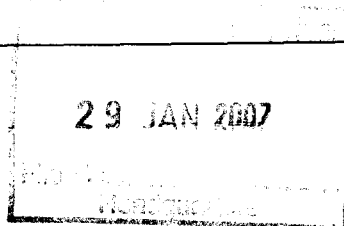




Airport Public Safety Zones Consultation (Northern Ireland),
Planning Policy Section,
2nd Floor Millennium House,
19-25 Great Victoria Street,
Belfast,
BT2 7bn

25th January 2007

Dear Sir or Madam,



**THE HOUSING EXECUTIVE'S RESPONSE TO PUBLIC CONSULTATION
DRAFT FOR CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT IN AIRPORT PUBLIC
SAFETY ZONES**

Please find outlined below our response to the Public Consultation draft for the Control of Development in Airport Public Safety Zones.

The Housing Executive's comments are as follows:

The Housing Executive understands that the PSZ for Runway 4 of the George Best Belfast City Airport will affect any proposed development for the Oval and Mersey Street Primary School. Connswater Housing Association has expressed an interest to the Belfast Area Planning team that they would like to develop apartments in the building. There have also been suggestions that the Oval could be made available for residential development. The Housing Executive would support both these proposals.

The Housing Executive has invested £30.98m in redevelopment in this area. While the Housing Executive appreciates a need for public safety, we are concerned that this proposal may create a dead zone in this area and would obstruct further, much needed, regeneration of the Mersey Street area. The Housing Executive supports the reuse of the Mersey Street Primary School for social housing apartments which would also conserve and maintain this listed building. The Housing Executive would wish for further discussion to examine alternative sites or options.

I trust this information is of some assistance.

Yours sincerely

P McIntyre
Chief Executive