



17 July 2003

PMCC/mw

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**Re: Improving Relations in Northern Ireland – Consultation**

Thank you for the opportunity to response to the above consultation paper which signals the way ahead for individuals and organisations and other keen agent in Northern Ireland. I wish to make the following points:-

1. The Trust supports the context in which the policy is set;
2. We recognise the commitment made by the Northern Ireland Executive to put in place a new policy and strategy to promote good relations;
3. The aims of a shared and pluralist society is the minimum baseline on which we can move forward;
4. We support the main component of Dr Harbison's review which states that a new policy must reflect the social framework as envisaged in the Belfast Agreement;
5. Provision for Northern Ireland - as stated above the policy must be for a shared and pluralist society;
6. We agree with the specific policy as set out in 2.5 as the way forward in promoting good relations in society;

7. The consultation paper outlines the most important principles in promoting good relations and every effort should be made to encourage and recognise leadership and local action within the context of targeting areas of social need;
8. The implications for action will require regional and local government leadership and provide input to good relations within the community;
9. The action at regional level will require to be underpinned by resources as well as leadership and should be carried out at regional level perhaps by a new statutory authority;
10. The office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister has made significant movement in relation to equality and community relations. This work should continue and be monitored on an on-going basis.
11. The consultation paper lays out the contribution to be made by a number key public agencies, however it is important that the promotion of good relations is fundamental to every local and regional agency and is evidenced in their practice and outcomes.
12. Monitoring and Evaluation – 5.2 points the way to a suitable framework for consultation with relevant bodies.

I trust these comments will prove useful to your consultation process.

Yours sincerely



Miss P Stanley  
Chief Executive