**The Northern Ireland Social Care Council (Appointments and Procedure) (Amendment) Regulations**

**(Northern Ireland) 2018**

**CONSULTATION RESPONSE QUESTIONNAIRE**

**APRIL 2018**

**CONSULTATION RESPONSE QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE NORTHERN IRELAND SOCIAL CARE COUNCIL (APPOINTMENTS AND PROCEDURE) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2018**

You can respond to the Consultation Document by email or post, using this Consultation Questionnaire.

Before you submit your response, please read Annex A, at the end of this questionnaire, about the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the confidentiality of responses to public consultation exercises.

Responses should be sent to:

**By Email:** **oss@health-ni.gov.uk**

**By Post: Office of Social Services, Room C4.22,**

**Castle Buildings, Stormont, BELFAST**

**BT4 3SQ**

**To be considered as part of the response to this consultation process, responses must be received by the Department of Health by 18th May 2018.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| I am responding: | as an individual  |  |  | on behalf of an Organisation |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name: |  |
| Job Title: |  |
| Organisation: |  |
| Address: |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Tel: |  |
| Fax: |  |
| Email: |  |

**Q1. Do you agree with the Department’s proposals to amend the Northern Ireland Social Care Council (Appointments and Procedure) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2001 to clarify the Department’s policy position for NISCC committees and sub-committees?**

 Yes No

|  |
| --- |
| **Further comments** |

|  |
| --- |
| **Any other comments** |

 **Annex A**

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – CONFIDENTIALITY OF CONSULTATIONS

The Department will publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. Your response, and all other responses to the consultation, may be disclosed on request. The Department can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. Before you submit your response, please read the paragraphs below on the confidentiality of consultations and they will give you guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this consultation.

The Freedom of Information Act gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely, the Department in this case. This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. The Department cannot automatically consider as confidential information supplied to it in response to a consultation. However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity should be made public or be treated as confidential.

This means that information provided by you in response to the consultation is unlikely to be treated as confidential, except in very particular circumstances. The Lord Chancellor’s Code of Practice on the Freedom of Information Act provides that:

* the Department should only accept information from third parties in confidence if it is necessary to obtain that information in connection with the exercise of any of the Department’s functions and it would not otherwise be provided;
* the Department should not agree to hold information received from third parties “in confidence” which is not confidential in nature; and
* acceptance by the Department of confidentiality provisions must be for good reasons, capable of being justified to the Information Commissioner.

For further information about confidentiality of responses please contact the Information Commissioner’s Office at

**The Information Commissioner’s Office Northern Ireland**

3rd Floor
14 Cromac Place,
Belfast
BT7 2JB

**Tel:** 028 9027 8757 / 0303 123 1114

**Email:** ni@ico.gsi.gov.uk or ni@ico.org.uk

**Website:** www.ico.org.uk