

Chief Executive of each District Council
Finance Officer of each District Council

Local Government Policy Division

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Your reference:

Our reference: DO1-14-3894

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Dear Chief Executive/Finance Officer

1. In my letter of 24th February 2015 that accompanied the issuing of Guidance on Councillor Allowances (Local Government Circular 04/2015) I advised that a review of the Local Government (Payment to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 was underway, and that it was intended that the amendments would be consulted on in March 2015.
2. In particular I highlighted that Regulation 2 of the Local Government (Payment to Councillors) Regulations (NI) 2012 which restricts site visits from being considered as an approved duty of a councillor would be removed from 1 April 2015; due to the transfer of planning functions to Councils.
3. Due to a number of reasons the amendments are still pending although expected to be consulted on before the end of the year. In the meantime, this statement will provide Departmental cover for councils to reimburse councillors expense claims, where appropriate, for site visits. The amendment to the legislation will retrospectively apply from 1 April 2015.

Yours faithfully



JEFF GLASS