

NORTHERN IRELAND FEDERATION OF HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS

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31 October 2007

Safety of Older People Consultation
Community safety Unit
4th Floor Millennium House
Great Victoria Street
BELFAST
BT2 7AQ

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Proposals for the Safety of Older People

The Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations (NIFHA) represents 43 housing associations which provide over 30,000 homes for people in need, as well as additional support services and facilities for people who require additional assistance. Some schemes are designed as sheltered and special needs dwellings, which may specifically cater for older people.

The Federation would broadly welcome this proposal, which encourages a safer environment for older and perhaps more vulnerable adults. However, NIFHA would also like to make the following points which should be taken into consideration:

1. The timescale indicates a strategy of 3 – 5 years. This should be a first stage in a wider strategy which recognises future predictions for a larger ageing population.
2. The Community Safety Unit may wish to consider leading other voluntary organisations in lobbying for a universal “older person” definition
3. Chapter 3 does not take account of “Secured by Design” standards which are incorporated into all new build social housing schemes. These act as a deterrent to domestic burglaries and this should be acknowledged.
4. NIFHA and its members would seek clarification from the NIO on whether housing associations are to become designated bodies with power to enforce Anti-Social Behaviour Orders, as this has not been confirmed although it was originally suggested by the Secretary of State when under direct rule.
5. NIFHA would be keen to ensure involvement in any vehicle used to promote safety among elderly residents, through any action aimed at raising awareness and encouraging safety measures in the home.

Representing and promoting housing associations in Northern Ireland

VAT Registration No: 311 2120 40

Company No: NI 11996



6. The equality impact assessment within the context of this document fails to recognise that older people from a particular background, in relation to their religious denomination, racial group or sexual orientation, may be at greater risk of attack. It is important that this oversight is addressed.

The Federation would be grateful that our comments will be taken into consideration and our member housing associations would be keen to be involved and participate in any further discussions about this issue as deemed necessary.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Henderson'. The 'D' is large and stylized, with a vertical line through it. The name 'Henderson' is written in a cursive style.

DONALL HENDERSON
HOUSING POLICY AND RESEARCH MANAGER