

**FROM THE HEAD OF DIVISION
Seamus McCrystal**



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Date: 10 December 2013

Dear Consultee

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS TO AMEND THE ENERGY PERFORMANCE OF BUILDINGS (CERTIFICATES AND INSPECTION) REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2008

I am writing to invite you to respond to the Department's proposals for minor amendments to the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspection) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008 (the 2008 Regulations).

The 2008 Regulations implement a number of the Articles in the recast Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (2010/31/EU) (EPBD2) which was published on 19 May 2010.

EPBD2 includes all of the requirements which were in the original Directive (2002/91/EC). It extends the scope of the original Directive strengthening certain provisions, and clarifying other aspects, to ensure buildings continue to improve in terms of energy performance, to encourage the use of renewable energy where possible to meet the higher standards, to use energy more efficiently and also to reduce emissions.

The Department's proposals will implement Articles 2(9), 11(2)(a) and (b), 11(3) and 13(2) of EPBD2.

As the amendments have no cost implication, the Department considers that a Regulatory Impact Assessment is not required.

As well as this letter, the full package of consultation documents contains the following:

- Consultation Proposals; and
- Response Form for Consultees.

Responding to this consultation

Should you wish to take part in this consultation the package of consultation documents can be accessed online on the Department's website: www.epb.dfpni.gov.uk .

A hard copy of the documents will only be provided in exceptional circumstances; a copy in an alternative format may be obtained by telephoning 028 9051 2699 or by emailing noeleen.o'neill@dfpni.gov.uk.

I look forward to receiving your comments and views concerning the proposals contained in the consultation package. **In order to assist our analysis of responses you are asked to use the Response Form included on the web site and to submit your reply electronically to:**

noeleen.o'neill@dfpni.gov.uk

or alternatively posted or faxed to:

Noeleen O'Neill
Consultation Co-ordinator
Department of Finance and Personnel
Energy Performance Unit
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The Department will consider all responses to this consultation received on or before the closing date, which is **4:00pm on 4 February 2014**. *It is important to note that submissions made after this date cannot be considered.*

Code of practice on consultations

In light of the requirements of the Code of Practice on Access to Government and the Freedom of Information Act, responses may be made available to the public on request. We may also wish to make responses to this consultation available to the Northern Ireland Assembly and for public inspection either at Energy Performance Unit office or website.

You have the option of indicating that you wish your response to remain confidential and the Department will generally respect that request. Should it be decided that the public interest must override that request the Department will contact you before disclosure and, if appropriate, provide an opportunity for your response to be withdrawn.

If you have any comments about the consultation process itself (rather than the content of the document) these should be directed to the consultation co-ordinator at the postal or e-mail address, or fax number given above.

Yours faithfully



Seamus McCrystal