

115 MAY 2014

Equality Commission

FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Equality House
7-9 Shaftesbury Square
Belfast BT2 7DP

www.equalityni.org

14 May 2014

Mr Brian Gormally
Committee on the Administration of Justice
2nd Floor, Sturgen Building
2-15 Queen Street
Belfast
BT1 6EA

Dear Brian

Re: Department for Social Development

Further to our email exchanges – and thank you for your most recent of 17 April – I write to inform you that the Commission has decided to conduct an investigation into potential failures by the Department of Social Development to comply with its approved Equality Scheme in connection with the Housing Strategy 2012-2017 and a number of associated proposals.

The Commission has formed the belief that the Department in taking forward a number of proposals in relation to the Housing Strategy Action Plan, the Building Successful Communities Programme and the Social Housing Reform Programme may have failed to comply with the undertakings in its approved Equality Scheme in respect of screening and impact assessment.

You will appreciate that this is not a determination of whether or not such a failure has in fact occurred – that will be decided following the investigation.

Thank you for your interest in this matter and for the further commentary provided in your email of 17 April. I trust this is helpful.

Yours sincerely



Anne McKernan
Director of Legal Services

