

25.10.2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Reference: LA04/2018/2393/LBC**

**Location: Bank Buildings (bounded by Castle Street Bank Street and Royal Avenue) Royal Avenue  
Belfast BT1 1BL**

**Proposal: Conservation led works to Bank Buildings involving the taking down, recording and assessment for restoration purposes of the building above the fourth floor cornice line to the Bank Street, Castle Street and Castle Place elevations of the building for off-site storage.**

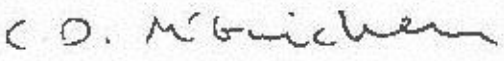
NI Environment Link supports this application for the adoption of a conservation-led approach to address the fire damage caused to the Bank Buildings.

Bank Buildings is one of the most prominent 'heritage buildings' in Belfast City Centre. The building itself is a core aspect of the city centre identity and Belfast's offering as a distinctive place where people want to live, work and visit. The case for protecting and restoring our relatively small stock of precious heritage buildings is further supported by the economic value that is derived from built heritage.

We recognise that the longer the safety cordon remains in place, the greater the potential impact on the user habits within the city centre. We strongly feel that the best way to facilitate both the early reduction of the cordon and the preservation of the integrity of the city's valuable built heritage is to firmly support this application.

Yours sincerely,

Craig McGuicken



Chief Executive  
NI Environment Link