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9 December 2015
Your Ref: CSD/013/2015/SK

Dear Kevin,

Housing (Amendment) Bill

Thank you for your letter of 3 December regarding the Housing (Amendment) Bill.

You requested, for the Committee's consideration, an Amendment that would have the effect of removing references to Grounds 1 and 3 from the Bill.

The suggested form of the amendment is attached, for the Committee's consideration.

The Committee also invited feedback from officials on the meeting with DFP scheduled for 7 December 2015. I can advise you that following confirmation by Departmental officials that Councils do not have a role in delivering the Empty Homes Strategy, DFP has clarified that there is no benefit in DFP providing data to Councils as they could not use it for the purpose for which it would be shared. In DFP's view, extending the data sharing agreement for the purpose of the Empty Homes Strategy to Councils would not be in accordance with Information Assurance good practice and protocols.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Heloise Brown

Cc Stewart Kennedy
Ashleigh Mitford
Alicia Muldoon
Billy Crawford
Mick Shine
Bernie McCafferty
Ellen Corry
Kate Jeffrey

Annex

Removal of references to Grounds 1 and 3 from Clause 2 of the Housing (Amendment) Bill

Clause 2, Page 3, Line 4, leave out subsection (4)

Clause 2, Page 4, Line 1, leave out ‘or 3’

Clause 2, Page 4, Line 2, leave out from ‘(convictions’ to end of line 3 and insert ‘(conduct and convictions) (whether or not the order is also sought on other Grounds);’