

Roger Wilson  
Chief Executive



**Armagh City  
Banbridge  
& Craigavon**  
Borough Council

30<sup>th</sup> September 2015

Dr Kevin Pelan,  
Clerk, Committee for Social Development,  
NI Assembly,  
Parliament Buildings,  
Belfast,  
BT4 3XX

Dear Dr Pelan,

**Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Bill  
Consultation Comment**

The following comments are provided by Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council:

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council welcomes the improved standards to be applied to the regulation of Houses in Multiple Occupation due to the positive impact this should have on wellbeing and reducing health inequalities.

We believe that the extended regulatory regime means that there is a potential for significant costs to the Council to satisfactorily deliver the requirements of the Bill.

It is therefore recommended that a full cost appraisal is completed on behalf of Councils which takes into account the wider regulatory requirements and the likely numbers of HMOs requiring regulation.

Furthermore, fees and charges associated with the HMOs licensing system, together with any costs associated with the transfer of DSD staff to Councils should be agreed with the Council on the principle that the transferring function will be cost-neutral to the Council.

If any further clarification or information is required please do not hesitate to contact me on 028 37529600.

Yours sincerely,

**Martina McNulty**  
Chief Environmental Health Officer

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