

Title of Report:	Correspondence
Committee Report Submitted To:	The Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	2 December 2025
For Decision or For Information	For Decision
To be discussed In Committee	No

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)			
Strategic Theme	Cohesive Leadership		
Outcome	Council operates as one effective and efficient corporate unit with a common purpose and culture		
Lead Officer	Director of Corporate Services		
Estimated Timescale for Completion			
Date to be Completed		N/A	
Budgetary Considerations			
Cost of Proposal			
Included in Current Year Estimates		No	
Capital/Revenue		N/A	
Code		N/A	
Staffing Costs		N/A	
Legal Considerations			
Input of Legal Services Required		YES/NO	
Legal Opinion Obtained		YES/NO	
Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to present correspondence for Members' consideration.

1.2 The following correspondence has been received:

2.0 Joseph McGuckin, Mid Ulster District Council (email dated 3 November 2025, copy of letter attached)

2.1 Re: Caoimhé's Law

Council at its October meeting carried the undernoted motion:

That this Council expresses its deepest sympathy to the families affected by the unauthorised recording, sharing, and circulation of images and videos taken at the scenes of fatal or critical road traffic collisions. Condemns the increasing trend of individuals and media outlets capturing and distributing distressing footage of victims without consent, often before families have been formally notified. Recognises the serious psychological harm and trauma this causes to bereaved families, and the urgent need for legislative protection. Reaffirms that the right of families to privacy and dignity must always outweigh the voyeuristic or commercial interests of individuals or media outlets.

Backs the campaign for Caoimhé's Law — a proposed piece of legislation that would make it a criminal offence to:

- *record or share images/videos of victims at the scene of a fatal or critical road traffic collision without lawful authority or family consent;*
- *circulate such material before families are officially notified;*
- *use such content for sensationalist, exploitative, or commercial purposes;*
- *publish crash scene images without prior approval from the PSNI or relevant authorities;*
- *obstruct emergency services or interfere with rescue operations through the recording or sharing of such material.*

Acknowledges the testimony of families, including those from this district, who have been directly impacted by the unauthorised sharing of videos and images of their loved ones in the immediate aftermath of fatal road incidents. Notes that similar legislation exists or is being introduced in other jurisdictions, including the Republic of Ireland and England & Wales, recognising the same growing problem of "digital voyeurism" at accident scenes.

Calls on the Northern Ireland Executive and the Department of Justice to prioritise the drafting and introduction of this legislation as a matter of urgency.

I would therefore ask if you would bring this request to your elected Members for consideration and support. I would also welcome a response to this request so that I can report back to our Members in due course. Please email response to eileen.forde@midulstercouncil.org.

3.0 John Kelpie, Chief Executive, Derry City and Strabane District Council
(email dated 14 November 2025, copy of letter attached)

3.1 Re: Caoimhé's Law

At meetings of Derry City and Strabane District Council held on 24 September 2025 and 29 October 2025, the following Motion was passed:

That this Council expresses its deepest sympathy to the families affected by the unauthorised recording, searching, and circulation of images and videos taken at the scenes of fatal or critical road traffic collisions.

Condemns the increasing trend of individuals and media outlets capturing and distributing distressing footage of victims without consent, often before families have been formally notified.

Recognises the serious psychological harm and trauma this causes to bereaved families, and the urgent need for legislative protection.

Backs the campaign for Caoimhe's Law - a proposed piece of legislation that would make it a criminal offence to:

- Record or share images/videos of victims at the scene of a fatal or critical road traffic collision without lawful authority or family consent;*
- Circulate such material before families are officially notified;*
- Use such content for sensationalist, exploitative, or commercial purposes;*
- Publish crash scene images without prior approval from the PSNI or relevant authorities.*

Acknowledges the testimony of families, including those from this district, who have been directly impacted by the unauthorised sharing of videos and images of their loved ones in the immediate aftermath of fatal road traffic accidents.

Calls on the Northern Ireland Executive and the Department of Justice to prioritise the drafting and introduction of this legislation as a matter of urgency.

Agrees to write to the Minister for Justice, local MLA's, and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland to formally convey the Council's support for Caoimhe's Law.

Recognising the all-island nature of road traffic and digital media sharing, this Council also calls for cross-jurisdictional cooperation between the Department of Justice in Northern Ireland and the Department of Justice in the Republic of Ireland in developing compatible legislation.

Further calls on digital and social media companies to work with law enforcement and legislators to rapidly remove unauthorised and harmful content relating to fatal incidents.

Encourages media outlets operating within the Council area to adopt and adhere to ethical guidelines that prohibit the publication of images or footage from fatal or critical incidents without clearance from authorities and consent from families.

Requests that the Council's Communications and Community Safety teams explore ways to raise awareness locally about the legal and emotional consequences of sharing such content, particularly among young people and frequent social media users.

Caoimhe's Law has been proposed in response to a growing number of cases where families are retraumatised after graphic videos and images of their loved ones are shared without consent. The law is not about censorship but about ensuring basic dignity and accountability.

Council support can play a crucial role in influencing legislative attention and amplifying public education around this issue.

Council will:

- Write to all 10 Councils that all council areas across Northern Ireland enforce and endorse this campaign, and that they fully utilise their social media platforms to promote awareness of the issues addressed by Caoimhe's Law.*
- Requests the opportunity for campaign representatives to present directly to the relevant Council committee to share personal testimonies and further outline the case for legislative change.*
- Further requests that the Minister for Infrastructure bring forward and draft specific legislation to criminalise the unauthorised recording and sharing of images from fatal and serious road traffic collisions.*

I would appreciate your consideration in this important matter and would be grateful for a response at your earliest opportunity.

4.0 Richard Pengelly CB, Chief Executive, Education Authority

(email dated 20 November 2025, copy of letter attached)

Buddy Bear Trust

I refer to your letter dated 28 October 2025 regarding Buddy Bear Trust. At present we are funding placements for less than 5 pupils and not all would be full time. These placements are named on the pupil statement either as an agreement by EA to do so as they are appropriate placements or as a result of a SENDIST order.

Should schools wish to apply for additional funding from the Department of Education (DE) to expand provision, they are required to submit a formal application outlining the proposed expansion, anticipated outcomes, and supporting evidence of need. Applications should be made directly to DE via their online portal or by contacting the relevant department and must include detailed costings and a strategic plan for implementation. Once submitted, applications will be reviewed and assessed in line with DE criteria, with decisions communicated to the school in due course.

5.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that Council considers the correspondence.



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

3 November 2025

Our ref: C208.25

By Email: [REDACTED]@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk

Mr David Jackson
Causeway Coast & Glens Council

Dear Mr Jackson

Council at its October meeting carried the undernoted motion:

That this Council expresses its deepest sympathy to the families affected by the unauthorised recording, sharing, and circulation of images and videos taken at the scenes of fatal or critical road traffic collisions. Condemns the increasing trend of individuals and media outlets capturing and distributing distressing footage of victims without consent, often before families have been formally notified. Recognises the serious psychological harm and trauma this causes to bereaved families, and the urgent need for legislative protection. Reaffirms that the right of families to privacy and dignity must always outweigh the voyeuristic or commercial interests of individuals or media outlets.

Backs the campaign for Caoimhé's Law — a proposed piece of legislation that would make it a criminal offence to:

- record or share images/videos of victims at the scene of a fatal or critical road traffic collision without lawful authority or family consent;
- circulate such material before families are officially notified;
- use such content for sensationalist, exploitative, or commercial purposes;
- publish crash scene images without prior approval from the PSNI or relevant authorities;
- obstruct emergency services or interfere with rescue operations through the recording or sharing of such material.

Acknowledges the testimony of families, including those from this district, who have been directly impacted by the unauthorised sharing of videos and images of their loved ones in the immediate aftermath of fatal road incidents. Notes that similar legislation exists or is being introduced in other jurisdictions, including the Republic of Ireland and England & Wales, recognising the same growing problem of “digital voyeurism” at accident scenes.

Calls on the Northern Ireland Executive and the Department of Justice to prioritise the drafting and introduction of this legislation as a matter of urgency.

I would therefore ask if you would bring this request to your elected Members for consideration and support. I would also welcome a response to this request so that I can report back to our Members in due course. Please email response to eileen.forde@midulstercouncil.org.

Yours sincerely



Joseph McGuckin

Head of Strategic Services & Engagement



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

Our ref: TJ C406/25

██████████@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk

14 November 2025

Dear Chief Executive

At meetings of Derry City and Strabane District Council held on 24 September 2025 and 29 October 2025, the following Motion was passed:

That this Council expresses its deepest sympathy to the families affected by the unauthorised recording, searching, and circulation of images and videos taken at the scenes of fatal or critical road traffic collisions.

Condemns the increasing trend of individuals and media outlets capturing and distributing distressing footage of victims without consent, often before families have been formally notified.

Recognises the serious psychological harm and trauma this causes to bereaved families, and the urgent need for legislative protection.

Backs the campaign for Caoimhé's Law - a proposed piece of legislation that would make it a criminal offence to:

- **Record or share images/videos of victims at the scene of a fatal or critical road traffic collision without lawful authority or family consent;**
- **Circulate such material before families are officially notified;**
- **Use such content for sensationalist, exploitative, or commercial purposes;**
- **Publish crash scene images without prior approval from the PSNI or relevant authorities.**

Acknowledges the testimony of families, including those from this district, who have been directly impacted by the unauthorised sharing of videos and images of their loved ones in the immediate aftermath of fatal road traffic accidents.

Derry

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

Strabane

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

John Kelpie MEng., CEng., MStructE., MIEI

Chief Executive
Derry City and Strabane District Council

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

f Derry City & Strabane District Council
@dcscouncil

Calls on the Northern Ireland Executive and the Department of Justice to prioritise the drafting and introduction of this legislation as a matter of urgency.

Agrees to write to the Minister for Justice, local MLA's, and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland to formally convey the Council's support for Caoimhé's Law.

Recognising the all-island nature of road traffic and digital media sharing, this Council also calls for cross-jurisdictional cooperation between the Department of Justice in Northern Ireland and the Department of Justice in the Republic of Ireland in developing compatible legislation.

Further calls on digital and social media companies to work with law enforcement and legislators to rapidly remove unauthorised and harmful content relating to fatal incidents.

Encourages media outlets operating within the Council area to adopt and adhere to ethical guidelines that prohibit the publication of images or footage from fatal or critical incidents without clearance from authorities and consent from families.

Requests that the Council's Communications and Community Safety teams explore ways to raise awareness locally about the legal and emotional consequences of sharing such content, particularly among young people and frequent social media users.

Caoimhé's Law has been proposed in response to a growing number of cases where families are retraumatised after graphic videos and images of their loved ones are shared without consent. The law is not about censorship but about ensuring basic dignity and accountability.

Council support can play a crucial role in influencing legislative attention and amplifying public education around this issue.

Council will:

- **Write to all 10 Councils that all council areas across Northern Ireland enforce and endorse this campaign, and that they fully utilise their social media platforms to promote awareness of the issues addressed by Caoimhé's Law.**

- **Requests the opportunity for campaign representatives to present directly to the relevant Council committee to share personal testimonies and further outline the case for legislative change.**
- **Further requests that the Minister for Infrastructure bring forward and draft specific legislation to criminalise the unauthorised recording and sharing of images from fatal and serious road traffic collisions.**

I would appreciate your consideration in this important matter and would be grateful for a response at your earliest opportunity.

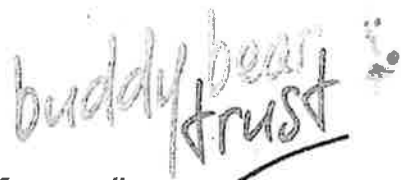
Yours Sincerely



**John Kelpie
Chief Executive
Derry City and Strabane District Council**

Buddy Bear Trust
Conductive Education School
Killyman Road
DUNGANNON
BT71 6DE

www.buddybeartrust.com
info@buddybeartrust.com
Tel: 02857752025
NI Charity No: 104137
Registered Charity No.
XN91573
Company Limited by
Guarantee



"a lifetime of difference"

Children with cerebral palsy
and motor disorders

POLITICAL PARTY LEADERS

PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR DISTRICT COUNCILS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

BUDDY BEAR TRUST – FUNDING SUPPORT BY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EDUCATION AUTHORITY

Recognising the excellent work that is undertaken by the Buddy Bear Trust through the medium of Conductive Education to support children with cerebral palsy and motor disorders, this Council calls upon the Department of Education and the Education Authority to give urgent consideration to the provision of funding support for the Buddy Bear Trust School in Dungannon and to enable the Trust to provide satellite Conductive Education Sessions at other locations across Northern Ireland.

The Council believes that this would enable many more children with cerebral palsy and motor disorders to have access to the transformative support that can be provided through the medium of Conductive Education.

This Council commends the Buddy Bear Trust for all that they do to enhance the lives of these vulnerable young children and urges the Department and the Education Authority to give this matter their priority consideration

Name



Date

28/10/25

Our Ref: CEO 534 10 25

20 November 2025

Issued via email

Eithne Doherty

MayorsOffice@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk

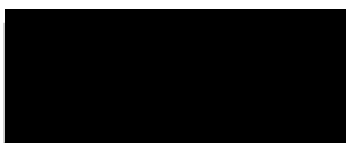
Dear Eithne

Buddy Bear Trust

I refer to your letter dated 28 October 2025 regarding Buddy Bear Trust. At present we are funding placements for less than 5 pupils and not all would be full time. These placements are named on the pupil statement either as an agreement by EA to do so as they are appropriate placements or as a result of a SENDIST order.

Should schools wish to apply for additional funding from the Department of Education (DE) to expand provision, they are required to submit a formal application outlining the proposed expansion, anticipated outcomes, and supporting evidence of need. Applications should be made directly to DE via their online portal or by contacting the relevant department and must include detailed costings and a strategic plan for implementation. Once submitted, applications will be reviewed and assessed in line with DE criteria, with decisions communicated to the school in due course.

Yours sincerely



RICHARD PENGELLY CB
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

“To inspire, support and challenge all our Children and Young People to be the best that they can be.”

Education Authority

40 Academy Street, Belfast, BT1 2NQ **T:** +44 (0)28 9056 4000 **W:** www.eani.org.uk