

15 August 2018

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BT94 5BL

Dear Councillor I [REDACTED]

Northern Ireland Local Government Partnership on Traveller Issues

I wish to acknowledge your letters regarding the correspondence from Mr Peter May, Permanent Secretary regarding Councils responsibility to licence Traveller sites across Northern Ireland and the recommendations for Councils contained within the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (the Commission) report "Out of Sight, Out of Mind": Travellers' Accommodation in NI, which was published in March 2018.

I can confirm that Commissions report was presented before Members of the Council's Health and Community Committee in April 2018 and representatives from the Commission have delivered a presentation to the Committee in July 2018.

Although Council Officers have been liaising directly with the Commission and have provided an update on the recommendation Derry City and Strabane District Council would fully support collaborative working and engagement with other Councils through the Local Government Partnership on Traveller Issues and would be content with the Partnership engaging with the Commission in order to progress the actions on behalf of the Council.

The Councils Environmental Health section have also been liaising with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive in relation to the issuing and enforcement of Traveller site licenses under the Caravans Act (Northern Ireland) 1963 and the current Model Licence Conditions for Residential Sites (1994) which I understand are currently being reviewed by the Department for Infrastructure.

Yours Sincerely

John Kelpie

Chief Executive