



Northern Ireland Assembly

Committee for the Executive Office

The Rt. Hon. Brandon Lewis CBE MP
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
Northern Ireland Office
Stormont House
Stormont Estate
Ballymiscaw
Belfast
BT4 3SH

6 November 2020

Dear Brandon

BREXIT: EVIDENCE FROM LOCAL COUNCILS

At the Committee for the Executive Office meeting on 4 November 2020, Members heard evidence from some local councils on the issues and concerns they have as a result of the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union.

Brexit poses a series of fundamental challenges for local councils in Northern Ireland, both collectively as a sector and individually as authorities. However, councils which border counties in the Republic of Ireland face particular challenges.

Representatives from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, which borders four counties in the Republic of Ireland, provided Members with an insight into the raft of challenges ahead of them. The representatives also informed Members that they had written to the Northern Ireland Office outlining the issues they are facing and requesting a meeting, in person or remotely, to discuss their concerns. However, a meeting has been refused.

Following the evidence session, the Committee agreed that I write to you to seek your views on the particular challenges being faced by councils which border counties in the Republic of Ireland and ask why the Northern Ireland Office refused a meeting request from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council.

A similar letter has issued to Ms Madeleine Alessandri, Permanent Secretary Northern Ireland Office.

I should be grateful for a response at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely



Colin McGrath, MLA
Chairperson, Committee for the Executive Office

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