination to committee members. For an independent Project Assurance Review to be effective and of value, exchanges between interviewees and the panel need to be open, frank and confidential in nature. As such, in line with the guidance attached to DAO (Department of Finance) 02/20 (Section 8) The Minister does not plan to publish this report. A copy of this guidance can be found at:

<https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dfp/DAOf0220att.pdf>,

The Minister has, however, published the six recommendations of the review, which can be found at <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/news/mallon-announces-outcome-review-york-street-interchange-scheme> and has asked for further work to be carried out on the recommendations. This work is currently ongoing and the Minister has asked for the outcome to be reported in the autumn of this year.

In terms of the Belfast Cycling Network, you made a number of requests. The Department published '*Making Belfast an Active City – Belfast Cycling Network 2021*' on 4 June 2021. This document demonstrates the Minister's vision for better cycling infrastructure for Belfast over the next 10 years. Officials are currently working on plans to implement a number of schemes during the remainder of my tenure. Those schemes will be funded from my £20 million Blue / Green Infrastructure Fund. The Minister plans to publish a delivery plan later this year to lay the ground work for the

implementation of coherent, connected and safe cycling routes for everyday cycling in the city over the next ten years.

The key to implementation will be through consultation and the Minister would appreciate the continued support from the Council to ensure that together we achieve this vision to benefit all of Belfast's communities.

The Minister is content that the Department's Walking and Cycling Champion and her staff attend the Committee to answer questions in respect of the Belfast Cycling Network, along with officials from DfI Roads Eastern Division.

The information on meterage of safe cycling infrastructure delivered since 2016 is not readily accessible, but will be collated and made available for the Committee as soon as possible.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K MCFERRAN', written in a cursive style.

KATHRYN MCFERRAN
Private Secretary to the Minister