

# Closure of Department for Communities offices in Castle Court on Wednesday 29 August 2018

Due to the fire in Primark, Bank Buildings, Royal Avenue, Belfast and as a precautionary step, the Department for Communities (DfC) offices in Castle Court will be closed until Thursday 30 August.

This decision has been made to allow the necessary safety checks required by Fire safety Teams to ensure that the office is fit for use, in terms of health and safety, before staff return. It is also to avoid compounding any safety issues by bringing large numbers of staff into the area during this incident.

Therefore, DfC staff working in Castle Court should not attend this office on Wednesday 29 August. Normal services are expected to resume on Thursday 30 August.

Universal Credit service is unaffected by this closure and customers can contact us as normal. Jobseekers Allowance customers due to attend Royal Avenue Social Security Office on Wednesday 29 August will be excused and payments will not be affected. Any other customers seeking to use Royal Avenue on Wednesday 29 August should instead use the North Belfast office in the Design Centre, 39 Corporation Street, Belfast.

Unfortunately, there will be a number of services impacted by this closure. They are:

- Personal Independence Payment (PIP)
- Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
- Carers Allowance;
- Attendance Allowance;
- Welfare Supplementary Payments.

Customers for these benefits will not be able to contact the Castle Court office until 9.00am on Thursday 30 August.

Any customer requiring assistance can make contact with their local Jobs and Benefits office or Social Security office.

The Department for Communities apologise for any inconvenience caused.