



Title of Report:	Correspondence Report
Committee Report Submitted To:	The Leisure and Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	17th December 2019
For Decision or For Information	For Decision

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	Leader and Champion
Outcome	Establish Key relationships with Government agencies and potential strategic partners.
Lead Officer	Director of Leisure and Development

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES/NO
Capital/Revenue	
Code	
Staffing Costs	

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

The purpose of this report is to present correspondence for Members consideration.

2.0 Location of Welfare Appeals

Correspondence has been received from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council requesting Council's support in calling on the Appeals Service NI to cease the practice of holding Welfare appeals at local courthouses.

3.0 Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee consider this request for support.

Marie Ward
Chief Executive

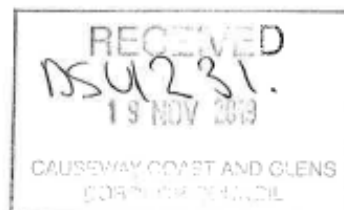
Our ref: C/186/2019

11 November 2019

Mr David Jackson
CEO
Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council
Council HQ
Cloonanvin
66 Portstewart Road
Coleraine
BT52 1EY



Comhairle Ceantair
**an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin**
**Newry, Mourne
and Down**
District Council



Dear Mr Jackson

Re: Location of Welfare Appeals

At a meeting of Newry Mourne and Down District Council held on Monday 4 November 2019, the following Notice of Motion was agreed:

"This Council calls on the Appeals Service NI to cease the practice of holding Welfare appeals at local Courthouses, states that these venues are unacceptable for such tribunals as it further traumatises already vulnerable appellants.

Furthermore, that this Council explores the use of disability charities premises to host appeals, as these are less formidable venues, more informal settings, with staff who are accustomed to welcoming and receiving people and putting them at their ease.

Council notes the protracted delays in getting appeals heard and calls on the Chief Executive to write to the head of the Appeals Service NI, and the Permanent Secretary for DFC, requesting an immediate review of venues for such appeals and the formation of a review panel tasked with addressing the unacceptable delays to appeals being heard.

Council write to the 10 other Councils asking them to support this Motion".

Members were unanimous in their support for this motion and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council would ask for your support in calling on the Appeals Service NI to cease the practice of holding Welfare appeals at local courthouses.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Marie Ward
Chief Executive

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agus Ard Mhacha Theas
Serving Down
and South Armagh