



**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](mailto:committee.socialdevelopment@niassembly.gov.uk) by Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

**Name:** Colin McClintock

**Organisation:** Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> August 2015

**1. Sharing of information relating to empty properties**

- This Council notes the progressive steps in sharing information across central government in relation to information held by Department of Finance and Personnel, Land & Property Services.
- However, this Council believes the legislation should extend further to local government councils seeking information as to the ownership of empty properties.
- These ownership details would be invaluable and provide assistance and opportunities in the following ways:
  - (a) Identifying ownership for the purposes of dangerous structures and dereliction, both in emergency situations and in regeneration.
  - (b) In Planning interventions and land development
  - (c) In economic development initiatives that may be funded by central government.

(d) In Community Planning initiatives.

(e) . In identifying owners for 'Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act' issues such as graffiti, fly posting and nuisance to adjoining properties and Article 66 of 1978 Pollution Control & Local Government Order.

- This Council believes this joined up approach would help enable local government to better serve its citizens and would recommend that this information is provided at nil cost to these partners.

## **2. Disclosure of information relating to anti-social behaviour.**

LCCC already has a protocol in place with NIHE and PSNI in relation to anti-social behaviour where we work in partnership to overcome individual problem offenders. We therefore welcome this extension to sharing of information with registered housing associations and would like to have this as a partnership arrangement as they now have many more tenancies than NIHE.

We would also encourage an extension of this information sharing arrangement with private sector landlords where investigations are being undertaken in relation to their tenant or use of their tenancy for anti-social behaviour.

## **3. Bill Clauses 3-4**

This Council has no comment to make.

### **General Note:**

The Council would add that the sharing of information for the betterment of public service delivery, as indicated above, should be at zero cost.

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**Date received:** \_\_\_\_\_

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