

-----Original Message-----

From: Ald Gerardine Mulvenna <Ald.Mulvenna@midandeastantrim.gov.uk>

Sent: 14 May 2021 15:58

To: Henry, Nick <Nick.Henry@niassembly.gov.uk>

Subject:

at Mid and East Antrim Borough Council

Dear Mr Henry

I would appreciate if you could forward of copy of my email below to the Chair of AERA Committee as soon as practicable.

I am writing to raise concerns that have been building amongst Councillors of the Mid and East Antrim Borough Council over recent weeks regarding the conduct of the Chief Executive. Over the past several weeks, the Alliance Councillors of Mid and East Antrim, have observed a lack of impartial conduct on behalf of the Chief Executive.

Also, when questioned about this in committee session, the Chief Executive was evasive and sought help of the Mayor, Cllr Peter Johnston (DUP) to move swiftly along before a satisfactory answer could be garnered.

Such behaviour is not in the spirit of openness and transparency, nor does it comply with the Nolan Principles of public life.

Unfortunately, this example of bias and evasiveness has not been a lone occurrence.

On the 4th May, the Chief Executive appeared at the AERA Committee in relation to a letter she sent to the Cabinet Office. The letter included concerns over protests and alleged threats to staff at Larne Port, who were carrying out checks under the terms of the Northern Ireland Protocol.

A police investigation later revealed that there was nothing to substantiate claims of paramilitary involvement, and no evidence of 'credible threats' to staff. This revelation then led to serious questions over how the letter was composed, and ultimately received, in Whitehall.

At the AERA Committee, Ms Donaghy falsely stated that the letter sent had the retrospective backing of the Mid and East Antrim Borough Council. This is a misrepresentation of a council meeting, which merely had sight of the letter, and noted it, which was provided to Councillors the same afternoon as the Meeting. This therefore prevented the opportunity for Councillors to sufficiently review this agenda item. Thus far, the Chief Executive has refused to rectify this statement.

We look forward to your response.

Kindest Regards

Alderman Gerardine Mulvenna
Alliance Party Group Party Leader

Sent from my iPad