

Neighbourhood Statistics Unit
NISRA
McAuley House
2-14 Castle Street
Belfast
BT1 1SA

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: NI Multiple Deprivation Measure 2004

At a recent meeting of the Council the above mentioned document was tabled. Following discussion it was agreed to submit the following response.

- (a) That the review of an inaccurate and outmoded Noble Indicator is to be welcomed
- (b) That inclusion of indicators including crime, benefit, income, employment and living environment domains are considered positive, BUT that the method and frequency of collating and subsequently presenting data is still highly questionable in terms of accuracy
- (c) That qualitative and quantitative information on weak community infrastructure should be incorporated as a domain or sub domain, together with sub domains representing child and elderly poverty
- (d) That the potential move away from ward and sub ward levels of information to “super output areas” may further mask pockets of deprivation and pockets of affluence (illustration, Cherry Valley, Castlereagh) unless thoughtful and robust data preparation and presentation takes place through to street / household level and may also even further confuse local people, government agencies and funders
- (e) That formal meetings are sought immediately with the Northern Ireland private sector companies ACORN (*) and MOSAIC, in order to ensure that all available information from experts is brought to the table before a final view is prepared.
- (f) That an extension to the current period of consultation, through to 31st December 2004, occurs, since proper measurement of deprivation needs more than Professor Noble and the Civil Service through NISRA to fully and thoughtfully bring diverse thinking to bear on an important mapping exercise that will – if done properly – enable much more fully

integrated mapping of deprivation, service provision and other key considerations for the greater public good

- (g) That the current mode of linking government policy to Noble in terms of guiding where various public sector interventions should occur is flawed and should be scrapped as part of the review of public administration (quoting DETI's Start a Business Programme as an example, where performance in reality is completely opposed to targets set through the Noble indicators).

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Derek McCallan
Director of Development