## From the office of the Minister for Infrastructure Nichola Mallon MLA

Minister McIlveen Chairperson Committee for Infrastructure Room 427, Parliament Buildings Ballymiscaw Stormont Belfast BT4 3XX



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Your reference: Our reference: Date: CORR 1317-2020 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020

Dear Michelle,

## **TRANSLINK FUNDING**

Thank you for your letter dated 5 March 2020 sent on behalf of the Committee for Infrastructure in which you ask that I forward the Committee's views on Translink funding to the Minister for Finance. I welcome the support of the Committee in this matter.

Firstly, I wish to reiterate to the Committee that I am committed to the future of public transport in Northern Ireland because our public transport services have a major role to play in connecting people and communities with opportunities in Northern Ireland and further afield as well as helping to tackle the climate emergency.

I also share the Committee's views that Translink should be adequately funded based on the Department's obligation as outlined in the Public Service Agreement (PSA) that it has with Translink. Indeed, shortly after I took up post as Minister for Infrastructure I raised the issue of adequate funding for Translink in a bilateral meeting with the Minister for Finance, Conor Murphy.

In addition, now that we face the unprecedented challenge of the financial, economic and social impact of COVID-19 and the severe impact this has had on public services, including public transport, my Department has worked with Translink to provide estimates to the Department of Finance of additional funding required to ensure the future of public transport in Northern Ireland.

In response to your request, I have now written to Minister Murphy to request adequate funding for Translink in the forthcoming budget both in respect of PSA funding and in light of the severe financial impact of COVID-19.

Yours sincerely

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NICHOLA MALLON MLA Minister for Infrastructure