

Response to Consultation

Date: 12 December 2008
Consultation: Draft EQIA: Social Housing Development Programme
Strategic Guidelines

Introduction

The Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations (NIFHA) represents 40 housing associations. This includes 33 of the associations registered and regulated by the Department for Social Development (DSD). Collectively, these associations provide 30,000 good quality, affordable homes for renting or equity sharing. Further information is available at www.nifha.org

Background

NIFHA's members are responsible for about twenty five percent of all social housing stock in Northern Ireland and at present are the sole providers of new build social housing stock in Northern Ireland. Having given its members the opportunity to review the consultation paper, NIFHA would like to highlight the following key points.

General Comments

1. NIFHA would stress that proper and due consideration is given to ensure that an acceptable percentage of the social housing development programme is sufficient to address the supported housing needs for those who are vulnerable within our society.
2. It is also important to take account of the need for provision of specialised homes including wheelchair designed bungalows.

I trust that these observations and recommendations are helpful in progressing a final draft document.

Submitted on behalf of NIFHA by:



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