

**From: The Minister**

Thomas Buchanan MLA  
Parliament Buildings  
Ballymiscaw, Stormont  
Belfast  
BT4 3XX

Dear Thomas,

**AQO 2993/22-27 – To ask The Minister for Communities for an update on the Northern Ireland Community Infrastructure Fund.**

In my written response to your Assembly Oral Question AQW 2993/22-27, I advised that the closing date for applicants to submit their Stage Two application was Friday 23 January 2026 with **522** applications received. I have been advised that due to a clerical error the number of applications received is incorrect. This figure should read **521**. I will accordingly arrange for the updated information to be lodged in the Assembly Library.

I apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Yours sincerely



**Gordon Lyons MLA  
Minister for Communities**

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**Gordon Lyons MLA**  
**Minister for Communities**  
Causeway Exchange  
1-7 Bedford Street Belfast  
BT2 7EG

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**Thomas Buchanan MLA**  
**Northern Ireland Assembly**  
**Parliament Buildings**  
**Ballymiscaw**  
**Stormont**

**AQO 2993/22-27**

**Thomas Buchanan MLA has asked**

The Minister for Communities for an update on the Northern Ireland Community Infrastructure Fund.

**Answer**

I can advise that 752 of the 835 applicants who submitted an Expression of Interest have now been invited to complete a Stage Two application to the Northern Ireland Community Infrastructure Fund.

The closing date for applicants to submit their Stage Two application was Friday 23 January 2026 with 521 applications received.

Scoring and assessment of submitted applications is now underway, and it is currently planned that applicants will be notified of their outcomes by the end of March 2026.

Funded projects will then be delivered within the 2026/27 financial year.

Due to the high level of interest in the Fund and the clear need for intervention within the sector, I am keen to see this pilot scheme become a longer term programme and have instructed my officials to bring forward proposals.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gordon Lyons', with a stylized, flowing script.

**Gordon Lyons MLA**

**27 January 2026**