



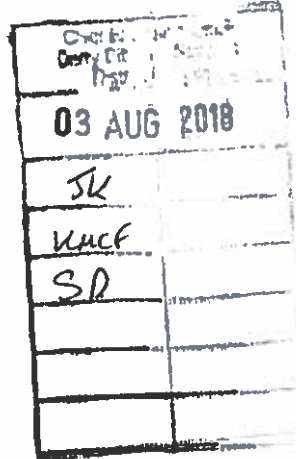
Northern Ireland
Local Government Partnership
On Traveller Issues

Councillor [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@fermanaghmagh.com

31 July 2018

Mr John Kelpie
Derry City and Strabane District Council
Derry Office
98 Strand Road
DERRY
Co Londonderry
BT48 7NN



Dear Mr Kelpie

Re: Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission 'Out of Sight, Out of Mind: Travellers' Accommodation in NI' investigation report

In March 2018 the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission published the above investigation report. This report highlighted a range of issues and seeks practical immediate and longer term actions to meet the needs for sufficient Travellers' accommodation.

This is the first major report on the subject in Northern Ireland for almost a decade. The Commission has identified 13 systematic concerns and made 45 recommendations within the report. <http://www.nihrc.org/publication/detail/out-of-sight-out-of-mind-travellers-accommodation-in-ni-executive-summary>

The Commission has agreed a twelve-month implementation plan. This aims to ensure all key stakeholders are aware of the findings and where the responsibility for specific recommendations fall in practice. The plan includes a range of engagement meetings and a number of roundtables to facilitate effective ongoing communication and engagement from all stakeholders.

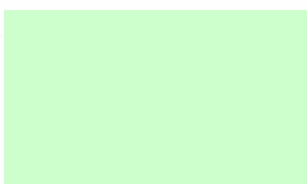
There are five recommendations requiring action which Councils need to take cognisance of. These recommendations range from taking reasonable steps to prevent undue delays in the planning application process relating to Travellers Accommodation; to all councils being active members of this NI Local Government Partnership on Travellers Issues and giving consideration to developing or strengthening Traveller Forums; to Councils being proactive in ensuring that Travellers' sites are licensed when required.

You will be aware that the Commission is seeking an initial response directly from Councils to the recommendations, as set out in the investigation report by 6th August 2018.

In light of the report and the actions required to be taken forward by Councils it is important that there is a collaborative working and engagement by all Councils. Therefore, it would be useful if your Council could endorse the work of this Local Government Partnership on Travellers' Issues and authorise the Partnership to engage with the Commission on behalf of your Council in taking forward these actions for Council. Please confirm by return no later than 10th August 2018 your position regarding this authorisation.

Finally, it is hoped that this Partnership in conjunction with the Commission would host a seminar for Councils in Autumn 2018 on the report findings and action plan. I would seek an early indication of your support and representation at this event by the above date.

Yours sincerely,



// Secretary