

THE NORTHERN IRELAND FEDERATION OF HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS

38 Hill Street, Belfast, Northern Ireland BT1 2LB ☎ (028) 9023 0446 Fax No: (028) 9023 8057
E-Mail Address: info@nifha.org - Web: www.nifha.org

26th April 2004

Our Ref: GM/MMcI

Social Economy Unit
DETI
Netherleigh
Massey Avenue
BELFAST
BT4 2JP



Dear Sir/Madam

DEVELOPING A SUCCESSFUL SOCIAL ECONOMY NI GOVERNMENT'S THREE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN 2004 – 07

I refer to the DETI's consultation document outlining a draft three-year strategy for a successful social economy.

The Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations represents the voluntary housing movement which benefit the community by providing affordable housing to those in the greatest need. Taken together, our members manage more than 28,000 dwellings and build around 1,300 each year. Housing associations also employ some 1,700 people in Northern Ireland and lever in approximately £30M in private borrowing to support housing association grant paid by the Department for Social Development.

The Federation welcomes the publication of the document by DETI and would make the following points:

- (a) there is a need for a joined up approach by the ten Government Departments which fully recognises and supports the important role played by the Social Economy
- (b) the Federation believes that partnership working is the most effective way of collaboration between the voluntary sector and Government Departments
- (c) Government should work with the voluntary sector to develop and enhance the strengths of the social economy.

If you require further clarification on any of these points please contact me.

Yours faithfully

**GRAHAM MURTON
DEPUTY DIRECTOR**

Representing and promoting housing associations in Northern Ireland

Chairperson: Mr Arnold Hatch AAAI

Director: Mr Chris Williamson MCIH

VAT Registration No: 311 2120 40