



Committee for the Executive Office

Ms Madeleine Alessandri
Permanent Secretary
Northern Ireland Office
Stormont House
Stormont Estate
Ballymiscaw
Belfast
BT4 3SH

9 November 2020

Dear Madeleine

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, either in person or remotely, to discuss their concerns. However, a meeting was refused.

Following the evidence session, the Committee agreed that I write to you to seek your views on the issues raised by Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and ask why a meeting has been refused.

A similar letter has issued to The Rt. Hon. Brandon Lewis CBE MP, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

I would appreciate a response at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely



Colin McGrath MLA
Chairperson, Committee for the Executive Office