

For the attention of Mr. Liam Barr.

Thank you for your letter received today with the reminder that responses have to be received by 20th January.

When I met the Minister, Mrs. Margaret Ritchie, MLA, at the Photographic Exhibition event at the Gaol on 15th December, I said that the development had to be cross community and no part of it should become the domain of only one section of the community otherwise the other part of the community will experience a "chill factor" and the development will create another interface.

As one of the three people who produced the original report may I draw your attention to the sentences within the following paragraphs of the original report.

Yours sincerely,

John Dunlop

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A New Development Site for North Belfast

175. **During our consultations it became clear that there is a real need for a large-scale physical regeneration project to be developed in an easily accessible location in North Belfast. Such a project is needed to generate investment, increase economic opportunity, improve the environment and to lift the spirits of the community. The very establishment of such a site would serve as both a symbol of hope and a focal point for the area. The community could identify with the site and become involved in its development through a public/private partnership thus creating a sense of acceptability and ownership within the local area. Taking into account the issues around territoriality, as outlined in earlier sections, this site should recognise the political/religious sensitivities of the area with residents and stakeholders in agreement that any potential development should be created and maintained as a neutral space.**
178. We support the view, therefore, that there should be an agreed plan for multi-use facilities on this site with the involvement of all interested parties. The site should involve mixed usage, with housing, education, recreational, retail, other commercial and industrial space, all being included. ...

180. In the following sections we will be making recommendations for health and education. We have also made recommendations which should contribute to 'raising the spirits' of the North Belfast community.

Our recommendation is to encourage Government to develop a major site involving mixed-usage to serve as a symbol of hope and economic regeneration for North Belfast.