

Ms Sara Steele  
Belfast City Council – Legal and City Services Department  
City Hall  
Belfast  
BT1 5GS

1<sup>st</sup> February 2022

Dear Sara,

**Ref: SS 10.01.2022 Free Public Transport for Young People**

Thank you for your recent letter in relation to Belfast City Council's passing of a motion in favour of free public transport for young people, as tabled by Councillors Smyth and O'Hara.

Translink would be broadly supportive of such a policy on the public transport network in Northern Ireland. We believe that such a step would help to tackle climate change, air pollution and congestion both in the short and long-term and play a role in forming life-long sustainable travel habits for a Net Zero Northern Ireland, in keeping with the Executive PfG and Belfast City Council's Belfast Agenda. It would also have a key role in enhancing social inclusion, as well as making access to education, apprenticeships and employment much easier for many young people in Northern Ireland.

However, we wish to emphasise that such a policy, as well as the details associated with a pilot, is ultimately a matter for the Department for Infrastructure. This would include consideration of the affordability of this policy given the pressures that continue to reside on the Department's budget.

It is worth noting that Translink already provides a yLink card for use by young people, which provides access to 1/3 discounts on public transport in Northern Ireland; in recognition of the detrimental impact of the pandemic on young people, Translink has suspended the upfront cost of £8, associated with this.

I hope you will find this of use. Please do not hesitate to contact my office should you require additional information.

Yours sincerely,



**Chris Conway**  
Group Chief Executive, Translink