

19 September 2014

Mr Tom Evans
Dept for Employment & Learning
1st Floor, Waterfront Plaza
8 Laganbank Road
BELFAST
BT1 3BS

Dear Tom,

Working Time Regulations – EU Commission – Review of Working Time Directive

The consultation document has been considered by the Agency. As the Agency provides services directly dealing with matters arising from opt outs, leave carry over, atypical holiday calculation and compensatory rest it is considered inappropriate for the Agency to comment on the perceived advantages or disadvantages of the Regulations and the other general questions posed. We leave specific comment to the social partners and other employment relations stakeholders.

In relation to a general comment the Agency is aware that from a Northern Ireland perspective the existing 13 sets of working time related regulations are shortly due to be consolidated. Similarly from a UK wide perspective court decisions, emanating from Europe, have indicated that the interpretation of the legislation, on matters such as carrying over leave after periods of long term sickness, requires reform. It is noted that proposed reforms have been outlined in the GB Consultation on Modern Workplaces 2011.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Patterson
Chief Executive