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6<sup>th</sup> December 2016

Dear Consultee

## **Homelessness Strategy 2017-22**

On Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016, the Board of the Housing Executive approved the draft Homelessness Strategy 2017-22 – “Ending Homelessness Together”. As you know, this is a very important Strategy and the Housing Executive is undertaking an external consultation exercise to seek feedback on the strategic direction the organisation has set out in the document. I should be grateful if you would read the document and tell us what you think about it.

The Strategy sets out key objectives and associated actions aimed at preventing homelessness, where possible, and finding long term sustainable housing and support solutions for those households faced with homelessness. The Strategy supports a multi-agency approach to tackling homelessness and recognizes the importance of local service delivery.

While there remains a degree of uncertainty around issues such as, for example, the impact of Welfare Reform, the Strategy is flexible and will seek to react to new and emerging issues which may impact on homelessness going forward.

Should you wish to participate in the consultation process, a copy of the consultation is available on the NIHE website (the link for which is listed below) or can be made available in alternative formats on request.

The Housing Executive will publish a summary of responses, following completion of the consultation process, in line with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Confidentiality of Consultations (attached).

I should be grateful if you would forward your response to this strategy by Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at 5pm, via email using the online consultation form at <http://www.nihe.gov.uk/index/corporate/consultation.htm> or in writing to:

Richard Tanswell, Homeless Strategy Manager  
2 Adelaide Street  
Belfast  
BT2 8PB

Email to: [homelessness.strategy@nihe.gov.uk](mailto:homelessness.strategy@nihe.gov.uk)

If you have any queries on any aspect of the consultation please do not hesitate to contact Richard Tanswell on telephone number 02895 982 327.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Clark Bailie". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**Clark Bailie**  
**Chief Executive**

# Freedom of Information Act 2000

## Confidentiality of Consultations

The Housing Executive will publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. Your response, and all other responses to the consultation, may be disclosed on request. The Housing Executive can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. Before you submit your response, please read the paragraphs below on the confidentiality of consultations and they will give you guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this consultation.

The Freedom of Information Act gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely, the Housing Executive in this case. This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. The Housing Executive cannot automatically consider as confidential information supplied to it in response to a consultation. However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity should be made public or treated as confidential.

This means that information provided by you in response to the consultation is unlikely to be treated as confidential, except in very particular circumstances. The Lord Chancellor's Code of Practice on the Freedom of Information Act provides that:

- The Housing Executive should only accept information from third parties in confidence if it is necessary to obtain that information in connection with the exercise of any of the Housing Executive's functions and it would not otherwise be provided.
- The Housing Executive should not agree to hold information received from third parties "in confidence" which is not confidential in nature.
- Acceptance by the Housing Executive of confidentiality provisions must be for good reasons, capable of being justified to the Information Commissioner.

For further information about confidentiality of responses please contact the Information Commissioner's Office (or see the website at:

<http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk/> ).