Housing Executive | **CHIEF EXECUTIVE**
Clark Bailie

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Dear Consultee,

Housing Executive Chronic Homelessness Action Plan

On Wednesday 27th February 2019 the Board of the Housing Executive approved the draft Chronic Homelessness Action Plan. The Housing Executive will now undertake a 12 week external consultation exercise, to seek feedback on the strategic direction the organisation has set out in the document.

Chronic homelessness has been identified as an issue of increasing concern to organisations across the homelessness sector and the development of the Chronic Homelessness Action Plan is a result of our engagement with the sector as part of the delivery of the Homelessness Strategy 2017-22. Like the Homelessness Strategy 2017-22 the Chronic Homelessness Action Plan supports a multi-agency approach to addressing homelessness and recognises the importance of local service delivery.

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 would be grateful if you would forward your response to the Chronic Homelessness Action Plan by Friday 2nd August at 5pm via email using the online consultation for at https://www.nihe.gov.uk/Working-With-Us/Partners/Consultations or in writing to:

Helen Hicks, (Homelessness Policy & Strategy)
1st Floor South,
9 Lanyon Place,
Belfast, BT1 3LZ
Email to: homelessness.strategy@nihe.gov.uk

If you have any queries on any aspect of the consultation please do not hesitate to contact Helen Hicks on 02895 983 170 or Richard Tanswell on 02895 982 327.

Yours faithfully

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 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. 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.

The 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/)