



DIVISION OF  
CORPORATION FINANCE

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

November 9, 2021

David R. Melville, III  
Chief Executive Officer  
Business First Bancshares, Inc.  
500 Laurel Street, Suite 101  
Baton Rouge, LA 70801

**Re: Business First Bancshares, Inc.**  
**Registration Statement on Form S-4**  
**Filed November 2, 2021**  
**File No. 333-260691**

Dear Mr. Melville:

This is to advise you that we have not reviewed and will not review your registration statement.

Please refer to Rules 460 and 461 regarding requests for acceleration. We remind you that the company and its management are responsible for the accuracy and adequacy of their disclosures, notwithstanding any review, comments, action or absence of action by the staff.

Please contact Tonya K. Aldave at (202) 551-3601 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Division of Corporation Finance  
Office of Finance

cc: Kevin E. Strachan, Esq.