



**From: The Minister**

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Via email: [nick.mathison@co.niassembly.gov.uk](mailto:nick.mathison@co.niassembly.gov.uk)

Dear Nick,

**DATA SHARING BETWEEN HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS AND THE PSNI TO  
HELP EFFECTIVELY TACKLE THE IMPACTS OF PARAMILITARISM AND  
PARAMILITARY INFLUENCE ON HOUSING SCHEMES**

Thank you for your recent query in relation to the above matter during Question Time on 10 February 2025. I have sought to obtain further information on this issue.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) has legal authority under the <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nia/2016/17/section/2> to share with Registered Housing Associations (RHAs) certain information relating to anti-social behaviour and criminal offences. Section 2(1) of the Act provides that a person may disclose relevant information about any other person to the Executive or to a registered housing association, if the information is disclosed for a relevant purpose.

The PSNI and RHAs have an Information Sharing Arrangement in place, although this is currently under review. My Department is aware of issues being raised by the RHAs in regards to the level of information being shared by PSNI and the time in which it takes for such information to be received and that discussions are ongoing to update provisions within the Arrangement.

There is no role in society for paramilitaries and this activity needs to stop. People are entitled to live in peace and free from the influence of paramilitaries. My Department participates in a number of groups, including Community Safety Forums, and engages



with Policing and Community Safety Partnerships and the Tackling Paramilitarism, Criminality and Organised Crime Programme.

My Department recognises the excellent work of RHAs in the provision of homes and commends them for actively dealing with unacceptable behaviour. We regularly engage with the Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations, providing support, where possible.

I encourage continued collaboration between the PSNI and RHAs to strengthen their Information Sharing Arrangement to aid the effective sharing of information to address such behaviour as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

**Gordon Lyons MLA**  
**Minister for Communities**