

# Legal and Civic Services Department

## Democratic Services Section



Your reference

Being dealt with by Ms Eilish McGoldrick

Our reference EMTF140721

Email: [democraticservices@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@belfastcity.gov.uk)

Date 14th July, 2021

Email: [ps.ministers@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk](mailto:ps.ministers@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk)

Junior Ministers  
GD36 Stormont Castle  
Stormont Estate  
Belfast, BT4 3TT

Dear Junior Ministers,

### **Re: Sunday Opening Hours – Large Retailers**

At the City Growth and Regeneration Committee on 9th June, the Members of the Committee recommended that, in accordance with the Council decision of 4th May, the Chief Executive exercises her delegated authority to approve the request from city business organisations to extend the current temporary approach to Sunday opening for large retailers until 5th September, 2021. Namely, that that council would not carry out enforcement action against large retail shops (in excess of 280sqm) should they choose to open or deliver on a Sunday from 10am onwards (until 6pm).

During discussion of the matter, Members raised concerns in relation to the request for extended opening hours and the impact it would have on retail workers, together with the need for further consultation, if the extension was to be considered to continue past September.

At its meeting in July, Belfast City Council passed the following proposal which had been proposed by Councillor Ferguson and seconded by Councillor Lyons:

“That the current extended Sunday trading hours are not brought back to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee for further extension beyond 5th September, 2021. And that the Council acknowledges the full range of challenges facing retail in the city, write to The Executive Office requesting that this issue be considered at an urgent meeting of the High Streets Task Force.”

Accordingly, I would be grateful if you would consider this request. I look forward to receiving a response on this matter.

Yours sincerely



**Eilish McGoldrick**  
Democratic Services Officer

*Cc: First Minister and Deputy First Minister.*

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