



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Please use this form to submit written submissions in relation to the Housing (Amendment) Bill. Return to committee.socialdevelopment@niassembly.gov.uk by Friday 4th September 2015.

Name: Claire Williamson

Organisation: (if applicable) Royal Town Planning Institute Northern Ireland

Date: 03 September 2015

Dear Sir/Madam

HOUSING (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Royal Town Planning Institute Northern Ireland (RTPI NI) welcomes this opportunity to respond to the consultation of the Housing (Amendment) Bill.

The Institute is the largest professional body in Europe representing spatial planning and represents over 23,000 professional planners in the public and private sectors. Over 500 of our members are in Northern Ireland, many of whom are actively involved in planning across a wide range of sectors throughout Northern Ireland.

The RTPI NI is in support of the proposal to permit information sharing for the purposes of identifying owners of empty homes. Northern Ireland, along with other regions of the UK, is currently facing a serious and complex housing crisis of which

there is no single solution. The cumulative impact of empty properties on the rolling housing supply in Northern Ireland could be substantial, it is therefore extremely important that local authorities and or the Department of Social Development are aware of the details of such properties that are potentially restricting much needed housing supply.

We trust you find these comments useful. Should you require any further clarification do not hesitate to get in contact.

Yours faithfully

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