



## Parks and Leisure Department

Ref: 12-010

7 April 2014

Ms Stella McArdle  
Clerk, Committee for Agriculture & Rural Development  
Room 244  
Parliament Buildings  
Ballymiscaw,  
Stormont  
Belfast  
BT4 3XX

Dear Ms. McArdle

### **RE: Committee for Agriculture & Rural Development Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> February 2014**

I refer to your letter of the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2014, following the attendance of the Assistant Director of Parks & Leisure and the Senior Civil Engineering Officer at the above meeting.

Committee raised a number of issues that we were unable to answer and we undertook to revert to Committee with Belfast City Council response at our earliest convenience. Those issues were namely;

*What, if any, insurance Belfast City Council holds in respect to the failure of a reservoir under its ownership? &*

*What opinion, if any, does the council have regarding the various appeals and dispute mechanisms in the Bill?*

Apologies for the delay in replying, but our response had to be ratified by the Parks & Leisure Committee and Full Council on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014.

Belfast City Council, Insurance and Risk Officer has provided the following, as a response to the question 1;

***Belfast City Council presently purchases commercial insurance protection for public liability risks arising from the ownership and use of all reservoirs that are located on council land or in council parks.***

***This insurance covers the cost of claims arising from the failure of, or defects in reservoirs which causes loss, or injury to members of the public and/or damage to their property.***

***The insurance only applies in so far as the council can be held legally responsible for the loss, damage or injury so caused.***

***The insurance protection is for £50M.***

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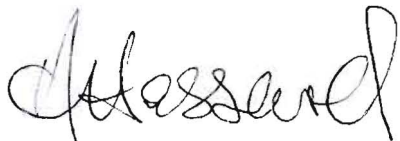
In response to question 2, the Council would reply as follows;

*Reservoirs are designated as High, Medium or Low risk by the Department of Agriculture and Rural development and within the proposed Bill, Clauses 17 to 21 allow Reservoir owners to appeal against that Designation.*

*Council officers have considered the risk designation of Reservoirs owned by the Council and would categorise them all as High given the proximity to residential areas. Action plans are currently being developed in line with this designation. It is the view of officers that whilst the appeal mechanism is necessary this will not be relevant to Belfast City Council and will be more likely to be used by private owners.*

I trust that this will answer the questions to the satisfaction of the Committee for Agriculture & Rural Development but should you require anything further, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely



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