



26th May 2015

Paul Carlisle
Clerk to the Committee for Regional Development
Committee Office
Room 254
Parliament Buildings
BELFAST
BT4 3XX

Re: Information provided to Committee from DRD

Dear Paul,

Thank you for sharing the response from DRD officials following the meeting of 22nd April 2015.

Upon receipt of the email, I was very concerned about one particular point of the information. In the section relating to reserves held by each of the RCTP's, it is clearly stated that the level of reserves in Fermanagh went from £130,727 in 2012/2013 to £378,560 in 2013/2014 - an increase of £247,833 (190%). I am at a loss as to where DRD have got these figures from. At the end of March 2012/2013, Rural Lift for South West Fermanagh and FAST Rural Transport were in the process of merging to create Fermanagh Community Transport at the request of DRD. Both these Companies produced a set of 14 month accounts from 1st April 2012 – 31st May 2013 (the merger took place on 1st June 2013). Along with our Treasurer, I have looked at these accounts and we cannot see where these figures have come from. Neither of these companies had a reserves figure of £130,727 at this time. We have spoken to our accountant who produced the first set of FCT accounts from 1st June 2013 and the amount of money transferred from Rural Lift and FAST into FCT on 1st June was in the region of £304,099. This is clearly stated on page 16 of the 2013/2014 accounts. This therefore shows that FCT increased reserves from £304,099 to £378,560, an increase of 24.5%.

DRD stated at the Committee meeting of 22nd April that the funding allocation for 15-16 is based on the business plans submitted by the Partnerships along with the financial situation of each organisation. If the funding allocated to FCT was based on the inaccurate data that £247,833 was put into our reserves in one financial year, then our funding has been cut on a basis of inaccurate and incorrect information.

We will be seeking clarification from the Department how they determined these figures and if our funding cut of 39% was based on this information.

Thank you for your assistance and support

Regards

Anita Flanagan
Manager
Fermanagh Community Transport

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