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**First Minister and
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Mr Brian Gorman
The Planning service
Millenium House
17-25 Great Victoria Street
BELFAST BT2 7BN

3 April 2009

Dear Mr Gorman

CONSULTATION PAPER ON TRANSPOSING THE MINING WASTE DIRECTIVE (2006/21/EC) IN NORTHERN IRELAND

The Chief Commissioner of the Planning and Water Appeals Commission has provided me with a copy of the letter which she sent to you on 11 March 2009. I note that she has no comments on the consultation paper but has pointed out that if the Regulations involve additional functions for the Planning or Water Appeals Commissions, both the Chief Commissioner and the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister need to be consulted.

I would like to take this opportunity to endorse the Chief Commissioner's comments about the need to consult both the Chief Commissioner and OFMDFM in the event of the Regulations providing for a role for PAC or WAC. OFMDFM provides resources to PAC and WAC and any new function, however small, proposed for these bodies would divert valuable Commissioner resources away from the Commissions' primary planning remit. We therefore need to be consulted at an early stage if any proposed policy has a role for PAC or WAC.

Yours sincerely

Wendy Hunter-Hill

WENDY HUNTER-HILL

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