13 December 2013

Dear Stakeholder

Re: Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) draft Road Safety Strategy 2014–2019 - Section 75 Equality Screening Consultation

The above draft Road Safety Strategy 2014–2019 builds on our previous road safety strategy and renews our commitment to working with others to reduce the potential for collisions to occur on our roads. The focus of this strategy is to embed our approach within the ethos of partnership working with other agencies involved in road safety, and to provide a strategic commitment to this issue.

The draft 2014-2019 Strategy has been informed by the experience of our previous strategy and recent research and data analysis conducted by the Department of the Environment and other road safety stakeholders.

The Strategy is focused on:

- **Prevention:** The range of educational and engagement activities that NIFRS develop to prevent the occurrence of road traffic collisions (RTCs)

- **Protection:** How NIFRS will influence the design and development of vehicles and the built environment to improve road safety

- **Intervention:** Improving how we respond to RTCs, and improving the intervention techniques and equipment we use to reduce the impact on individuals involved.

- **Communication:** How we will promote NIFRS Road Safety activity to both Internal (NIFRS Staff & Board Members) and External (Public, Media and Key Stakeholders) Audiences.

- **Interagency:** How we work with our partners to ensure a cost effective, intelligence led approach to further improving road safety in Northern Ireland.

As part of our statutory equality obligations under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, we are interested in identifying equality impacts arising from the draft NIFRS Road Safety Strategy 2014–2019. Our initial Section 75 screening assessment is that the Strategy enhances Community Safety and will have a positive impact on a number of groups within the Community, in particular those who are most at risk on our roads, i.e. young drivers and passengers aged 17-24.
We are keen to obtain the views of our staff and other interested stakeholders in relation to the draft strategy. As a public body, we consider our stakeholders to be our staff, the public across Northern Ireland whom we serve, our sponsoring body - the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, local Councils, our recognised Trade Unions and community groups representing a diverse range of interests.

For stakeholders who require clarification or would like to discuss the document further, face-to-face meetings with the appropriate staff can be arranged or telephone discussions facilitated on request. Alternative formats may also be reasonably considered, upon request.

The draft NIFRS Road Safety Strategy 2014–2019 and a consultation questionnaire with a list of the statutory equality categories with a summary of research on the affected groups can be downloaded from the ‘Consultation’ section of our website www.nifrs.org. When making a response, it would be helpful if you would consider these groups and any others you feel applicable, from a personal perspective, when making your response. As a key stakeholder of NIFRS we would encourage you to participate in this consultation exercise, either from a personal viewpoint or on behalf of a group or organisation. The closing date for receipt of comments is **Friday 07 March 2014**.

Your comments will be collated by our Road Safety Manager and can be forwarded via the details below. A summary of responses plus details of any further policy revision as a result of this exercise will be available on the NIFRS website from April 2014.

<table>
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<tr>
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Thank you in anticipation of your support. We look forward to receiving your comments.

Yours faithfully

Adèle Davidson  
Equality Manager