



NORTHERN
IRELAND
HUMAN
RIGHTS
COMMISSION

Mr Shane McAteer
Room 428,Parliament Buildings,
Ballymiscaw, Stormont,
Belfast, BT4 3XX

11th December 2012

Dear Shane,

RE: Civil Service (Special Advisers) Bill

I refer to your correspondence of 29 November 2012.

The Commission has reviewed information which is available to us with respect to the Northern Ireland Civil Service Risk Assessment Matrix. The Commission notes that the Risk Assessment Matrix sets down general guidelines rather than prohibitions.

The information available to the Commission does not suggest that there is an opportunity for an individual to appeal a decision to reject his or her application. However there appears to be potential for some consideration of the particular circumstances of the individual.

The Committee may wish to seek the Department's assessment of how the Matrix strikes the correct balance between the public interest and the rights of the individual.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me here at the Commission.

Yours sincerely,

Michael O'Flaherty

Professor Michael O'Flaherty
Chief Commissioner