



From the
Minister for the Environment



Department of the Environment
for Northern Ireland

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Dear *Prof McWilliams*

THE STRATEGIC PLANNING (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1999

The 18 December statement issued by the First and deputy First Ministers set out proposals for the re-structuring of NI departments and the functions for which each department would be responsible. In that statement, strategic planning was to become the responsibility of the new Department for Regional Development (DRD), and planning control the responsibility of the new Department for the Environment (DOE).

As part of the legislation required to implement the proposed new structures an Order in Council is needed to provide the new DRD with strategic planning powers.

I would like to provide you with the opportunity to comment on a draft of the Order. Also enclosed is an Explanatory Note which provides more detail on the rationale behind the proposals. The intention is to use the shortened procedure to have this Order made at Privy Council on 10 March. In order to allow for the required parliamentary procedures before that, I would welcome any comments you have by 17 February.

Yours sincerely

S.V. McNeill
PP LORD DUBS

Approved by the Minister
and signed in his Absence