

**SUE GRAY
PERMANENT SECRETARY**

2nd Floor West
Clare House
303 Airport Road West
BELFAST, BT3 9ED
Tel No: **I&S**
E-mail: sue.gray@finance-ni.gov.uk



Mr **Name Redacted**
Comptroller and Auditor General
Northern Ireland Audit Office
106 University Street
BELFAST
BT7 1EU

SSUB 743-2020

19 October 2020

Dear **NR**

**MISINTERIAL DIRECTION: EXTENSION OF THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT
AGREED FOR DERRY CITY AND STRABANE DISTRICT TO ALL AREAS**

I am writing, as required by Managing Public Money NI, to inform you of a Ministerial Direction I have received from the Finance Minister.

I wrote to the DoF Minister on 15 October (copy attached) to advise him that the value for money for the amounts Ministers proposed be offered to business affected by the new Covid regulations could not be determined because they were considerably greater than those available in other regions in similar lockdowns and that this level of support could be repercussive in future discussions with Treasury and to the levels of assistance that may be sought by other Departments for other groups which we have yet to see. He reflected these concerns in his Executive paper proposing the terms of the scheme and the levels of assistance (copy attached). The Executive agreed to the scheme proceeding at the levels proposed by him and he has now written to me to direct me to take the scheme forward on that basis (copy attached).

I will now comply with his direction.

A copy of this letter is being sent to Stuart Stevenson, Treasury Officer of Accounts.

Yours sincerely

Personal Data

**SUE GRAY
Permanent Secretary**