

23 August 2021

Alistair Reid  
Strategic Director  
Place and Economy  
Belfast City Council  
No.9 Adelaide Street  
Belfast  
BT2 8DJ

Dear Alistair

**Re: Sunday Trading**

I hope this letter finds you well.

Belfast City Council's decision to not enforce early Sunday trading by larger retailers in the city has proven hugely helpful to that hard hit sector and is greatly valued by Belfast Chamber and its members as a positive response by the Council to the unprecedented and difficult situation we have faced in recent times.

Belfast Chamber is aware that the Council's view was that non-enforcement should not be extended beyond the 5<sup>th</sup> September. Whilst our members appreciate the generosity displayed by the Council thus far and understand the desire that non-enforcement should not become a permanent fixture, Belfast Chamber does though believe that there is a strong argument and indeed a need for a further extension. All of the original reasons for the decision not to enforce early Sunday opening (i.e., various restrictions, queuing, demand management etc) remain in place. We are also concerned that if we end this before other neighbouring districts do, then the risk exists that we will drive trade to other places with Belfast losing out.

Belfast Chamber therefore requests that the Council reconsiders its previous decision not to extend its permission for early Sunday trading hours by larger retailers.

I look forward to your response and we would be very happy to discuss this issue further with you if required.

Yours Sincerely



**Simon Hamilton**



**Chief Executive**