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Ms Connie Egan MLA
Room 366B
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw,
Belfast,
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Our Ref: SUB-1628-2024
22 October 2024

Email: connie.egan@mha.niassembly.gov.uk

Dear Ms Egan,

RESPONSE TO A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION TO THE FIRST MINISTER ON 23 SEPTEMBER 2024 IN RESPECT OF AQO 811/22-27 (ORAL NO.2)

During Question Time on 23 September 2024, you asked the First Minister the following supplementary question: “Will the £3 million figure that was cited in [the Strategic Framework] go solely to the change fund or will it also be needed for the research and campaigns that were included in the delivery plan?”

The First Minister provided introductory information on the Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) Challenge Fund and confirmed she would write to you with further information with a breakdown of figures for the three areas of funding, that is, the Change Fund and the two areas the SBRI Challenge Fund will encompass.

The First Minister confirmed that the £3 million in question has been earmarked over the first two years for the Change Fund.

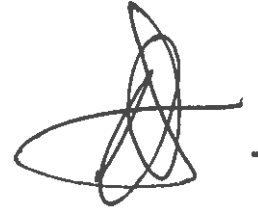
We will shortly launch two SBRI Phase 1 challenges with a total funding package of £450k to develop the Phase 1 proof of concept solutions. The DfE SBRI Challenge Fund provides

the public sector with innovative solutions, working collaboratively with small businesses, including social enterprises, to develop tools to improve the safety of women and girls at home, work, school, and other social settings

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of Michelle O'Neill in black ink.

Michelle O'Neill MLA
First Minister

Handwritten signature of Emma Little-Pengelly in black ink.

Emma Little-Pengelly MLA
deputy First Minister