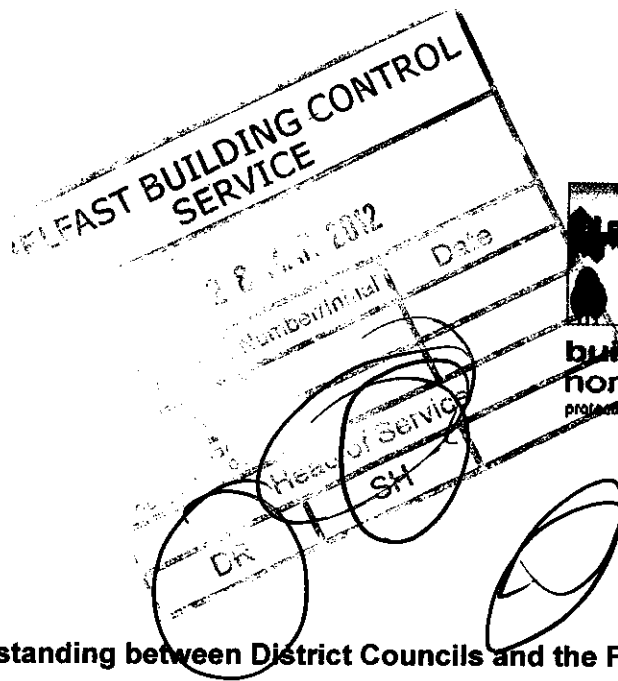


26<sup>th</sup> March 2012

Mr Stephen Hewitt  
Chair Licensing Forum  
Belfast City Council  
Floor 5  
9 Lanyon Place  
Belfast  
BT1 3LP



Dear Stephen,

**Re: Memorandum of Understanding between District Councils and the Fire and Rescue Service**

During the last Building Control Northern Ireland Executive Committee (BCNI) meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2012 the above Memorandum of Understanding which relates to the co-ordination of fire safety in premises regulated and licensed by District Councils was considered.

BCNI Executive Committee endorses the Memorandum of Understanding and welcomes the proposals to devolve responsibility under Part III of the Fire and Rescue Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 to District Councils in relation to premises or parts of premises that require a licence.

The BCNI Executive Committee believes that this Memorandum of Understanding will complement the Memorandum of Understanding between Building Control and NI Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) in relation to Fire Safety which was adopted by all councils in June 2011.

Both Memoranda of Understanding will further develop the close working relationship which exists between District Council Officers, and the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service in the area of Fire Safety within all buildings. With the resultant outcome of a more cohesive and joined-up approach to the Fire Safety enforcement system in Northern Ireland. This in turn will enhance the life safety of all people in and around buildings.

Also at a recent Building Control Managers meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2012 the Memorandum of Understanding was discussed. There was cross Council support for the adoption of the Memorandum of Understanding. BCNI would like to thank the Licensing Forum for all the hard work which has gone into producing this Memorandum of Understanding.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Hayes'.

Jonathan Hayes  
Chair Building Control Northern Ireland