



Derry City & Strabane  
District Council  
Comhairle  
Chathair Dhoire &  
Cheantar an tSratha Báin  
Derry Cille & Strabane  
Districk Council

Ref: FOI / 5751

10<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Email:

Dear

### **Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request - Use of "Call-ins"**

I refer to your FOI request and respond as follows:

**This FOI request is for information regarding the use of call-ins. Specifically, we seek:**

**1. Statistical information regarding the number of times the Call-in process was used on a Council decision from 2015-2025.**

No. 7 Council decisions were called in during this period.

**2. Confirmation that Derry and Strabane District Council holds a copy of the Call-in Requisition form (or equivalent) that was submitted in relation to each decision referenced in (1) above.**

This is confirmed.

**3. Copies of the forms as referenced to in (2) above.**

Copies of requests for Call-Ins attached (Appendices 1-7).

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you have rights of review and appeal; these rights consist of two review processes.

#### **Derry**

C/o Council Offices  
98 Strand Road  
Derry  
BT48 7NN

#### **Strabane**

C/o Council Offices  
47 Derry Road  
Strabane  
BT82 8DY

+44 (0) 2871 253 253  
info@derrystrabane.com  
www.derrystrabane.com

f Derry City & Strabane District Council  
@dcscouncil

Firstly, our internal review procedure is available by contacting:

John Kelpie  
Chief Executive  
Derry City and Strabane District Council  
98 Strand Road  
Derry BT48 7NN  
Tel: 028 71253253 or email: [john.kelpie@derrystrabane.com](mailto:john.kelpie@derrystrabane.com)

Secondly, you can appeal directly by contacting the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
CHESHIRE SK9 5AF  
Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or email: [casework@ico.org.uk](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)

I would however advise that the Information Commissioner has indicated that a review will not be undertaken unless the Council has first had an opportunity to re-consider its decision.

Yours sincerely

**Ellen Cavanagh**  
**Lead Democratic Services and Improvement Officer**

Dear John Kelpie,  
Chief Executive,  
Derry City/Strabane District Council.

We the undersigned Councillors wish to exercise our right to use the Call-in Process in order to request the reconsideration of the decision and process carried out by this Council as to the appointments to the external bodies, ratified at the Annual General Meeting on the 6th of June 2016 and since enacted by the by the various committees of council despite other proposals.

Earlier in the meeting of the AGM the positions of responsibility e.g. Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chairs and Vice-chairs of committees were appointed as well as membership to committees using the system of 'D'Hondt' yet when it came to the appointment of over 265 positions of Council Representation on Internal and External Bodies/Groups a different system of 'D'Hondt' was used.

We wish to legally challenge this decision of Council under section 41(1)(b) of the 2014 Act

We believe that a wide section of the inhabitants of the District would be adversely affected by this decision with the mainly exclusion of the Independents Members and the Ulster Unionist Party across a wide range of groupings that help form and shape the Strategic Objectives of this Council. We have seen examples over the previous year were no geographical elected representative input was present on these bodies as well as the absence of those appointed at the expense of those who wish to be in attendance. This does not fulfill the democratic wishes of the people of the district that voted for representation of the Independents Memtbers and the Ulster Unionist Party.

We are not of the opinion that the process used to fill these external positions represents this full Council, it is undemocratic and is not in the spirit of equality and fairness therefore we propose that this council correct the procedures used.

Cllr. Paul Gallagher

Cllr. Grainne Donnelly

Cllr. John Smith

Cllr. Walter Redmond

Cllr. Seamus

Alderman Altham

Cllr. Patsy Kelly

Alderman Mary Hamilton


Alderman \_\_\_\_\_

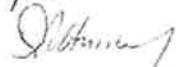



Derry City & Strabane  
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Comhairle Chathair Dhoire  
& Cheantar an tSrátha Báin  
Derry Citty & Strabane  
Districk Cooncil

## Notice of Call In

Submission by 15% of council members

1:   
2: David Thompson  
3: H. McComb

4: Graham Warkie  
5:   
6: 

Submit the following Call in

Decision at Special Council Meeting on 8th January 2018 regarding civic invitation to Buckingham Palace.

**This decision is in breach of standing order 41(1)(a) and 41(1)(b) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 .**

a)  
that the decision was not arrived at after a proper consideration of the relevant facts and issues;  
We believe that the protocol used by DCSDC in the past has not been adhered to

(b)  
that the decision would disproportionately affect adversely any section of the inhabitants of the district. In particular the Unionist community would feel that they are being snubbed by the non acceptance of this invitation in a District in which they are in the minority.



Dear John Kelpie,  
Chief Executive,  
Derry City/ Strabane District Council.

**Ref: AAR25/20 Internal Audit Report**

**We wish to legally challenge this decision of Council under section 41(1)(a) of the 2014 Local Government Act**

We the undersigned Councillors wish to exercise our right to use the Call-in Process in order to request the reconsideration of the decision of a vote carried by this Council on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July 2020 as to the refusal to carry out an independent external audit following the finding of an internal audit report. We believe that quite a number of Council Members participated in this decision who had a direct conflict of Interest being member of the PCSP and should not have engaged in the process. Under section 6 of the Code of Conduct LGA 2014 no dispensation was sought nor none given therefore the outcome of the vote should be rescinded

30<sup>th</sup> JULY 2020

Councillor Paul Gallagher \_\_\_\_\_

Councillor Gavin Donnelly \_\_\_\_\_

Councillor Seamus \_\_\_\_\_

Councillor Arnell \_\_\_\_\_

Councillor Eoin McCann \_\_\_\_\_

Councillor St \_\_\_\_\_



Derry City and Strabane District Council  
 98 Strand Road  
 Londonderry  
 BT48 7NN  
 9th November 2020

Chief Executive Office Derry City and Strabane District Council	
<b>11 NOV 2020</b>	
JK	
PK	

**Decision to call in motion of Thursday 29th October 2020 on NI Centenary.**

We are seeking to call in the above decision on two grounds:  
 Procedural – Section 41 (1) a of the 2014 Act  
 Detrimental Community impact – Section 41 (1) b of the 2014 Act

**Procedural**

This motion constituted the adoption of a new policy without the completion of a public consultation or equality impact assessment. Therefore, this is established Council policy process and equality scheme failure.

It is also an action in contradiction with adopted policy, the Inclusive Growth Plan, that has been adopted through proper processes. The Inclusive Growth Plan commits to:

“Our vision is a thriving, prosperous and sustainable City and District with equality of opportunity for all.”

This decision does not create equality opportunity for all to mark the creation of Northern Ireland.

It states clearly




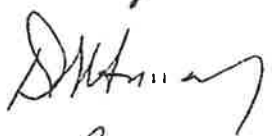

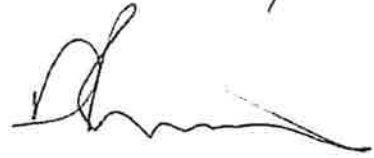

“Our sense of belonging and identity, of being rooted within our families, neighbourhoods, communities and our relationships and connections within them matter. This is affected by the physical places that we live in: our streets, our schools and our shops, our places of work, our heritage assets and our places of leisure and play. We are strongly connected to our place within nature and the connection we feel with the green open spaces where we live. Our communities are also those built on shared interests such as arts and sport which foster rich connections right across our City and District. Our future is one where we nurture our sense of belonging and our relationships with both our people and our place.”

This decision directly attacks the sense of belonging, shared interests and relationships.

**Detrimental Community Impact**

The creation of Northern Ireland, by the process of a double secession, is an important historical event of particular importance to those who support Northern Ireland’s membership, participation and contribution to the political, economic, social and cultural life of the United Kingdom. This decision has a detrimental impact upon those of a Unionist community in the Council area.

- 1) Public resources are to be made available for the Centenary commemorations and this decision will mean no funding applications by the Council, an organisation with a credible track record of event organisation and grant management. This will result in the loss of resources, and limit commemoration and reflection.
- 2) As the largest minority community in the Council constitutes a direct act to harm community relations and means the Council will fail to fulfil its good relations obligations.
- 3) This will create a chill factor among employees from a Unionist background and those in the recruitment pool of the Council.

H. Mc Clintock.	(DUP).	Allan Bresland	D.U.P
	(DUP)		DUP
	(ALLIANCE)		UUP
	(UUP)		D.U.P
Graham White	(DUP)		
Maumi Devenney	(DUP)		
		Alliance	

We, the undersigned, Councillors wish to exercise our right to use the Call-in Process in order to request Council reconsider the vote carried on October 29 regarding Ministerial approval of commercial dredging of Lough Neagh.

**Ref; C360/20 Commercial Dredging of Lough Neagh**

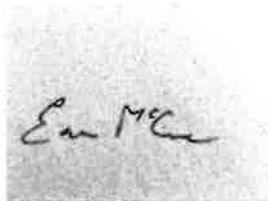
We wish to challenge the decision of Council under section 41(1) (a) of the 2014 Act.

We believe the decision of Council on this motion to be of great gravity. We believe it goes against the corporate position of the Council in support of the Climate Emergency Declaration and the subsequent Climate Pledge. The amendment to the original motion removed criticism of the Minister's decision; removed the critique of the Minister's decision by Friends of the Earth; removed the call for the Council to 'object' to the Minister's decision; removed the call for Council to support efforts to 'reverse' the Minister's decision. The same amendment added a new proposition on a different matter, proposing Council welcome a previously unmentioned Assembly Bill; by doing so, broadened the responsibility of the motion and added further burdens to it. Given this, we are challenging the admissibility of the amendment and the subsequent vote of Council.

*Paul Gallagher*



**SHAUN HARKIN**





We, the undersigned, Councillors wish to exercise our right to use the Call-in Process in order to request Council reconsider the vote carried on April 29 2021 regarding composition of the Irish Unity working group.

Ref: C224/21 Call to establish working group on Irish Unity

We wish to request reconsideration of the decision carried by Council regarding appointments to a working group on Irish Unity at the meeting on April 29 2021.

We wish to challenge this decision of Council under section 41(1)(a) of the 2014 Act.

We believe the democratic mandate of the Council will be better served by including a broader number of Councillors, including Independent Councillors, in the working group. It will also better serve our efforts toward shaping Council objectives.

Exclusion of Independent Members will adversely impact people across the District.

We believe there are positive democratic, geographical representation and practical reasons for reconsidering the decision taken.

Cllr Shawn Harkin

Cllr Maeva O'Neill

Cllr Sean Dan

Cllr Gary Donnelly

Cllr [unclear]



AUG 2 23

Jk  
Pk  
EC

Dear Members, John,

We the undersigned would like to present a Call-in to Council in response to the recent Notice of Motion by Councillor Harkin which he presented to Derry City and Strabane District Council on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

**Councillor Harkin to Move:**

***That this Council, in recognition of his tireless campaigning for the survivors of Institutional abuse and his many years of peace and reconciliation work, will confer the honour of the Freedom of the City and District to Mr. Jon McCourt.***

We the undersigned have committed to submitting this call-in under section 41(1) (a) of the 2014 Act on the basis (that the decision was not arrived at after a proper consideration of the relevant facts and issues); Councillor Harkin did not allow for full discussion on the matter of requesting the Freedom of the City be bestowed on the said candidate.

We believe that in submitting a Notice of Motion rather than referring his honest intentions to the appropriate working group, to encourage effective cross-party discussion, he has undermined the relevance of not only the working group but the meaningful discussion that would have ensued on helping reach a formal agreement on the candidate proposed to receive the Freedom of the City.

Signed

*[Handwritten signature]*

*[Handwritten signature: Darren Guy]*

*[Handwritten signature: Noreen McManis]*

*[Handwritten signature: Julie Middleton]*

*[Handwritten signature: Allan Breckard]*

*[Handwritten signature: A. Hussey]*

*[Handwritten signature]*

