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**NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING EXECUTIVE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE**

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To: Mr Chris Stewart

Department/Location: Office of the First and Deputy First Minister

Date: 22nd January 2003

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Number of Pages Including cover sheet 4

MESSAGE/ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

1. Extract from Public Attitudes Survey 2002
2. Will you pass a to Mary as well please

CS/2201-3/3

SURVEY OF PUBLIC ATTITUDES 2002

APPENDIX I

Key Findings

January 2003

neighbourhood after dark, compared with 26% of owner-occupiers and 24% of private renters.

In the West 80% of respondents felt safe walking alone in their neighbourhood during the day, compared with 69% in Belfast. At night time 34% in the West felt safe walking alone in their neighbourhood, compared with 17% in Belfast.

More respondents aged between 25 and 34 felt safe during the day (82%) than those aged 65 or over (65%). At night time 18% of respondents aged 65 or over felt safe walking alone in their neighbourhood, compared with 28% of 55- to 64-year-olds and 27% of 25- to 34-year-olds.

9. Community Relations

Respondents were asked how concerned they were about community relations, both in their local area and in Northern Ireland as a whole. Slightly more respondents were not very/not at all concerned about community relations in their local area (53%) than those who were very/slightly concerned (46%). A much higher proportion were concerned about community relations in Northern Ireland as a whole (82%) than those who were not very/not at all concerned (18%).

Concern about community relations in local areas was greater among Housing Executive tenants (52%) and private renters (51%) than owner-occupiers (45%). There was some variation by Housing Executive Area, with the highest proportion of all respondents in Belfast (51%) and the lowest in the South (38%) being concerned about community relations in their area. Variation by age of respondent ranged from those between 16 and 24 (53%) to those aged between 25 and 34, and 65 or over (41%) who were concerned about community relations in their area. There was no variation by religion of respondent.

More owner-occupiers were concerned about community relations in Northern Ireland as a whole (84%) than private renters (77%) and Housing Executive tenants (73%). Concern was higher in Belfast (86%), North East (85%) and South East (84%) than in the South (78%) and the West (76%). Variation by age of respondent ranged from 85% of those aged 65 or older to 79% of those aged between 16 and 24 who were concerned about community relations in Northern Ireland as a whole. There was little difference in levels of concern between Protestants (83%) and Catholics (81%).

10. Problems in Local Area

Respondents were asked if they thought the following issues were a problem in their local area: sectarian/non-sectarian graffiti, sectarian/non-sectarian murals, paramilitary flags/emblems, bonfires, criminal damage to homes/public buildings and harassment of ethnic minorities.

Issues considered a major/minor problem by considerable proportions of respondents included paramilitary flags or emblems (21%/20%), sectarian graffiti (18%/27%) criminal damage to homes (17%/26%) and to public buildings (17%/25%) and non-sectarian graffiti

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*SURVEY OF PUBLIC ATTITUDES 2002**APPENDIX 1**Key Findings**January 2003*

(7%/27%). Other issues were considered a major/minor problem by smaller proportions of respondents, including sectarian murals (14%/15%), bonfires (10%/16%) harassment of ethnic minorities (7%/10%) and non-sectarian murals (2%/12%).

Proportionately more Housing Executive tenants thought criminal damage to public buildings and to homes were major problems (28% and 27% respectively) than owner occupiers (15% for both) and private renters (19% and 23% respectively). Similarly, sectarian graffiti was considered to be a major problem by more Housing Executive tenants (25%) than owner occupiers (17%) and private renters (18%).

Many issues were considered a major problem by more respondents living in the Belfast area than elsewhere. For example, paramilitary flags/emblems in local areas were a major problem for 29% of Belfast respondents, compared with 26% in the North East, 23% in the South East, 16% in the West and 13% in the South. Criminal damage to public buildings was also considered a major problem by more respondents in Belfast (28%) than elsewhere (22% in the South East, 14% in the North East and 12% in both South and West).

Variation between the two main religions was slight. There was some difference of opinion regarding sectarian murals and bonfires: 15% of Protestants and 12% of Catholics thought sectarian murals were a major problem in their area; 17% of Protestants and 14% of Catholics considered them a minor problem. Bonfires were considered a major problem by 8% of Protestants and 11% of Catholics, and a minor problem by 18% of Protestants and 13% of Catholics.

Respondents were presented with a list of statements and asked how much they agreed or disagreed with each. Most respondents (90%) agreed that the Housing Executive should evict tenants who repeatedly carry out anti-social acts. There was little difference of opinion across the three tenure groups (90% of owner occupiers, 88% of Housing Executive tenants and 87% of private renters) and between the two main religions (91% of Protestants and 87% of Catholics).

A high proportion of respondents (81%) agreed that the Housing Executive should remove sectarian murals from its properties. More owner occupiers held this view (84%) than Housing Executive tenants (69%) and private renters (71%). Slightly more Catholics (84%) than Protestants (79%) agreed that the Housing Executive should remove sectarian murals.

One-third of all respondents (33%) agreed that the Housing Executive should be concerned only with the provision of decent housing. More Housing Executive tenants agreed with this statement (42%) than private renters (36%) and owner occupiers (31%). It follows that more than half of owner-occupiers (52%) and 47% of private renters disagreed, compared with 38% of Housing Executive tenants. A higher proportion of Protestants (37%) than Catholics (30%) thought the Housing Executive should be concerned only with the provision of decent housing.

*SURVEY OF PUBLIC ATTITUDES 2002**APPENDIX I**Key Findings**January 2003***11. Integrated Housing**

Almost two-thirds (63%) of respondents thought it should be Housing Executive policy to promote a religious mix in its estates. There was little difference of opinion between Protestants (64%) and Catholics (63%). However, there was considerable variation across areas: 72% in the North East, 71% in the West, 62% in the South, 58% in the South East and 55% in Belfast. Furthermore, older respondents were more inclined to hold this view than younger respondents; 73% of those aged 55 or older thought the Housing Executive should promote a religious mix, compared with 55% of those aged between 25 and 34 and 58% of 16- to 24-year-olds.

Respondents were asked to describe the religious mix of their area. Three-fifths (60%) said they lived in a mixed religion area and wished to continue doing so. This applied to more owner-occupiers (65%) than private renters (56%) and Housing Executive tenants (33%); the proportions of Catholics and Protestants differed only slightly (60% : 59%). However, variation across areas was considerable: only one-third of those in Belfast (33%) were living in a mixed religion area and wished to continue doing so, compared to 62% in the South East, 64% in the South, 65% in the West and 72% in the North East. Fewer respondents aged between 16 and 24 (54%) and between 25 and 34 (53%) said they lived in a mixed religion area and wished to continue doing so, compared with 66% of 45- to 54-year-olds and 65% of those aged between 55 and 64.

Around one-sixth of respondents (16%) lived in a Protestant area and wished to continue doing so (29% of Housing Executive tenants, 15% of private renters and 14% of owner-occupiers). Around one in 10 respondents (11%) lived in a Catholic area and wished to continue doing so (23% of Housing Executive tenants, 11% of private renters and 9% of owner-occupiers).

A small proportion of respondents (7%) said they lived in a Protestant area but would prefer to live in a Catholic area (10% of private renters, 8% of Housing Executive tenants and 7% of owner-occupiers). Fewer respondents (3%) said they lived in a Catholic area but would prefer to live in a Protestant area (6% of private renters, 5% of Housing Executive tenants and 3% of owner-occupiers).