

CONFIDENTIAL**TAB H****ALLEGATIONS AGAINST BELFAST CITY COUNCIL**

- * Any decision on nominations to represent Belfast City Council on outside bodies is a matter for the Council itself.
- * HMG adheres to the Code of Practice for Public Appointments in Northern Ireland and is committed to the principle of selection on merit.
- * Where the decision on appointments rests with Ministers, generally the practice is to seek, on merit, a representation which reflects the composition of the population of Northern Ireland in terms of community background, gender and ethnic origin.
- * Increasingly appointments for public bodies are being advertised in the local press in addition to seeking nominations directly from Councils; this affords individuals the opportunity to express interest in membership of public bodies in their own right.
- * The Commissioner for Public Appointments in Northern Ireland plans to produce guidance for nominating bodies shortly, emphasising the principles underlying the appointment procedures - particularly openness, transparency and appointment on merit.