

5 July 2010

## **Consultation on a Draft Strategy for the Better Regulation of Health and Safety at Work in Northern Ireland**

Dear Consultee

The regulation of health and safety at work in Northern Ireland is the responsibility of both the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) and Northern Ireland's 26 District Councils.

Whilst there has been a long history and many examples of effective joint initiatives and partnership working between HSENI and the district councils, there is a need to support a much closer strategic partnership between HSENI and Local Government.

A joint strategic approach will challenge HSENI and Local Government to be more proactive and innovative in using joint resources more effectively to address the needs of employers, employees and others who may be affected by work activities, and in doing so, it will impact positively on the wellbeing of both Northern Ireland's population and its economy.

This draft Strategy for the Better Regulation of Health and Safety at Work in Northern Ireland represents a highly significant development in the joint commitment between HSENI and the district councils as regulators. It is a high level strategy that establishes a very clear framework for future joint planning, sharing of resources and expertise and provides the opportunity

for a fully co-ordinated approach to the regulation of health and safety at work. The strategy will be under-pinned by detailed three-year corporate and annual operating plans developed separately by HSENI and the district councils.

As partners, HSENI and the district councils are committed to making this process work as they strive to deliver a shared Vision that sees Northern Ireland as “a place where the sensible control of work-related risk is the norm and work-related deaths, injuries and ill health are the exception”.

As part of its ongoing consultation on the draft strategy, the district councils and HSENI welcome comments from any group, organisation or individual. A copy of the draft strategy and the equality impact screening document are available by following this electronic link

[www.hseni.gov.uk/news/consultations](http://www.hseni.gov.uk/news/consultations). Copies are also available in print form. An executive summary in other accessible formats, for example Braille, large print, disc, audio cassette or in Irish, Ulster Scots or languages of the minority ethnic communities in Northern Ireland can be made available upon request.

If required please contact:

Lorna Brown  
HSENI  
83 Ladas Drive  
Belfast BT6 9FR  
Tel: 028 9024 3249  
Text phone: 028 9054 6896  
Fax: 028 9023 5383

E-mail: [lorna.brown@detini.gov.uk](mailto:lorna.brown@detini.gov.uk)

It is recognised that a written consultation exercise is only one method of consulting with interested parties and may not be the most appropriate method for some groups. Alternative methods would include seminars,

face-to-face meetings and focus groups. If there are any alternative methods that you would consider more appropriate for this consultation exercise I would be happy to hear from you.

HSENI will coordinate this consultation exercise and I would be grateful if you would submit any comments to me at HSENI, 83 Ladas Drive, Belfast BT6 9FR or by email to [lorna.brown@detini.gov.uk](mailto:lorna.brown@detini.gov.uk) . In particular, comment is invited on the conclusion that the strategy should have no adverse effect on any section 75 groups in Northern Ireland.

Closing date for comments is 4pm Monday 27 September 2010, however we will consider an extension to this date should there be any need for alternative consultation methods in relation to this consultation exercise. Any revised dates will be published on HSENI's website at [www.hseni.gov.uk](http://www.hseni.gov.uk)

I look forward to hearing from you and appreciate your time in giving this consultation exercise your consideration.

Yours sincerely

**L Brown (Miss)**

HSENI