

Mr Paul Hewitt
Chairman
The Ulster New Zealand Trust at The Ballance House
118a Lisburn Road
Glenavy
Co Antrim
BT29 4NY
SCrawford@theballancehouse.com

Our Ref: CORR: 0780:2021

2 September 2021

Dear Mr Hewitt

Congratulations on the 30th Anniversary of the opening of the rebuilt Ballance homestead and the official birthday of the Ulster New Zealand Trust.

The First Minister and deputy First Minister are very happy to lend their support to this project and have asked for the comments below to be included in your celebrations.


The Trust successfully continues to preserve and enhance the important links we have with New Zealand. We see New Zealand as a very successful and influential country on the world stage and we are delighted that we can say that people from here have been able to contribute to that success. Our Executive maintains close links with the High Commission on areas of Economy and Agriculture and we are always happy to welcome senior officials here on a regular basis. I also hope we can build on this relationship and that we will be able to do more together in the future and look forward to working with the Trust and our friends in New Zealand to help make that happen.

Paul Givan MLA, First Minister.

I am delighted to be able to share in the event today and to celebrate the relationship we have with the people of New Zealand in many areas, in sport, culture and heritage as well as our cooperation in economic and agriculture matters. The story of John Ballance and others from these shores who built their lives in New Zealand and elsewhere in the world makes us all very proud but it also established a strong bond between us and the people of New Zealand. The Executive appreciates the support that has been received from New Zealand over the years and I look forward to our future cooperation and the benefits this will bring to all of us in the years to come.

Michelle O'Neill MLA, deputy First Minister.

Yours sincerely,



Karen Wilson
PS/First Minister



Paula Magill
PS/deputy First Minister