

Appendix 1

Private Rented Branch
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22 December 2020

Dear All

As you are aware the Houses in Multiple Occupation Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 came into effect in April 2019. The purpose of bringing forward this new HMO licencing regime was to properly and effectively regulate HMOs to ensure the health, safety and well-being of the occupants and at the same time minimise any negative impacts on the neighbourhood and surrounding area. While aspects remain similar to the previous regime, there are notable differences such as additional enforcement powers for Councils and increased penalties for criminal offences.

We are now commencing a review of the implementation of the licencing scheme and would be grateful for any views you or your organisation may have. Please see the link to the survey below:

<https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/dfc-analytical-services-unit/review-of-houses-of-multiple-occupation-hmo-licenc>

Your response by 5 February 2021 would be much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Private Rented Branch