



Response to Consultation

Date: 07 January 11
Consultation: Leasehold Schemes for the Elderly

Introduction

The Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations (NIFHA) represents registered and non-registered housing associations in Northern Ireland. Collectively, our members provide 34,000 good quality, affordable homes for renting or equity sharing. Further information is available at www.nifha.org

General Comments

NIFHA welcomes the opportunity to review this Housing Association Circular which has been operational since 1987. We have consulted all our members regarding the content of this policy document and have a number of concerns regarding its withdrawal.

Specific Comments

The deletion of this circular would remove the option for this type of scheme to be provided, even though there has been a very small take up of this option it is still available to be used if required. The removal of this option comes at a time when Housing Associations, in supporting DSD and the public purse, would need to have as many different methods of working available to them as possible, especially those that would assist them in reducing their reliance on Housing Association Grant as a means of subsidising the provision social housing.

Our Federation further asks DSD to specify which parts of the circular they are not able to support and suggest that it would be beneficial to discuss or consult with our members on this matter in the future.

I hope you find our comments useful.

Maire Kerr
Housing Policy and Research Manager

NIFHA – Working Together for Better Housing

Join **today** as an **Associate** of NIFHA

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