

Belfast City Council

Report to: Development Committee

Subject: Consultation: DETI - Proposed Amendment to the Gas

(Applications for Licence and Extensions) Regulations

Date: 15 September 2010

Reporting Officer: John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470

Contact Officer: Barbary Cook, Policy & Business Development Manager, ext

3620

Relevant Background Information

The Council has been asked to respond to DETI's proposed amendment to the Gas (Applications for Licence and Extensions) regulations. The change is to bring the regulations in line with EU legislation and regulations already in place for NI Electricity licensing. The change is the removal of the requirement for a Gas Provider to have a contact address in Northern Ireland for the duration of their initial application for a licence.

The questions for the consultation are:

- (a) Do you agree with the Department's assessment of the actions required to be taken in order to meet the requirements of the EU Services Directive?
- (b) Do you think removal of the territorial restrictions in the Gas Regulations will have any adverse effect on the natural gas sector in Northern Ireland?
- (c) Are there any other areas to consider that we have not anticipated in this consultation?

More information is available online:

http://www.detini.gov.uk/eu_services_directive_and_proposed_amendment_to_gas__a pplications_for_licences_and_extensions__regulations_1996.pdf

The consultation document has been passed to all Departments within Council as well as to the Development Department Management Team and no issues or concerns have been raised about the proposals.

Key Issues

As the change is required to meet EU legislation, it is suggested that no specific response is required and that we therefore only send an acknowledgement letter stating that we have no concerns with the proposals.

The suggested response is shown below:

Consultation: Amendment to gas (applications for licences and extensions) regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996

Thank you for asking Belfast City Council to comment on your proposed changes. In this instance we have no specific concerns and hence no comment to make.

Resource Implications

There are no resource costs associated with this consultation response.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

- Approve the suggested response; or
- To suggest additional comments or changes that they feel need to be made.

Decision Tracking

Further to approval the agreed response will be communicated to DETI.

Timeframe: November 2010 Reporting Officer: Barbary Cook