

THE NORTHERN IRELAND FEDERATION OF HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS

38 Hill Street, Belfast, Northern Ireland BT1 2LB ☎ (028) 9023 0446 Fax No: (028) 9023 8057
E-Mail Address: info@nifha.org - Web: www.nifha.org

21st July 2006

Ms Alison Hanna
Housing Policy Branch
Level 2 James House
2 – 4 Cromac Avenue
Gasworks Business Park
Ormeau Road
BELFAST
BT7 2JA

Dear Alison,

Re: Draft Housing (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 2006


I refer to the above document and would like to thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the consultative process. The Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations (NIFHA) represents 44 independent voluntary organisations, which collectively build over 1,500 dwellings each year and manage almost 30,000 units of accommodation throughout Northern Ireland.

As you are probably aware, this document will have a significant impact on the requirements and procedures for our members in receiving payment for their development functions relating to the social housing development programme.

Whilst NIFHA broadly welcomes the content of the legislative proposal, on behalf of our members, we would seek clarification on what is referred to as a “designated association”. The draft order indicates that the Department for Social Development is authorised to designate particular organisations which may qualify for Housing Association Grant for purposes other than the provision of social rented housing. We would anticipate that this will take account of funding such as grants for equity sharing tenure, payment of Grant in Aid to NIFHA, Voluntary Purchase Grant, grant for Miscellaneous Work or (in exceptional circumstances) Major Repairs Grant or Revenue Deficit Grant.

I would be grateful if you could provide your understanding of this as soon as possible and if you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely



**DONALL HENDERSON
HOUSING POLICY AND RESEARCH MANAGER**

Representing and promoting housing associations in Northern Ireland

Chairperson: Mr Arthur Canning Dip (Est Man) MBEng Chief Executive: Mr Chris Williamson MCIH

VAT Registration No: 311 2120 40