



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Andrew Hamilton
Accounting Officer
Department for Social Development
1 Cromac Place
Ormeau Road
Belfast
BT7 2JB

Room 371
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
BELFAST
BT4 3XX
Tel: (028) 9052 1208
Fax: (028) 9052 0366
E: pac.committee@niassembly.gov.uk

26th August 2015


Dear Andrew

**RE: PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE EVIDENCE SESSION – REQUEST
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – ADVANCED LAND PURCHASES**

I am writing in response to your letters dated 2 April and 17 June 2015. Following the Committee's evidence session on Advanced Land Purchases I wrote to you requesting some additional information. On 2 April 2015 you wrote back to me and advised me that some of the items of information requested needed to be provided by Helm Housing. You further advised that due to a current litigation case involving the valuer who provided the valuation on the Great Georges Street site, Helm had been advised by their legal team that it would be "*inappropriate at this stage to provide any documents that may well fall within the remit of the court hearing*". As a result responses to a number of our queries would be postponed until the completion of the court case. In a subsequent letter dated 17 June 2015 you informed us that the court case was not expected to finish until September 2015 at the earliest.

I have recently become aware, however, of a preliminary judgement on the Helm case which was published on 5 August 2015. In the judgement the court rules that the valuation provided by Miles Danker Associates to Helm for the Great Georges Street site was "*outside the permissible range of error*". Given that this judgement has now been made, are you in a position to provide the Committee with the answers to its outstanding queries? If not, could you advise us as to when you expect to be able to provide the remaining answers?

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michaela Boyle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'l' of "Boyle".

Michaela Boyle
Chairperson
Public Accounts Committee