

From the Office of the Minister



Department of
**Enterprise, Trade
and Investment**
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Our Ref: DETI SUB 184/2010

Mr Alban Maginness MLA
Northern Ireland Assembly
Parliament Buildings
Stormont
BELFAST
BT4 3XX

22nd April 2010

Dear Alban,

**TITANIC SIGNATURE PROJECT - CLARIFICATION OF RESPONSE TO DETI
ORAL QUESTION (AQO 823/10)**

I am writing to you with regard to the response I gave to the supplementaries to Jimmy Spratt MLA's question on the Titanic Signature Project during Oral Questions on 23 February 2010.

It has been brought to my attention that the answers I gave to the supplementaries, asked by Jennifer McCann MLA and yourself, could have been clearer on several points, as set out below.

Sustainability Clauses

Titanic Foundation Limited (TFL), in consequence of the significant public sector funding for the Titanic Signature Building and as required by the Central Procurement Directorate, have placed a contractual obligation on Harcourt Construction (NI) Limited (HCL) to deliver 'sustainability clauses' (clauses developed and agreed for use within public sector contracts under the umbrella of CIFNI, the Construction Industry Forum for Northern Ireland), which include, among other things, employment opportunities for the long-term unemployed and the creation of apprenticeships. The delivery on these 'sustainability clauses' is reported on monthly to TFL by HCL under the contract management arrangements.

Memorandum of Understanding

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Belfast City Council (BCC) and Titanic Quarter Limited (TQL) relates primarily to the wider Titanic Quarter regeneration development and places no obligations on either TFL or HCL, although it is an annexure to the Titanic Signature Project Master Funding Agreement. In signing the MOU both BCC and TQL (the co-signatories) committed to work in partnership with public, private, voluntary and community sector organisations to create the necessary conditions to optimise the city and community benefits of the Titanic Quarter development, to demonstrate good corporate citizenship and provide a recognised route for Titanic Quarter's engagement with the city and community.

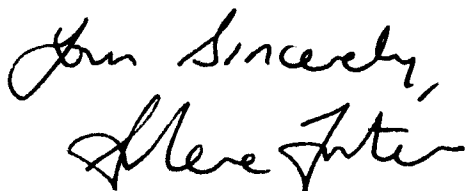
In order to achieve the objectives set out in the MOU a number of priority areas have been identified and assigned to Thematic Working Groups, who are responsible for taking forward the development, implementation and monitoring of the overall Implementation Plan and its sub-component action plans. These priority areas are:

- Employment, Education and Skills
- Accessibility and Transport
- Community Outreach
- Housing
- Tourism Development and Promotion, and,
- Quality Open Space and Public Art.

Award of contract

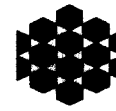
Harcourt Construction (NI) Limited was awarded the design and build contract for the Titanic Signature Building by Titanic Foundation Limited on the basis of Titanic Quarter Limited exercising their exclusive rights over the site. The award of the contract was in accordance with Regulation 14(1)(a)(iii) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2006.

I hope that this provides the necessary clarification to my previous response. I am also writing to Jennifer McCann MLA (who also asked a supplementary) and Jimmy Spratt MLA (who tabled the original question) with the necessary clarification. I have asked for copies of all correspondence to be sent to the Speaker's Office, and placed in the Assembly Library for the record.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arlene Foster', written in a cursive style.

ARLENE FOSTER MLA
Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

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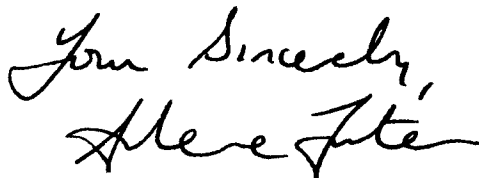
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yours sincerely, Arlene Foster'.

ARLENE FOSTER MLA
Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment