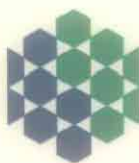


From the office of the  
Minister of the Environment



Department of the  
**Environment**

[www.doeni.gov.uk](http://www.doeni.gov.uk)

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Your reference:

Our reference: SUB/1747/11  
AQO 856/11-15

27 December 2011

Dear Conor

I refer to my recent answer to your oral question during question time on 28 November 2011 where you asked what training will be provided for councillors to enable them to take on extra responsibilities in relation to planning applications.

During Question time, I indicated that the Executive had agreed in principle to a Planning Reform Bill that would see some of the planning reforms that were intended to come into force after local government reorganisation being brought forward earlier. This is the case but, contrary to what I said about development plans, at this stage I am still looking at options for progressing development plans.

This letter will also be copied to the Speaker and the Assembly Library.

Yours sincerely

**ALEX ATTWOOD MLA**  
Minister of the Environment