
Dear Consultee

Housing Executive Community Involvement Strategy 2018-2023

On Wednesday 25th April 2018, the Board of the Housing Executive approved the draft Community Involvement Strategy 2018-2023. 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 in partnership with the Central Housing Forum.

It is important that you get your voice heard during this consultation process as it will set the direction of travel for our Community Involvement Strategy over the next 5 years.

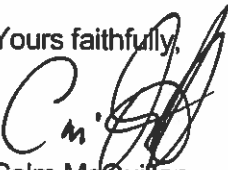
Should you wish to participate in the consultation process, a copy of the consultation paper is attached and is also available on the Housing Executive website <https://www.nihe.gov.uk/index/corporate/consultation.htm>. This document can also be made available in alternative formats on request.

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 could forward your response to this strategy by Thursday 18th October 2018, in writing or email to:

Naoimh McArdle-McFall
The Housing Executive
2 Adelaide Street
Belfast
BT2 8PB
Email to: Naoimh.McArdleMcFall@nihe.gov.uk

Yours faithfully,



Colm McQuillan
Director of
Housing Services

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/>).