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Ms Julie Gillespie  
Legislation Progress Unit  
Room A4.01  
Castle Buildings  
Stormont Estate  
Belfast BT4 3SR

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26<sup>th</sup> April 2006

Our Ref: s/HC/RPA/abol.

*Julie*  
Dear Ms Gillespie

**PROPOSAL FOR A DRAFT ORDER IN COUNCIL: THE PUBLIC AUTHORITIES REFORM (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 2007**

I refer to the above Order. Can I apologise for the late response.

The Housing Executive was not included in the original list of Consultees and I thank you for including us on the list. We have also seen the Housing Council's response to the Consultation and we understand that NILGA has also responded.

The Housing Executive supports the retention of the Housing Council and the arguments that we would make mirror those made by the Housing Council in their letter to you of 9<sup>th</sup> March.

The Housing Council, over the years, has played a significant role in:

- Ensuring political input into the Housing Policy debate
- Holding the Housing Executive to account
- Addressing wider Housing and Planning issues

Our support for the retention of the Housing Council is underscored by the need to ensure that post 2009 we will need a mechanism to discuss and develop Housing Policy and Plans affecting all Councils outside the Community Planning role specific to Council areas.

Yours sincerely

  
P McIntyre  
Chief Executive

*Julie  
Thanks for accepting letter  
Signed P*