



Department for

**Infrastructure**

An Roinn

**Bonneagair**

[www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk](http://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk)

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

Carolyn Donnelly  
Democratic Services Section  
Belfast City Council  
Legal and Civic Services  
[donnellycarolyn@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:donnellycarolyn@belfastcity.gov.uk)

Room 708  
Clarence Court  
10-18 Adelaide Street  
BELFAST  
BT2 8GB  
Telephone: (028) 9054 0540  
Email: [Private.office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Private.office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk)

Your reference:

Our reference: CORR-2072-2021  
07 January 2022

Dear Ms Donnelly,

## **YORK STREET INTERCHANGE – REQUEST TO SHARE INDEPENDENT ASSURANCE REPORT**

Thank you for your letter of 20 December 2021 to Minister Mallon, on behalf of Belfast City Council's City Growth and Regeneration Committee, informing her of Council's decision to withdraw corporate support for the York Street Interchange scheme. The Minister has noted the Council's position.

Your letter states that corporate support for the York Street Interchange scheme would only be reinstated, "if the review, and any new scheme arising from it, met the Council's climate, air quality, place making and housing ambitions as a city, and complemented the aims of A Bolder Vision."

I can reassure you that the Minister's aim is to ensure the York Street Interchange scheme aligns with the emerging policy context and rises to the challenges facing us all - an approach that is supported by the motion passed by Belfast City Council.

In my response to your colleague, Ms Louise McLornan on 29 October 2021, I explained that the Independent Assurance Review of York Street Interchange was carried out to provide the Minister with assurance on how the proposed scheme reflected her key ministerial priorities and both Executive and Belfast City Council objectives. In particular:

- The Minister's priorities of wellbeing, sustainable travel, creating thriving liveable places and communities, responding to the climate emergency and connecting people and opportunities;
- The Executive's priorities set out in New Decade, New Approach and the Outcomes Delivery Plan; and
- The scheme's strategic fit alongside the emerging policy context, for example, the Belfast Agenda, the Belfast City Council Development Plan Strategy and the emerging transport plans.

In March 2021, the Minister accepted in full the six recommendations of the Independent Assurance Review and asked for some further work to be carried out, particularly around place making and to maximise ambition in terms of what can be delivered for communities, connectivity and the wider living places agenda. The work involved a place making and active travel review, which took into account the further development of the Bolder Vision for Belfast. The review is in its final stages and the Minister will consider next steps following receipt of the final report. The Minister will further consider next steps following receipt of the final report.

You have also requested in your letter that the Department's work on junctions be expedited, and that double yellow lines be installed outside Clifton House.

I am pleased to inform you the Department proposes to introduce approximately 72m of 'full-time' waiting restrictions (double yellow lines) and approximately 12m of 'part-time' waiting restrictions (single yellow lines) along North Queen Street at Clifton House. The legislation is currently being processed, which I understand can take 9 to 12 months to complete. It is therefore hoped that these restrictions can be installed before autumn, subject to no objections being received.

The Minister is keen to see the Junctions Working Group maintain momentum in relation to other key junctions. The Great Patrick Street / York Street junction has been considered as part of the place making and active travel review that I referenced earlier.

The Minister has asked officials to reconsider the design options for the Shankill Gateway junction at Peter's Hill to ensure they fit more clearly with our wider vision. As soon as this work is concluded they will present their proposed design to the Junctions Working Group.

The Frederick Street / North Queen Street junction is being considered as part of the Department for Communities' (DfC) public realm scheme. I understand that DfC is proposing an extension to this project and developing junction proposals. These design proposals will, as soon as they are ready, also be presented to the Junctions Working Group.

I hope these comments are helpful.



**KATHRYN MCFERRAN**  
**Private Secretary to the Minister**