

Mr Michael Potter
Clerk
Committee for Infrastructure
Room 416, Parliament Buildings
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3XX

5th May 2026

Dear Mr Potter

RE: Review of Planning: Call for Evidence

Thank you for your letter of 27th April seeking our views on planning decisions for Regionally Significant Projects. As Northern Ireland's largest gateway (in terms of passenger numbers) and being a key driver of the regional economy, any of our larger planning applications could be considered to be 'regionally significant'.

Regarding the specific requests listed:-

- Planning applications submitted by Belfast International Airport are submitted to the Planning Department of Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council. We have a close working relationship with council staff and have always found them to be helpful. Our last significant planning application was for a large extension to the terminal building submitted in the summer of 2022. This application was processed, and approved, in a timely manner.
- We have had no Judicial Reviews of planning decisions on major capital projects for many years.
- As a key stakeholder in the local economy, and one of Northern Ireland's largest employers, Belfast International Airport is supportive of the current planning process where decisions are made at a local authority level.

We do not intend to attend the stakeholder event at Parliament Buildings.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards

Chris Horner

Chris Horner
Chief Technical Officer
Belfast International Airport
Chris.horner@bfs.aero