

To the Environment Committee,

this is the fourth attempt in as many years to bring about economic supremacy in planning and it is by far the most insidious. We already have a very weak and permissive system and, in our opinion, these clauses could push us towards chaos.

The fact that there is no formal consultation paper is criminal.

A good planning system gives an economy consistency, fairness and direction. The amendments to the Planning Act (2011), and the Planning Order (1991) will result in both a weakening and slowing down of the planning system by encouraging more speculative applications, increasing the likelihood of legal challenges, contributing to confusion in the interpretation of planning policy and creating inconsistency in decision making.

It is unprecedented for a modern planning system to elevate economic interests above all other valid land-use planning considerations. The role of the planning system is to balance all valid and material interests on a case by case basis in the interests of sustainable development.

Belfast Not for \$hale is opposed to the 2013 Planning Bill, its underlying assumptions and the damage it will do to an already weakened planning system. The proposed Bill will have far reaching and adverse implications for communities, the business sector and the future of Northern Ireland's environment.

Michael McEvoy,
Belfast not for \$hale.