

# LAGAN USERS COMMITTEE

13 NOV 2006

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LAGAN SCULLERS' CLUB  
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METHODIST COLLEGE ROWING CLUB  
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST BOAT CLUB  
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST LADIES BOAT CLUB  
ROYAL BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION ROWING CLUB  
STRANMILLIS MOTOR BOAT CLUB  
UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER, JORDANSTOWN BOAT CLUB  
LAGAN HEAD

10 November 2006

Brenda Henderson  
Department for Social Development  
Belfast City Centre Regeneration Directorate  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, McKelvey Houae  
25-27 Wellington Place  
Belfast  
BT1 6GD

Dear Sirs

Thank you for your letter (undated) to the Lagan Users Committee, regarding proposed Laganside Dissolution Order.

The news release and draft order make interesting reading and we are grateful for the opportunity to comment.

We were surprised to learn that the Irish Amateur Rowing Union, Ulster Branch, do not appear to have been consulted, despite being a founder member of the River Forum and being the governing body for rowing in Northern Ireland. This leads us to wonder which other key organisations may not have been fully consulted.

Our comments on the documents provided are as follows:

## SCHEDULE 1

1. (1,2&3) We assume assets and liabilities to include the vesting and lease back of land below slipways etc. to rowing clubs. We cannot say if all these arrangements have been finally concluded.
2. We welcome the provisions to transfer the River Warden duties to the Department, but we would urge that consideration be given to a similar transfer of River Manager duties, as these are also critical to the effective management of river use, maintenance and emergency provisions. We appreciate that the long term responsibilities may not yet be clear, but we suggest that this is further justification for ensuring that interim provisions are in place.
5. We trust that a quarterly forum for river users and a system for informing river users and the public of works affecting use of the river and its environs will continue.

## SCHEDULE 2

1. (3) We suggest that the objects of the Department should not be regeneration if this is all but complete, but should include the maintenance and improvement of the bed, soil and waterway of the river Lagan, including water quality, and for improvement of facilities for river-use.
18. (2) The Department should also take into account the reasonable requirements of recreation on the river.
19. Should there be provision to make byelaws specifically regarding events and their approval, as existing.

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We would also be interested to learn of the Department's proposals for control of water quality, and for programming and control of river works including dredging and repairs to revetments, and for measures to control the quality of material entering the relevant part of the river from any source, and affecting the water quality or use of the river. For example the Stranmillis Weir could perhaps be controlled to reduce the build-up of silt, and the storm water overflow systems could have some form of water quality treatment.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment and we look forward to learning of any changes you propose.

Yours faithfully,



GORDON REID  
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