

## Timeline of Key Events to Phase 3

- During the period 2006 – 2010, concerns were raised in relation to the delivery of the Red Sky contracts and a series of NIHE investigations were undertaken.
- On 13 April 2011, the NIHE Board terminated the Red Sky contracts.
- On 19 April 2011, Red Sky Group went into voluntary administration.
- On 28 April 2011, senior officials including the Chair of NIHE, met with DUP MLAs from East Belfast to discuss the Red Sky termination.
- In April/May 2011, Minister McCausland corresponded with a DUP MLA and the MLA and MP of the Alliance Party for East Belfast in relation to the decision to terminate the Red Sky contracts.
- In June 2011, former management of Red Sky were forming a new company (referred to in discussions/communications as 'Newco'), potentially in the hope of taking over the Red Sky NIHE contracts.
- On 27 June 2011, Minister McCausland, accompanied by DSD officials, met with 'representatives of Red Sky' and 3 East Belfast DUP MLAs to discuss the termination of the Red Sky contracts. The Administrator BDO, which was the legal representative of Red Sky, was not present at this meeting.
- On 28 June and 30 June 2011 Minister McCausland, accompanied by DSD officials, met with the NIHE to discuss response maintenance contracts and the termination of Red Sky. On 30 June, the Minister advised the NIHE that he had asked the Department for a forensic examination of other contractors and therefore it would be inappropriate to issue or change contracts until this examination was completed. This would take in the region of 8 weeks and on the basis that the Administrator could continue to service the contracts.
- On 1 July 2011
  - The Minister wrote to Mr Brian Rowntree, the Chairman of the NIHE Board. In his letter he confirmed that he had asked officials to carry out a forensic investigation of other contractors. He went on to request that the Chairman put to the NIHE Board that the termination date of the Red Sky contracts should be extended beyond 14 July 2011 to allow an open procurement competition, subject to the Administrator stating that it could continue to service the contracts. He stated that this should be for a period of 6 months or until new contract procedures could be put in place.
  - Mr Rowntree wrote to the Permanent Secretary expressing serious misgivings in relation to the Minister's request.
  - The Permanent Secretary wrote to the Minister recommending that he should not issue a Ministerial Direction to the NIHE on the matter.
  - DUP Councillor Palmer received a telephone call from Minister McCausland's Special Adviser, Stephen Brimstone, in relation to her participation in the upcoming special NIHE Board meeting on this issue.
- On 4 July 2011
  - The Permanent Secretary and a DSD Housing Official met with the Chairman of NIHE to discuss the Minister's letter of 1 July 2011.
  - A further email was sent to the Administrator by NIHE stating that the Department had asked the Chairman to ascertain whether the Administrator could continue to service the contracts for 6 months rather than the 8 weeks originally communicated. Further communication established that the Administrator could not continue without the assistance of 'Newco' acting as managing agent.

- On 5 July 2011
  - An email was sent to the Chairman of NIHE by a DSD official advising that the Minister's Special Adviser thought 6 months was too long a timeframe for continuation of the contracts. The Chairman was asked if the question could be put to the Administrator to see whether it could continue to service the Red Sky contracts for 4 months instead of 6.
  - Councillor Palmer declared an interest as a member of the DUP and absented herself from the NIHE Board meeting. The board considered Minister McCausland's request but unanimously decided to reaffirm its position and proceed with the termination of the Red Sky contracts as planned on 14 July 2011. The board wrote to the Minister that day regarding its decision.
- On 7 July 2011, (following a briefing with the Permanent Secretary on 6 July) the Minister wrote a detailed response to the Chairman, ultimately confirming that the NIHE should proceed to termination of the Red Sky contracts on 14 July 2011 and move forward with the proposals to reassign contracts to adjacent contractors.
- On 15 July 2011 the Chairman wrote to Minister McCausland to confirm that the contracts had been reassigned to adjacent contractors with effect from 14 July 2011.