



**Northern Ireland  
Assembly**

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

Katrina Godfrey  
Permanent Secretary  
Department for Infrastructure

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22 February 2022

Dear Katrina,

Further to the letter sent to you on 11 February 2022, the Public Accounts Committee have held an additional evidence session as part of the Inquiry into Planning in NI.

The Committee asks that you provide further information on the following points:

- The Committee was told that “Where there are concerns, we call in applications if we think they are at variance with regional policy, likely to present risks to the implementation of regional policy or likely to be taken without proper planning grounds.” How many applications have been called in in total, and how many in each of these three categories?
- How many notifications not to proceed have been issued by the Department, how many of these have subsequently been called in, how many have been allowed to progress at Council level, and how much time did it take for the Department to process these notifications in either scenario?
- The Committee heard concerns around the Department’s involvement in the LDP process. Please outline the steps taken when a Council submits its draft plan strategy to the Department, prior to it being sent to the Planning Appeals Committee for independent examination, and

the work undertaken by the Department when it receives the judgement back from the Planning Appeals Committee.

Regarding the Planning Forum:

- Who are the members of the Planning Forum, and how are they appointed?
- Is there an elected representative e.g. a NILGA representative? If not, why not?
- Who will be taking the lead on any decisions called under the Hartlands decision?

I should be grateful for your response by **28 February 2022**.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "William J. Humphrey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping final flourish.

**William Humphrey**  
**Chairperson**  
**Public Accounts Committee**