



Title of Report:	Correspondence
Committee Report Submitted To:	The Council Meeting
Date of Meeting:	6 January 2026
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
		EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No
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, Head of Strategic Services and Engagement, Mid Ulster District Council (email dated 4 December 2025, copy of letter attached)

2.1 At its November meeting Council carried the undernoted motion:

That this Council notes with concern the recent introduction of the PSNI's new online firearms licensing system, which requires applicants to renew and manage their firearm certificates exclusively through a digital portal. Council further recognises that while the move to online processing may improve efficiency for some users, it presents significant difficulties for older certificate holders and others within our rural communities who may not have access to, or the ability to use, email or smart phones. Council further notes that many of these individuals are long-standing, law-abiding members of the community who have safely held firearms for decades and should not be disadvantaged by digital exclusion.

Accordingly, this Council resolves to:

- 1. Write to the Chief Constable of the PSNI and the Minister of Justice expressing concern about the lack of an accessible alternative for applicants without digital access;**
- 2. Urge the PSNI to introduce an alternative application process — whether through paper forms, in-person assistance from Firearms Enquiry Officers, or via registered dealers or clubs — to ensure all applicants can continue to renew their certificates without discrimination.**
- 3. Write to the Equality Commissioner to seek their opinion on the current online portal only arrangements.**

I would ask that you bring this to the attention of your elected members and ask that to give strength to the campaign for change in the firearms licensing system that your council also writes to the Chief Constable, the Minister for Justice and the Equality Commissioner as outlined in the motion.

3.0 Councillor Ruairí Mc Hugh, Mayor, Derry City and Strabane District Council (email dated 10 December 2025, copy of letter attached)

3.1 At a meeting of Derry City and Strabane District Council held on 26 November 2025, the following motion was passed:

That in line with Council's corporate position of opposition to the British Government's authoritarian proscription of Palestine Action as a "terrorist" (sic) organisation, Council is concerned regarding the decision by political prisoners imprisoned as a result of Palestine Action activism to embark on a hunger strike.

Council expresses our solidarity with the prisoners and their families;

Council further agrees to a cross party and Independent delegation to meet with prisoner families and representatives to assist efforts to bring this to a resolution.

Council will circulate the motion to all Council's across Ireland and Britain for their consideration.

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

4.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that Council considers the correspondence.



1 December 2025

Our ref: C237/25

By Email:

To Each Council Chief Executive

Dear Chief Executive

At its November meeting Council carried the undernoted motion:

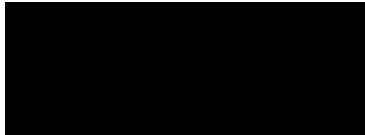
That this Council notes with concern the recent introduction of the PSNI's new online firearms licensing system, which requires applicants to renew and manage their firearm certificates exclusively through a digital portal. Council further recognises that while the move to online processing may improve efficiency for some users, it presents significant difficulties for older certificate holders and others within our rural communities who may not have access to, or the ability to use, email or smart phones. Council further notes that many of these individuals are long-standing, law-abiding members of the community who have safely held firearms for decades and should not be disadvantaged by digital exclusion.

Accordingly, this Council resolves to:

1. Write to the Chief Constable of the PSNI and the Minister of Justice expressing concern about the lack of an accessible alternative for applicants without digital access;
2. Urge the PSNI to introduce an alternative application process — whether through paper forms, in-person assistance from Firearms Enquiry Officers, or via registered dealers or clubs — to ensure all applicants can continue to renew their certificates without discrimination.
3. Write to the Equality Commissioner to seek their opinion on the current online portal only arrangements.

I would ask that you bring this to the attention of your elected members and ask that to give strength to the campaign for change in the firearms licensing system that your council also writes to the Chief Constable, the Minister for Justice and the Equality Commissioner as outlined in the motion.

Yours sincerely



Joseph McGuckin
Head of Strategic Services and Engagement



Mayor / Méara
Councillor/ An Comhairleoir
Ruairí McHugh

Our ref: TJ C458/25

10 December 2025

Dear Mayor/Chair of Council

At a meeting of Derry City and Strabane District Council held on 26 November 2025, the following motion was passed:

That in line with Council's corporate position of opposition to the British Government's authoritarian proscription of Palestine Action as a "terrorist" (sic) organisation, Council is concerned regarding the decision by political prisoners imprisoned as a result of Palestine Action activism to embark on a hunger strike.

Council expresses our solidarity with the prisoners and their families;

Council further agrees to a cross party and Independent delegation to meet with prisoner families and representatives to assist efforts to bring this to a resolution.

Council will circulate the motion to all Council's across Ireland and Britain for their consideration.

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

Yours Sincerely



**Councillor Ruairí Mc Hugh
Mayor
Derry City and Strabane District Council**



Derry City & Strabane
District Council
Comhairle
Chathair Dhoire &
Cheantar an tSráthá Bán
Derry City & Strabane
District Council

Mayor's Parlour
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Halla na Cathrach, Doire, BT48 6DQ

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