

THE NORTHERN IRELAND FEDERATION OF HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS

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5th May 2006

Investing for Health Team (Tobacco Control)
Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety
Room C4.22 Castle Buildings
BELFAST
BT4 3SQ

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Draft Smoking (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 45 independent voluntary organisations, which benefit the community by providing affordable accommodation and related housing services to those in greatest housing need. Taken together, our members manage almost 30,000 units of accommodation and build over 1,500 dwellings each year. In the last twenty-five years these associations have undertaken a range of projects to respond to the needs of a diverse society including the provision of sheltered and supported housing schemes, which may be affected by these proposals.

On behalf of our members, NIFHA would like to highlight the following;

1. We endorse the introduction of comprehensive controls on smoking in enclosed work spaces and public places, in the best interests of personal health for all.
2. NIFHA seeks clarification for its members on the definition of a smoke free premises, particularly in relation to communal areas within housing schemes.
3. The DHSSPS must ensure an effective and well informed campaign to promote the introduction of this legislation and make the public fully aware of the impact that this will have.
4. It is important to have a process in place which will measure the effectiveness of such legislation with proper monitoring mechanisms to identify any correlation to savings in the provision of health care.

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

On behalf of our members I am pleased to be able to contribute to this process and hope you will find these comments helpful. If you have any queries about any of the points raised or require further information about the Federation and its members please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Henderson". The initial "D" is large and stylized, with a vertical line through it. The name "Henderson" is written in a cursive script.

DONALL HENDERSON
HOUSING POLICY AND RESEARCH MANAGER