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From: DfI Private Office
Sent: 22 July 2026 08:58
To: Máirtín Ó Muilleoir
Subject: Acknowledgement - INV-0408-2026 - O Muilleoir - Invite to Meet Rich Davey, MA Port Authority CEO

Good Morning,

I can confirm receipt of your correspondence. A response will issue in due course.

Many Thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: Máirtín Ó Muilleoir [REDACTED]

Sent: 21 July 2026 16:21

To: DfI Private Office [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Subject: INV-0408-2026 - O Muilleoir - Invite to Meet Rich Davey, MA Port Authority CEO

CAUTION – This email has been received from outside the NICS network. If you have any concerns, please report for investigation.

An tAire Liz Kimmins
An Roinn Bonneagair
Department of Infrastructure

A Aire Kimmins, a chara,

As publisher of the Irish Echo in New York, I had the privilege of recognising the achievements of Rich Davey, CEO of Massachusetts s Port Authority ([Massport](#)) at the [Irish Echo Mari me Awards](#) this past April.

[Rich](#) has a distinguished career in transport, having headed up the New York City Transit system (North America's largest transit system) before taking on the role of CEO of Massport which covers both Logan Airport and Boston Port.

At our awards event, I invited Rich to visit Belfast to explore opportunities to partner with Belfast port and other institutions here to the mutual benefit of the sister cities of Boston and Belfast.

I am pleased to say that he has taken up that invite and will visit Belfast from Monday 3 August to Thursday 6 August.

During that period, he will visit Belfast Harbour and Belfast International Airport (to discuss the transatlantic air bridge among other issues) and address a business roundtable.

I believe it would be helpful for him to meet with you to explore further opportunities for cooperation and learning. I am cc'ing in, with this email, Rich Davey's Executive Assistant [REDACTED], who is coordinating his diary and would be grateful if you could find me in your busy diary to meet up with Rich during his visit.

Faithfully,

Máirtín n Ó Muilleoir (Belfast)

Máirtín Ó Muilleoir

Publisher Irish Echo

165 Madison Avenue,

Suite 200, New York, NY 10016

[REDACTED]

The IrishEcho

From: DfI Private Office
Sent: 22 July 2026 09:03
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Action Sheet - INV-0408-2026 : O Muilleoir - Invite to Meet Rich Davey, MA Port Authority CEO
Attachments: INV-0408-2026 - O Muilleoir - Invite to Meet Rich Davey_ MA Port Authority CEO.msg
Raised By: Mr Máirtín Ó Muilleoir
Reference: INV-0408-2026

Subject: INV-0408-2026 : O Muilleoir - Invite to Meet Rich Davey, MA Port Authority CEO

Referred To:

[REDACTED]

Date referred:
22/07/2026

ACTION REQUIRED

Please provide advice and a draft reply. Please note that-
Acceptance letters should be for Ministerial signature

Decline letters should be for Private Secretary signature

Please note that both the accept and decline drafts will need to be completed.

To be with private.office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk not later than 28/07/2026.

Please store all documents on in relation on to this case in [REDACTED]

Please click here to access the most up to date version of Private Office templates - Ministerial communications - a guide for DfI officials | NICS Intranet (nigov.net) -

[h p://nics.intranet.nigov.net/infrastructure/documents/ministerial-communications-guide-dfi-officials](https://nics.intranet.nigov.net/infrastructure/documents/ministerial-communications-guide-dfi-officials)

Press Office (and Finance where appropriate) clearances should be sought prior to return to Private Office.

This case has been allocated to your business area as the lead. If you feel that the lead in this case rests more appropriately with another business area you should agree the transfer with that business area immediately and inform the Private Office accordingly via the mailbox at private.office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Should you feel that part input is required in this case, you should arrange this directly with the relevant business area(s) with a suitable deadline for response to ensure that you are able to forward the finalised response to the Private Office in line with the case deadline above.

Should you feel that part input is required from another Department please contact Private Office immediately who will arrange to commission the required input.

For further information on etc. contact:

[REDACTED]

Private Office and Assembly Business Unit

[REDACTED]

Copied To For Information:

DfI Press Office cc list; INV CC List; Corporate Strategy & Performance cc

From: DFI Gateways Branch
Sent: 28 July 2026 16:20
To: Dfl Private Office
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: QA DR - INV-0408-2026 : O Muilleoir - Invite to Meet Rich Davey, MA Port Authority CEO

Attachments: RE_ INV-0408-2026 _ O Muilleoir - Invite to Meet Rich Davey_ MA Port Authority CEO.msg; Action Sheet - INV-0408-2026 _ O Muilleoir - Invite to Meet Rich Davey_ MA Port Authority CEO.msg; INV-0408-2026 - O Muilleoir - Invite to Meet Rich Davey_ MA Port Authority CEO.msg; Dfl INV Quick Advice - INV-0408-2026 - O Muilleoir - Invite to Meet Rich Davey, MA Port Authority CEO.tr5; Dfl INV Quick Advice - INV-0408-2026 - O Muilleoir - Invite to Meet Rich Davey, MA Port Authority CEO.DOCX

Hi Private Office

Please see quick advice for INV-0408-2026 : O Muilleoir - Invite to Meet Rich Davey, MA Port Authority CEO.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

INVITATION ADVICE MEMO

From: [REDACTED]
Gateways Team

Reference: DfI/INV-0408-2026

Tel: [REDACTED]

Date: 23 July 2026

To: [REDACTED] Gateways [REDACTED] **cc:** As per email

2. Sian Kerr
Director of Transport Planning and
Policy
3. Liz Kimmins MLA
Minister for Infrastructure

From:	Máirtín Ó Muilleoir, Publisher Irish Echo	
Invitation type:	Event ☐	Meeting ☒
Details:	Máirtín Ó Muilleoir has invited you to meet with Rich Davey, Chief Executive Officer of the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport), during his forthcoming visit to Belfast. Mr Ó Muilleoir has arranged the visit to explore potential opportunities between Massport and Belfast Harbour, as well as to meet with Belfast International Airport to discuss the transatlantic air bridge, which the Department for the Economy (DfE) have responsibility, and any other matters of mutual interest. Mr Davey will also participate in a business roundtable during his visit.	
Venue	TBC	
Date and time	Time-frame Monday 3 rd August - Thursday 6 th August	
Any other diary commitments	Yes ☐	No ☐
(This will be completed by Private Office prior to commissioning of case)	Details of any conflicts:	

Additional Background

- Máirtín Ó Muilleoir has invited you to meet with Rich Davey, MA (Massachusetts) Port Authority CEO, who will be visiting Belfast.
- During that period, he will visit Belfast Harbour and Belfast International Airport (to discuss the transatlantic air bridge among other issues) and address a business roundtable.
- Mr Ó Muilleoir believes it would be helpful for him to meet with you to explore further opportunities for cooperation and learning.
- Mr Davey has a distinguished career in transport, having headed up the New York City Transit system (North America's largest transit system) before taking on the role of CEO of Massport which covers both Boston Logan International Airport and the Port of Boston.
- Mr Ó Muilleoir invited Mr Davey, after an awards event where Mr Davey's achievements were recognised, to visit Belfast to explore opportunities to partner with Belfast port and other institutions here to the mutual benefit of Boston and Belfast.
- The Department has statutory and other duties in respect of seaports. These duties include contributing to the development of policy in ports and harbours and ensuring the regulatory framework in which they operate is kept under review as well as providing financial assistance in the form of grants and loans.
- From its foundation, BHC has been at the forefront of establishing Belfast as a leading maritime port and in recent times continue to transform the Harbour estate into a key economic hub for the region
- Belfast International Airport is Northern Ireland's Principal Airport and the second largest air gateway on the Island of Ireland.
- Recent meetings between the Department and Belfast International Airport have centred around transport links and connectivity to the Airport.
- The Department's powers relating to our three main airports are limited to the Airports (NI) Order 1994. These are powers to control noise, control land in the interests of the safe and efficient use of airports, make byelaws, provide for airport constabularies and airport consultative committees, and to give grants to assist capital expenditure.

- The discussion around the transatlantic airbridge would not sit within the Department's powers therefore we recommend asking Mr Ó Muilleoir to extend the invite to the DfE Minister.

Minister, do you wish to:

Accept?	
Decline?	
Decline but official meeting to be offered?	
Decline but official to attend?	
More information required?	

From the office of the Minister for Infrastructure

LIZ KIMMINS MLA

Máirtín Ó Muilleoir
Publisher Irish Echo
165 Madison Avenue,
Suite 200, New York, NY 10016
Tel: 212-482-4818

[REDACTED]

Private Office,
3rd Floor, James House
Gasworks Site,
2 - 4 Cromac Avenue
Belfast
BT7 2JA
Telephone: (028) 9054 0105
Email: Private.Office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Cc: [REDACTED]
Executive Assistant to Rich Davey
[REDACTED]

Your reference: MA Port CEO Meet
Our reference: INV-0408-2026
XX July 2026

Máirtín, a chara,

INVITE TO MEET RICH DAVEY, MA PORT AUTHORITY CEO

Thank you for your invitation to meet with Rich Davey.

I would be delighted to accept and welcome the opportunity to meet with him.

Given that the meeting is going to discuss topics such as the transatlantic airbridge I recommend extending the invitation to the Minister for the Economy, Dr Caoimhe Archibald MLA, in light of her responsibilities for aviation and tourism: Private.Office@economy-ni.gov.uk

To assist with the necessary arrangements, I would be grateful if you could contact my diary secretary XXXXX at Private.Office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk in order to make the necessary arrangements.

Is mise le meas,

LIZ KIMMINS MLA
Minister for Infrastructure

From the office of the Minister for Infrastructure

LIZ KIMMINS MLA

Máirtín Ó Muilleoir

Publisher Irish Echo

165 Madison Avenue,

Suite 200, New York, NY 10016

Tel: 212-482-4818

[REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Executive Assistant to Rich Davey

[REDACTED]

Private Office,

3rd Floor, James House

Gasworks Site

2 - 4 Cromac Avenue

Belfast

BT7 2JA

Telephone: (028) 9054 0105

Email: Private.Office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Your reference: MA Port CEO Meet

Our reference: INV-0408-2026

XX July 2026

Dear Máirtín

INVITE TO MEET RICH DAVEY, MA PORT AUTHORITY CEO

Thank you for your invitation to DfI Minister Liz Kimmins MLA.

Unfortunately, due to diary commitments the Minister is unable to accept at this stage. However, she has offered for a senior official to attend in her place, if that is helpful.

Given that the meeting is going to discuss topics such as the transatlantic airbridge I recommend extending the invitation to the Minister for the Economy, Dr Caoimhe Archibald MLA, in light of her responsibilities for aviation and tourism: Private.Office@economy-ni.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Private Secretary to the Minister

From: DfI Private Office
Sent: 29 July 2026 09:17
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Decision Issued - INV-0408-2026 : O Muilleoir - Invite to Meet Rich Davey, MA Port Authority CEO

Attachments: INV-0408-2026 FR Letter.pdf; FR Issued - INV-0408-2026 - O Muilleoir - Invite to Meet Rich Davey_ MA Port Authority CEO.msg; FW_ INV-0408-2026 _ O Muilleoir - Invite to Meet Rich Davey_ MA Port Authority CEO.msg

Raised By: Mr Máirtín Ó Muilleoir

Reference: INV-0408-2026

Subject: INV-0408-2026 : O Muilleoir - Invite to Meet Rich Davey, MA Port Authority CEO

Referred To: [REDACTED]

Date referred: 29/07/2026

Please see attached response as issued.

For further information etc. contact:

[REDACTED]

Private Office and Assembly Business Unit

[REDACTED]

Copied To For Information:

DfI Press Office cc list; INV CC List; Ports/Airports cc list

From the office of the Minister for Infrastructure
LIZ KIMMINS MLA



Máirtín Ó Muilleoir
Publisher Irish Echo
165 Madison Avenue,
Suite 200, New York, NY 10016
Tel: 212-482-4818
[REDACTED]

Private Office,
3rd Floor, James House
Gasworks Site,
2 - 4 Cromac Avenue
Belfast
BT7 2JA
Telephone: (028) 9054 0105
Email: Private.Office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Cc: [REDACTED]
Executive Assistant to Rich Davey
[REDACTED]

Your reference: MA Port CEO Meet
Our reference: INV-0408-2026
29th July 2026

Máirtín, a chara,
INVITE TO MEET RICH DAVEY, MA PORT AUTHORITY CEO

Thank you for your invitation to meet with Rich Davey.

I would be delighted to accept and welcome the opportunity to meet with him.

Given that the meeting is going to discuss topics such as the transatlantic airbridge I recommend extending the invitation to the Minister for the Economy, Dr Caoimhe Archibald MLA, in light of her responsibilities for aviation and tourism:
Private.Office@economy-ni.gov.uk

To assist with the necessary arrangements, I would be grateful if you could contact my diary secretary at Private.Office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk in order to make the necessary arrangements.

Is mise le meas,

LIZ KIMMINS MLA
Minister for Infrastructure

From: Máirtín Ó Muilleoir [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 July 2026 14:45
To: DfI Private Office
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] - RE: INV-0408-2026 - O Muilleoir - Invite to Meet Rich Davey, MA Port Authority CEO

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION – This email has been received from outside the NICS network. If you have any concerns, please report for investigation.

Fab, GRMA> Mairtin

From: DfI Private Office <Private.Office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk>
Date: Friday, 31 July 2026 at 14:44
To: Mairtin O Muilleoir [REDACTED]
Cc: DfI Private Office <Private.Office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] - RE: INV-0408-2026 - O Muilleoir - Invite to Meet Rich Davey, MA Port Authority CEO

Máirtín,

Just to confirm, following our telephone. We can change this meeting to start at 09:30 – 10:00 on Thursday 6 August next week in Parliament Buildings.

If you need anything further, please let me know.

Many thanks,
[REDACTED]

From: Máirtín Ó Muilleoir [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 July 2026 17:32
To: DfI Private Office <Private.Office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] - RE: [EXTERNAL] - RE: INV-0408-2026 - O Muilleoir - Invite to Meet Rich Davey, MA Port Authority CEO

Many thanks, M

From: DfI Private Office <Private.Office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk>
Date: Wednesday, 29 July 2026 at 16:02
To: Mairtin O Muilleoir [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED] Kelly Hemple [REDACTED] DfI Private Office

<Private.Office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] - RE: [EXTERNAL] - RE: INV-0408-2026 - O Muilleoir - Invite to Meet Rich Davey, MA Port Authority CEO

Good afternoon Máirtín,

Thank you for your email below, I hope to be able to schedule this meeting for Thursday 6 August next week. I am just awaiting confirmation of the timings for next week's Executive meeting before I can confirm a suitable time slot.

I will come back to you as soon as possible to confirm.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: Máirtín Ó Muilleoir [REDACTED]

Sent: 29 July 2026 10:18

To: DfI Private Office <Private.Office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] - RE: INV-0408-2026 - O Muilleoir - Invite to Meet Rich Davey, MA Port Authority CEO

Dear [REDACTED],

This is great news and extending invite to Minister Archibald will be most welcome.

Please note that [Sean O'Brien](#), President of International Brotherhood of Teamsters and a Massport Director would also like to join. President O'Brien is the most prominent Irish American in the US trade union movement and a strong advocate for Belfast and for the peace process.

He will also attend the meetings with airports and ports. Cc'ing in Sean's Special Counsel Kelly Hempel.

Best, Mairtin

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 July 2026 19:51
To: Máirtín Ó Muilleoir; DFI Gateways Branch; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] - INV-0408-2026 - O Muilleoir - Invite to Meet Rich Davey, MA Port Authority CEO
Attachments: SeanMOBrien_Headshot.jpg; SeanMOBrien_Biography_Final 2026.docx

CAUTION – This email has been received from outside the NICS network. If you have any concerns, please report for investigation.

Hello [REDACTED]: at this point I only anticipate Sean O'Brien attending the meeting. Attached are Sean's Bio and a headshot. Please let me know if you need anything else. You are welcome to contact me via cell phone too if needed at any point [REDACTED]

Thank you,

[REDACTED]
Executive Assistant/Special Counsel to the General President
Sean M. O'Brien
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
25 Louisiana Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20001
[REDACTED]

From: Máirtín Ó Muilleoir [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2026 11:15 AM
To: DFI Gateways Branch <Gateways@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] - INV-0408-2026 - O Muilleoir - Invite to Meet Rich Davey, MA Port Authority CEO

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is off today but will respond from Massport side.
And [REDACTED] from Teamsters will respond from Teamsters/Sean O'Brien side.
Best, Mairtin

From: DFI Gateways Branch <Gateways@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk>
Date: Friday, 31 July 2026 at 16:10
To: Mairtin O Muilleoir [REDACTED]
Cc: DFI Gateways Branch <Gateways@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] - INV-0408-2026 - O Muilleoir - Invite to Meet Rich Davey, MA Port Authority CEO

Good Afternoon Máirtín/ [REDACTED]

I am currently drafting a brief for the Minister for Rich Davey's visit on Thursday 6 August 2026 from 09:30 - 10:00 in Parliament Buildings.

Can you please provide me with an agenda, names of those attending and if possible, a bio with pen pictures for them.

Any issues please let me know.

Thanks
[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
Gateways Strategy and Policy
Transport Policy and Parking Directorate
Department for Infrastructure
James House, Gasworks Site
2-4 Cromac
Avenue Belfast
BT7 2JA

From: Máirtín Ó Muilleoir [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 August 2026 09:35
To: DFI Gateways Branch
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] - RE: [EXTERNAL] - RE: [EXTERNAL] - INV-0408-2026 - O Muilleoir -
Invite to Meet Rich Davey, MA Port Authority CEO

CAUTION – This email has been received from outside the NICS network. If you have any concerns, please report for investigation.

Yes. Mairtin
Seolta ó m'iPhone le dea-mhéin

On 5 Aug 2026, at 09:03, DFI Gateways Branch <Gateways@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk> wrote:

Hi Máirtín

Can I double check if you are coming to the meeting tomorrow?

Thanks
[REDACTED]

From: Máirtín Ó Muilleoir [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 August 2026 14:12
To: DFI Gateways Branch <Gateways@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] - RE: [EXTERNAL] - INV-0408-2026 - O Muilleoir - Invite to Meet Rich Davey,
MA Port Authority
CEO

Hi [REDACTED]
Yes the Massport delegation, Rich, Fay, Andrew and Matt met with CEO and Head of Marketing at Belfast City Airport on Monday. Mairtin

From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Date: Tuesday, 4 August 2026 at 14:08
To: DFI Gateways Branch <Gateways@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>, Mairtin O Muilleoir
[REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] - RE: [EXTERNAL] - INV-0408-2026 - O Muilleoir - Invite to Meet Rich Davey, MA Port Authority CEO

Hi [REDACTED]

I am not attending the meeting. thank you for checking.

Warm regards,

[REDACTED]

From: DFI Gateways Branch <Gateways@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 9:07 AM

To: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Máirtín Ó Muilleoir [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] - INV-0408-2026 - O Muilleoir - Invite to Meet Rich Davey, MA
Port Authority CEO

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for the agenda.

Are you also meeting with Belfast City Airport?

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Sent: 03 August 2026 18:37

To: DFI Gateways Branch <Gateways@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Máirtín Ó Muilleoir [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] - INV-0408-2026 - O Muilleoir - Invite to Meet Rich Davey, MA
Port Authority CEO

Hi [REDACTED]

For the meeting agenda, the proposed purpose is:

To discuss areas of mutual cooperation which would help build on this week's visit, which has included Belfast International Airport, Belfast City Airport, and Belfast Port.

Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Thank you for your assistance.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: DFI Gateways Branch <Gateways@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2026 9:35 AM
To: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Máirtín Ó Muilleoir [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] - INV-0408-2026 - O Muilleoir - Invite to Meet Rich Davey, MA Port Authority CEO

You don't often get email from gateways@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk. [Learn why this is important](#)

No problem, thank you for that.

Is there an agenda set yet or any topics to be discussed?

Thanks
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 August 2026 14:32
To: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Máirtín Ó Muilleoir [REDACTED]
DFI Gateways Branch <Gateways@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] - INV-0408-2026 - O Muilleoir - Invite to Meet Rich Davey, MA Port Authority CEO

Hi [REDACTED]

I've attached Rich Davey's bio and headshot. Rich will be the only person attending on our team.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or need any further information.

Warm regards

[REDACTED] Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer
[REDACTED]

Massachusetts Port Authority
Executive Administration
One Harborside Drive,
Suite 200S
East Boston, MA 02128

From: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2026 2:51 PM
To: Máirtín Ó Muilleoir [REDACTED] DFI Gateways Branch
<Gateways@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] - INV-0408-2026 - O Muilleoir - Invite to Meet Rich Davey, MA Port Authority CEO

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello [REDACTED] at this point I only anticipate Sean O'Brien attending the meeting. Attached are Sean's Bio and a headshot. Please let me know if you need anything else. You are welcome to contact me via cell phone too if needed at any point. [REDACTED]

Thank you,

[REDACTED]
Executive Assistant/Special Counsel to the General President
Sean M. O'Brien
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
25 Louisiana Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20001
[REDACTED]

From: Máirtín Ó Muilleoir [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2026 11:15 AM
To: DFI Gateways Branch <Gateways@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] - INV-0408-2026 - O Muilleoir - Invite to Meet Rich Davey, MA Port Authority CEO

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] is off today but will respond from Massport side.
And [REDACTED] from Teamsters will respond from Teamsters/Sean O'Brien side. Best,
Mairtin

From: DFI Gateways Branch
Sent: 05 August 2026 10:44
To: DfI Private Office
Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Updated Briefing - INV-0408-2026 : O Muilleoir - Invite to Meet Rich Davey, MA Port Authority CEO

Attachments: Action Sheet - INV-0408-2026 _ O Muilleoir - Invite to Meet Rich Davey_ MA Port Authority CEO.msg; INV-0408-2026 - O Muilleoir - Invite to Meet Rich Davey_ MA Port Authority CEO.msg; INV-0408-2026 O Muilleoir - Invite to Meet Rich Davey, MA Port Authority CEO Digital Brief - updated version.tr5; INV-0408-2026 O Muilleoir - Invite to Meet Rich Davey, MA Port Authority CEO Digital Brief - updated version.PDF; INV-0408-2026 O Muilleoir - Invite to Meet Rich Davey, MA Port Authority CEO Digital Brief.tr5; INV-0408-2026 O Muilleoir - Invite to Meet Rich Davey, MA Port Authority CEO Digital Brief.DOCX

HI Private Office

Please see updated digital brief for Minister with part input from DfE.

Thanks
[REDACTED]

INVITATION – COVER SHEET

Invite From	Máirtín Ó Muilleoir, Publisher Irish Echo
Invitation type	Event/Visit ☐ Meeting ☒
Details of meeting/event/visit	Máirtín Ó Muilleoir has invited you to meet with Rich Davey, Chief Executive Officer of the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport), during his forthcoming visit to Belfast. Mr Ó Muilleoir has arranged the visit to explore potential opportunities between Massport and Belfast Harbour, as well as to meet with Belfast International Airport to discuss the transatlantic air bridge, which the Department for the Economy (DfE) have responsibility, and any other matters of mutual interest. Mr Davey will also participate in a business roundtable during his visit.
Venue Address: Please include map or directions for Ministerial driver if appropriate.	Thursday 6 August 2026 from 09:30 - 10:00 in Parliament Buildings. Room 29.
Pre-brief Date & Time (if applicable)	Wednesday 5 August 2026 at 10.00- 10:15 via Teams. [REDACTED] Gateways [REDACTED] - Gateways
External attendees	Rich Davey, Chief Executive Officer of the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport). Sean M. O'Brien, General President, International Brotherhood of Teamsters. Máirtín Ó Muilleoir, Newspaper Publisher of Belfast Media Group and the Irish Echo in America, and former Minister of Finance and Belfast Lord Mayor.

Supporting official(s): Please outline who will accompany and support the Minister at the event and include their mobile phone number.	- Gateways – Gateways
Supporting press officer: Please include mobile phone number.	N/A
Who will greet Minister & where: Please outline who will meet Minister on arrival, include their organisation, job title and contact mobile number.	N/A, the meeting is in the Minister’s office in Parliament Buildings.
Key Facts and figures	• Belfast International Airport is Northern Ireland’s Principal Airport and the second largest gateway on the Island of Ireland. • There are approximately 6.5 million passengers a year through Belfast International Airport. • Belfast Harbour is the main maritime port for Northern Ireland. • The Harbour’s Masterplan launched on the 19th May 2026. It sets out a 25-year framework for Belfast Harbour’s future • Massport (the Massachusetts Port Authority) is an independent, public authority that acts as New England’s primary gateway for air and maritime travel. Created by the Massachusetts Legislature in 1956, it serves as a critical economic driver for the region.
Media interest likely?	Media interest is unlikely for this meeting.

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RICH DAVEY, CEO MASSACHUSETTS PORT AUTHORITY

SEAN M. O'BRIEN, GENERAL PRESIDENT, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD
OF TEAMSTERS

MÁIRTÍN Ó MUILLEOIR, FORMER BELFAST LORD MAYOR AND NEWSPAPER
PUBLISHER

INVITATION - BRIEFING MEMO

From: [REDACTED]
Business Area

Reference: DFI/INV/0408/2026

Tel: [REDACTED]

Date: 29/07/2026

To: 1. Sian Kerr (SK 04.08.2026)

2. Liz Kimmins MLA
Minister for Infrastructure

INV-0408-2026: Ó Muilleoir - Meet Rich Davey, MA Port Authority CEO

Event: Meet Rich Davey, MA Port Authority CEO

Timing: Immediate – Meeting to take place on Thursday 6th August 2026.

FOI Implications: In the event of a request for disclosure of information contained in this briefing under the FOI Act, the request would be considered in the context of the relevant provisions of the legislation, including any relevant exemptions that may be applicable.”

Presentational Issues: This could be an opportunity to show transatlantic cooperation on port matters. Press Office can support messaging around the meeting as required. [REDACTED]

BACKGROUND

1. Máirtín Ó Muilleoir has invited you to meet with Rich Davey, MA (Massachusetts) Port Authority CEO, who will be visiting Belfast.
2. During that period, he will visit Belfast Harbour and Belfast International Airport (to discuss the transatlantic air bridge among other issues) and address a business roundtable.
3. Mr Ó Muilleoir believes it would be helpful for him to meet with you to explore further opportunities for cooperation and learning.

4. Mr Davey has a distinguished career in transport, having headed up the New York City Transit system (North America's largest transit system) before taking on the role of CEO of Massport which covers both Boston Logan International Airport and the Port of Boston.
5. Mr Ó Muilleoir invited Mr Davey, after an awards event where Mr Davey's achievements were recognised, to visit Belfast to explore opportunities to partner with Belfast port and other institutions here to the mutual benefit of Boston and Belfast.
6. Representatives from Belfast City Airport met with Mr Davey on Monday 3rd August and representatives from Belfast Harbour are meeting with Mr Davey on Tuesday 4th August, and Belfast International Airport are meeting with him on Wednesday 5th August, to discuss their respective areas of work.
7. Mr Ó Muilleoir considers that a meeting with Mr Davey would provide an opportunity to identify potential opportunities.
8. The Department has statutory and other duties in respect of seaports. These duties include contributing to the development of policy in ports and harbours and ensuring the regulatory framework in which they operate is kept under review as well as providing financial assistance in the form of grants and loans.
9. From its foundation, BHC has been at the forefront of establishing Belfast as a leading maritime port and in recent times continue to transform the Harbour estate into a key economic hub for the region.
10. Belfast International Airport is Northern Ireland's Principal Airport and the second largest air gateway on the Island of Ireland.
11. Recent meetings between the Department and Belfast International Airport have centred around transport links and connectivity to the Airport.
12. The Department's powers relating to our three main airports are limited to the Airports (NI) Order 1994. These are powers to control noise, control land in the interests of the safe and efficient use of airports, make byelaws, provide for airport constabularies and airport consultative committees, and to give grants to assist capital expenditure.
13. The discussion around the transatlantic airbridge would not sit within the Department's powers therefore you have recommended asking Mr Ó Muilleoir to extend the invite to the DfE Minister. DfE have confirmed Minister Archibald has turned down the invite due to diary commitments.

BELFAST HARBOUR

14. Belfast Harbour is the main maritime port for Northern Ireland. The current harbour was established in 1847. It covers 2,000 acres, representing 20% of the total acreage of the Belfast City Council area. Belfast Harbour is the main transport and distribution

hub for the whole of Northern Ireland, handling approximately 24m tonnes of goods and vehicles in 2023. This equates to around two-thirds of all the goods handled in Northern Ireland. In addition to being the premier distribution hub for Northern Ireland, Belfast Harbour is home to a diverse range of high-quality commercial businesses and a significant number of residential properties.

15. Belfast Harbour's recent report entitled 'Belfast Harbour: An Economic Driver for the Region', is available online and can be accessed from the following link:
 - [Belfast-Harbour-Economic-Impact_FINAL_October-2025.pdf](#)
16. The report concludes that the Belfast Harbour Commissioners' controlled businesses generated c.£264.8m worth of spend to the Northern Ireland economy. Converting this to GVA in total these businesses generated c.£110.5m worth of GVA or economic activity in Northern Ireland in 2023 as well as supporting 1,833 jobs.
17. Belfast Harbour is one of four Trust Ports in Northern Ireland (the others being Foyle, Warrenpoint and Coleraine). The remaining large commercial port in Northern Ireland is Larne Port but it is privately owned and is not a trust port.
18. The Department is responsible for the policy and legislative framework under which trust ports operate and is currently responsible for making all appointments to the board of Belfast Harbour Commissioners under the Belfast Harbour Order (NI) 2002.
19. There are currently 15 members or 'Commissioners' on the board of Belfast Harbour, including the Chair, an Executive Director, nine Non-Executive members and four Belfast City Councillor Board members.
20. The [Harbour's Masterplan](#) launched on the 19th May 2026. It sets out a 25year framework for Belfast Harbour's future, covering 2,000 acres of land and 1,000 acres of water. It sets out the Harbour's goals for trade, tourism, clean growth and innovation and aspirations to shape new places to work, live and invest in.
21. The plan includes £1.3bn investment in port infrastructure alongside £500m - £750m regeneration opportunities including housing.
22. Belfast Harbour advise that the Plan has been developed through 2 years of engagement with their customers, tenants and stakeholders as well as in line with guidance on Ports master planning from the Department of Infrastructure and the UK's Department for Transport.
23. The Masterplan notes that the scale and pace of investment required in the medium term cannot be achieved within the Harbour's current borrowing constraints. As an NI Trust Port, they are classified as a public corporation for accounting purposes. As such, any commercial borrowing counts against the Department for Infrastructure's budget.
24. Addressing this issue is one of the objectives of the Harbours Bill which is currently bring progressed by the Department.

HARBOURS BILL

- 25. The Harbours Bill was introduced in the Assembly on 15th June and successfully passed its Second Stage on the 23rd June. The Bill has now progressed to Committee Stage for scrutiny. The Bill is one part of legislative reforms which are being introduced to modernise Trust Ports here and provide them with enhanced commercial powers.
- 26. The Department is continuing to engage with Belfast Harbour as the legislation progresses.

BELFAST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

- 30. Belfast International Airport is Northern Ireland's Principal Airport and the second largest gateway on the Island of Ireland.
- 31. VINCI Airports, the world's leading private airport operator, has been the owner and operator of Belfast International Airport since 2018.
- 32. There are approximately 6.5 million passengers a year through Belfast International Airport out of 11 million across the three airports in Northern Ireland (BIA, Belfast City and City of Derry Airport).
- 33. Belfast International Airport is undertaking a £100 million, five-year investment programme to improve efficiency, passenger experience, and environmental performance.

BELFAST CITY AIRPORT

- 34. Belfast City Airport is privately owned by 3i Infrastructure plc, and they fund operational and facility improvements independently.
- 35. The All-Island Strategic Rail Review, published in 2024, acknowledges that while improvements could be made to the link, Belfast City Airport is already one of only two airports in Ireland currently served by rail.
- 36. The Airport published its Master Plan 2040 on 13 March 2026 and outlines Belfast City Airport's vision for growth, sustainability, and infrastructure development through to the year 2040. The plan is intended to guide long-term decision-making, enhance Northern Ireland's connectivity, and support economic prosperity.
- 37. The Master Plan sets out the Airport's wish to increase their annual movements from their current cap of 48,000 to around 61,000 and extend their operating hours beyond 9.30pm.

RAIL LINK TO BELFAST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

38. All-Island Strategic Rail Review recommends reinstating the line between Antrim and Lisburn, including improved connectivity between the Railway and Belfast International Airport (BIA). This would provide for improved public transport links between BIA to Belfast, Derry and Dublin. Following the announcement of funding from the Irish Government, work is ongoing to progress work on this line.
39. In addition, DfI have worked with the Irish Government on the procurement of new, high-speed trains between Belfast and Dublin. Line improvement works are also ongoing to bring the journey time to below two hours.
40. This programme of investment will help to create a high-speed transport network across the Island and bring the airports of the North into scope as viable destinations for people flying into Ireland, regardless of where they intend to do business.
41. While improved rail links will help with accessibility, there are already a number of public transport options available to access Belfast International Airport. These include:
 - The Aircoach Service connecting Belfast International Airport to Derry;
 - The Airport Express to Belfast service which operates 7 days a week. At peak times on Monday to Friday, services run every 15 minutes; and
 - Rail users can avail of the Ulsterbus 109A/D service with the 'airlink' ticket from Ballymena, Cullybackey, Ballymoney, Coleraine, Coleraine University, Dhu Varren, Portrush, Castlerock, Ballymena and Derry.

DfE PART INPUT

42. The Department for the Economy is focused on working proactively with Belfast International Airport to restore transatlantic flights that can deliver tourism and economic benefits to the north.
43. The Minister for the Economy, alongside the First and Deputy First Ministers, met with the airport's senior leadership earlier in January 2026 to discuss the airport's plans and engagement with US airlines on this matter.
44. Officials continue to regularly engage with the airport to support efforts to secure the return of transatlantic services.
45. A route development scheme, which is a potential mechanism for co-funding such flights, is also under consideration as part of the Department's forthcoming aviation policy due to be published later in 2026.

46. The Department also remains committed to supporting the establishment of US pre-clearance when the necessary conditions are in place. Restoring these flights is the key first step in enabling pre-clearance in the future.

LINES TO TAKE

47. Belfast International Airport negotiations with US airlines remain commercially sensitive.

48. The current PfG states, "We will work with the UK Government to support preclearance between the United States and Belfast International Airport, promoting international investment and innovation."

Annex A Agreed Agenda/ Event Programme

Annex B Lines to Take

Annex C Pen Pictures for key attendees

██████████

Contact Number: ██████████

Copied to:

██████████

DfI Gateways

DfI Press Office

PS To the Above

Annex A - Agreed Agenda

To discuss areas of mutual cooperation which would help build on this week's visit, which has included Belfast International Airport, Belfast City Airport, and Belfast Port.

Annex B - Lines to Take

- I welcome your interest in our Airports and Harbour.
- You have visited both Airports, Belfast City and Belfast International Airport and Belfast Harbour, how did you find your experiences of each?
- I welcome Belfast Port's economic impact and the role it plays in delivering the Executive's wider aspirations.
- I recently spoke at the launch of Belfast Port's 25-year Masterplan which sets out its strategic ambitions and includes a £1.3bn investment in port infrastructure.
- The Trust Ports' current classification limits its ability to borrow. My Department is progressing legislation, the Harbours Bill and associated Harbour Orders, to help address this within the current Mandate
- My officials are working closely with Belfast Port, and the other Trust Ports, as this legislation is being developed.
- We also work closely with our airports. We have a slightly different relationship with them compared to our Trust Ports as, in the case of the International airport, it is privately owned.
- Recent meetings between the Department and Belfast International Airport have centred around transport links and connectivity to the Airport.. While the airport is already well served by bus services, we are keen to explore how we can improve rail connectivity.
- You highlighted your interest in the "air bridge" between the North of Ireland and the US. While my Department has responsibility for the airports, aviation is a matter for the Economy Minister. In March, Minister Archibald published a consultation on Aviation Policy. This consultation sought views on the proposed policy direction and the role government can play in supporting the development of the aviation sector. The consultation closed on the 22 May 2026.

Annex C Pen Pictures

ATTENDEES

RICH DAVEY, CEO MASSACHUSETTS PORT AUTHORITY

Since August 2024, Richard Davey has served as the Chief Executive Officer of the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport). Davey leads an organization with revenue of \$1.4 billion and a mission of connecting the region to the world to support the Commonwealth's economic, transportation and climate goals, while demonstrating a commitment to neighboring communities. Massport's portfolio includes Boston Logan International Airport, Worcester Regional Airport, Hanscom Field, the public maritime facilities in the Port of Boston including Conley Container Terminal and Flynn Cruiseport Boston, as well as commercial real estate in East Boston, South Boston, and Charlestown. The

Authority's facilities generate nearly \$46 billion in annual economic impact. Under Rich's leadership, Massport has implemented dozens of initiatives to improve the customer experience at Logan airport, launched a \$140M project to improve the Flynn Cruiseport, successfully advocated for the adoption of a state tax credit for sustainable aviation fuel, launched the first in the nation "remote airport terminal" in Framingham and created "Blue Edge" an initiative to establish Massport's leadership in the blue economy.

Rich brings over two decades of experience in transportation and infrastructure with a track record of improving safety, operations, and fiscal discipline, while making customer experience the hallmark of his work. Prior to joining Massport, he served as President of New York City Transit, North America's largest transit system, significantly improving operations and customer satisfaction across subway, bus and paratransit service during his tenure. He was a partner at the consulting firm BCG, advising transportation organizations globally. From 2011 through 2014, Rich served as Massachusetts Secretary of Transportation under Governor Deval Patrick and as General Manager of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) in 2010–2011. Earlier in his career, he worked for and ultimately lead the MBTA's commuter rail operator. Rich is a graduate of the College of the Holy Cross and Gonzaga University School of Law, summa cum laude. He is also a proud graduate of Boston College High School, where he currently serves on the Board of Trustees. A native Bostonian, he and his wife reside in the Back Bay.



**SEAN M. O'BRIEN, GENERAL PRESIDENT,
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF
TEAMSTERS**

Sean M. O'Brien is a fourth generation Teamster and the General President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. He joined Teamsters Local 25 in Charlestown, Mass. at the age of 18 working in the rigging industry as a heavyequipment driver in the Greater Boston area. O'Brien became a business agent in 1999 and, in 2006, the youngest President in Local 25's 128year history. Under his leadership, Local 25's membership increased by more than 30 percent. In 2011, he was elected Eastern Region Vice President of the Teamsters Union.



O'Brien is the third nationally elected General President of the Teamsters who's come out of Local 25 in Boston, following William McCarthy and Daniel Tobin, who was the longest serving General President of the union.

O'Brien has worked to increase the membership of the Teamsters, both locally and nationally, and has been successful in organizing workers and negotiating strong contracts in a variety of diverse industries. In the last four years alone, the Teamsters internationally have organized over 100,000 new members into the union. In June 2026, during the Teamsters 31st International Convention, O'Brien was overwhelmingly re-elected without opposition to a second five-year term as Teamsters General President.

As General President, O'Brien is committed to winning and defending strong national contracts, organizing new members, and aggressively taking on employers. O'Brien is focused on mobilizing rank-and-file Teamsters through education and increased engagement—traveling extensively to visit with members at worksites throughout the country.

O'Brien also serves as a member of the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) Board of Directors and is Co-Chairman and Trustee of the New England Teamsters Pension Fund.

In addition to fighting for workers, O'Brien has helped raise millions of dollars for charitable causes, including Local 25's signature event, "Light Up the Night," an annual gala to raise money for children with autism.

O'Brien is the proud father of two sons, Sean Jr. and Joseph.

MÁIRTÍN Ó MUILLEOIR, FORMER BELFAST LORD MAYOR AND NEWSPAPER PUBLISHER

Máirtín Ó Muilleoir is Aisling Events' Co-Founder & Director, publisher at the Belfast Media Group and at the Irish Echo in the US. The Irish Echo, established 1928, is the oldest and biggest newspaper serving Irish Americans across 50 States.

A former Finance Minister in the Executive and a former Lord Mayor of Belfast, Máirtín has been involved in community-building for four decades.

He is a founding partner of the North Ireland Growth Fund which is aiming to raise \$100m to invest in early-stage companies seizing economic opportunities in Ireland's 12 northern counties.

He has authored several books in Irish and English, is a graduate of Queen's University Belfast and has received several awards for his community commitment, most notably an honorary doctorate from Quinnipiac University in Connecticut, USA and the Tolerntia Laureate Award for support of the LGBTQ+ community. In 2023, he served as Honorary Grand Marshall of the St Patrick's Day Parade in Huntsville, Alabama.

He is a keen runner and is married to Helen O'Hare. The couple have four grown-up children.



☒ PRE-BRIEF

☐ MEETING

TIME AND DATE OF MEETING:		10:00-10:15 Wednesday 5 th August 2026		
TITLE/ORGANISATION: (Include INV number where possible and ensure title on pre-brief and meeting notes are the same)		INV-0408-2026: Ó MUILLEOIR - MEET RICH DAVEY, MA PORT AUTHORITY CEO		
VENUE:	☐ James House	☐ Stormont	☒ Video Call	☐ Other – please specify
LIST OF ATTENDEES:				
☒ Minister	☐ SpAd	☒ Private Secretary – ██████████		
OFFICIALS:	██████████	Gateways Branch Gateways Branch		
OTHERS: (Include Pdf Copies of any Presentations Delivered)				
KEY POINTS DISCUSSED: ██████████ briefed the Minister on an invitation from Máirtín Ó Muilleoir to meet with Rich Davey, Chief Executive Officer of the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport), during his forthcoming visit to Belfast. Sean M. O'Brien, General President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, will also attend. ██████████ advised that both Mr Davey and Mr O'Brien met with Belfast Harbour and the two airports earlier in the week, and no issues of concern arose from those engagements. The meeting will focus on opportunities for mutual cooperation and on building relationships following this week's visits to the airports and port. ██████████ also informed the Minister that Mr Davey wishes to discuss the potential for strengthening the air link between Northern Ireland and the United States. As this matter falls within the remit of the Department for the Economy (DfE), officials have highlighted this to Mr Ó Muilleoir and are awaiting briefing lines from DfE. The Minister was content with the briefing and welcomed the opportunity to meet with Mr Davey and Mr O'Brien.				

ISSUES AGREED (must be completed):

N/A

ACTION POINTS / OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE:

Minister was content with briefing and awaited the DfE lines.

NOTE WRITTEN BY:

[REDACTED]

DATE: 07/08/2026

Signed and Dated by Lead Policy Official: [REDACTED] 12/08/2026

Signed and Dated by Minister/Private Office representative: [REDACTED] 17/08/2026

☐ PRE-BRIEF

☒ MEETING

TIME AND DATE OF MEETING:		09.30-10:00 Thursday 6 th August 2026		
TITLE/ORGANISATION: (Include INV number where possible and ensure title on pre-brief and meeting notes are the same)		INV-0408-2026: Ó MUILLEOIR - MEET RICH DAVEY, MA PORT AUTHORITY CEO		
VENUE:	☐ James House	☒ Stormont	☐ Video Call	☐ Other – please specify
LIST OF ATTENDEES:				
☒ Minister	☐ SpAd	☐ Private Secretary	[REDACTED] – Private Office APS	
OFFICIALS:	[REDACTED]	Gateways Branch Gateways Branch		
OTHERS: (Include Pdf Copies of any Presentations Delivered)	•Rich Davey, Chief Executive Officer of the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport). •Sean M. O'Brien, General President, International Brotherhood of Teamsters. •Máirtín Ó Muilleoir, Newspaper Publisher of Belfast Media Group and the Irish Echo in America, and former Minister of Finance and Belfast Lord Mayor.			
KEY POINTS DISCUSSED: Máirtín Ó Muilleoir introduced Rich Davey, Chief Executive Officer of the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport), and Sean M. O'Brien, General President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, to the Minister before inviting the Minister to make opening remarks. The Minister welcomed both visitors and highlighted Belfast City Airport's ambitious Masterplan, noting that she and the Minister for the Economy, Dr Caoimhe Archibald, were keen to see its successful delivery. The Minister spoke about Northern Ireland's growing reputation as a destination for tourism, business and investment, emphasising the wider economic benefits that major infrastructure developments can bring across the island of Ireland. The Minister outlined the Executive's commitment to improving cross-border infrastructure and highlighted her close engagement with counterparts in Ireland. She referenced a number of key projects, including the All-Island Strategic Rail Review, Shared Island Fund investments, the new Enterprise rail service, the Buncrana to Letterkenny road upgrade, the A1 Belfast to Dublin upgrade, and the A5 project.				

The Minister also highlighted ongoing work by Waterways Ireland and the positive impact of cross-border greenway developments, particularly the Greenway to Carlingford, which has supported tourism growth and local business opportunities.

The Minister referred to her recent meeting with [REDACTED] and discussions on Belfast Harbour's waterfront development, including opportunities within the Titanic Quarter.

Mr O'Brien reflected positively on his visit to Belfast Harbour, noting the scale of infrastructure investment and development underway, including the film studios. He outlined the role of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, representing workers across a range of sectors, including aviation and logistics. He stressed the importance of infrastructure investment in supporting economic growth, quality employment and pension funds.

Mr O'Brien also reflected on the similarities between present day Belfast and Boston of 30 years ago. Drawing on his experience of the growth and development of the Port of Boston, he noted that Belfast appears to be following a similar trajectory. He also spoke about his work as a trade union representative, highlighting his engagement with major employers across the United States.

The Minister highlighted the forthcoming Good Jobs Bill being taken forward by the Department for the Economy, including measures relating to employment rights and family leave provisions.

Mr Davey discussed opportunities to strengthen connectivity between Belfast and Boston, including ongoing engagement with Delta Air Lines regarding the potential for a direct air service. He also outlined a number of initiatives being pursued by Massport, including mixed-use waterfront development, housing within port areas, cruise terminal expansion, blue biotechnology opportunities, and the development of a floating dry dock.

The Minister noted the potential opportunities associated with Coleraine Harbour and its links with Scotland, particularly in supporting student placements and wider economic development. She expressed interest in receiving further information on these opportunities as Máirtín Ó Muilleoir indicated Boston has the potential for opportunities around marine placements.



The meeting concluded with the Minister thanking Mr Davey and Mr O'Brien for their visit and welcomed continued collaboration. Máirtín Ó Muilleoir closed by commending the work being undertaken by the Ministers.

ISSUES AGREED (must be completed):

N/A

ACTION POINTS / OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE:

Dfl to pass on detail to Massport delegation of the educational links between Coleraine harbour and Scottish educational institutions.

NOTE WRITTEN BY: [REDACTED]**DATE:** 07/08/2026**Signed and Dated by Lead Policy Official:** [REDACTED] 12/08/2026**Signed and Dated by Minister/Private Office representative:** [REDACTED] 17/08/2026