

Paul

Thank you for your email, of 3 September, regarding planned changes to the Blue Badge Scheme to include those who will benefit from the new Armed Forces Independence Payment.

I have discussed the concerns you highlighted with senior officials here in the Department, and in particular have explained the Chairman's views as set out in your email. Those colleagues have asked me to pass on their regrets that the Chairman is unhappy with the way this particular issue has been handled.

As you know, the announcement of the Departments' plans will not in any way affect the requirement to consult with the Committee on this issue in the usual manner. The normal legislative process, including an SL1 will also be adhered to before any changes are made.

Kind regards

Alan Doherty

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From: Carlisle, Paul [<mailto:Paul.Carlisle@niassembly.gov.uk>]

Sent: 03 September 2013 10:52

To: Doherty, Alan

Cc: Pengelly, Richard; Ervine, Gavin; McKee, Tara; Ferguson, Alison (Regional Dev Committee); Brankin, Katrina; gary.whiteside@drdni.gov.uk

Subject: TRIM: Changes to the Blue Badge Scheme - Armed Forces

Alan

I have received a phone call from the Chair expressing his severe disappointment and anger that neither he nor the Committee were advised in advance of the Ministerial announcement regarding the changes to Blue Badge eligibility for Armed Forces personnel. The Chair has asked that you urgently respond as to the reasons for advanced notice of this policy change being denied to the Committee.