



**Northern Ireland
Fire & Rescue Service**



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Acting Chief Fire Officer

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Our Ref: LBJ/AM

29 April 2010

Northern Ireland Local Government Association
Unit 5B Castlereagh Business Park
478 Castlereagh Road
Belfast
BT5 6BQ

Dear Sirs

**RE: FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES (NI) ORDER 2006 FIRE SAFETY
REGULATIONS (NI) 2010**

I write to advise you that the Board of Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS), in order to assist Council Licensing Officers in the execution of their statutory duties for the Council, has determined to devolve its function in relation to fire in licensed premises, under Article 33(5) of the above Order.

This matter was raised by Council Inspecting Officers during the recent consultation process under Section 75 and Schedule 9 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. Council Inspecting Officers saw current arrangements posing a potential barrier to the pursuance of their duties.

In order to ensure arrangements are fit for purpose, NIFRS has determined that their functions in relation to Council Licensed Premises, should be devolved [under Article 33(5) of the above Order] to the local Councils. This should alleviate the concerns that have been raised.

Clearly, in terms of consistency of approach and delivery, it is essential for the matter to be satisfactorily progressed and that all Councils are willing to accept the devolvement.

NIFRS will continue with the practice of a full consultation process for new applications or change of conditions as required under the existing consultation procedures.

NIFRS will continue to have statutory obligations in all relevant premises and will, in terms of the above Order, audit such premises to ensure compliance and to determine that matters in relation to the protection of Firefighters are satisfactory.



Commended
EMERGENCY SERVICES
Sector Award



Protecting Our Community

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Northern Ireland Local Government Association

The NIFRS Board would request that you raise this matter with members of your Association, and determine their agreement to proceed as indicated. Please advise us of the Council's intentions by 9 June 2010.

If you require further clarification or assistance, Assistant Chief Fire Officer Peter Craig will be available on request to meet and advise you accordingly.

Yours faithfully



Louis E Jones
Acting Chief Fire Officer