



The Regulation and
Quality Improvement
Authority

June 2013

Managers and Proprietors
Residential Care Homes
Nursing Homes
Children's Homes
Residential Family Centres

Dear Sir/Madam

Audit Inspections of Registered Residential Care Premises by Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Services (NIFRS)

I attach for your information a copy of correspondence from NIFRS to RQIA dated 25 March 2013 regarding their audits of regulated residential care premises in Northern Ireland under the Fire and Rescue Services Order (Northern Ireland) 2006 and Fire Safety Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010.

The letter outlines NIFRS position in respect provision of self closing devices on bedroom doors in residential care premises.

It is expected that DHSSPSNI will undertake a review of Northern Ireland Health Technical (NIHTM) 84 in order to update the corresponding sections of that guidance accordingly.

RQIA will communicate this to you in due course when this information becomes available.

I would ask that you give this matter your timely attention in liaison with your appointed fire safety adviser and fire risk assessor. I would stress the point made by NIFRS - that adequate assessment is made of room occupants so that suitable devices can be provided which do not impact adversely on mobility, safety and quality of life.

Yours sincerely

Glenn Houston
Chief Executive, RQIA

CC. Mr Brian Godfrey, HEIG
Mr Dominic Cafolla, HEIG
Mr Dale Ashford, Assltant Chief Fire Officer, NIFRS
Mr Kevin O'Neill, Group Commander, NIFRS
Mrs Kathy Fodey, Director of Regulation, RQIA
Heads of Programme, RQIA

Assurance, Challenge and Improvement in Health and Social Care