

Neighbourhood Statistics Unit
Demography & Methodology Branch
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Belfast
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29th October 2004

Dear Sir / Madam,

Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2004 - Consultation

Having recently attended one of your consultation meetings held in Belfast and read your summary document we welcome the opportunity to submit this response to the proposed revisions of the Noble Domains:

- **Health**

Should the number of teenage pregnancies be included as an indicator given the higher percentage of teenage pregnancies in deprived areas?

- **Education, Skills and Training Deprivation**

Whilst we accept that grammar schools may be used as a wealth indicator, the use of the term 'all other schools' is not an indicator of deprivation as this includes all non-mainstream provision.

Should Adult participation in further education be considered? This may take account of just those partaking in academic study and ensure to exclude vocational study e.g. hobby orientated classes.

- **Geographical Access to Services**

Should there be different levels of what will be termed as 'acceptable distance of travel' for rural and urban areas for services? For example, the expectations will differ between people living in rural and urban areas for distance to the nearest:

- Post Office,
- GP Premises,
- Accident and Emergency hospital, and
- Inclusion of leisure services.

- **Crime**

While it is a good idea to include crime as a Noble domain, we would view crime as the weakest in terms of measurement indicators. Firstly sourcing all information from the PSNI is not robust, not only because all information would originate from one source but also difficulties some of the public in Northern Ireland have with the PSNI, possibly distorting the findings.

Should the exclusion of some crimes not considered appropriate possibly be incorporated, for example, cycle thefts as this is still a crime. We note that there may be possible confusion over classification of minor crimes.

Another issue for possible consideration concerns the number of criminals living in an area as criminals are unlikely to operate within their own vicinity but rather areas perceived as 'affluent', this may distort figures for the proposed indicators of burglary and theft.

- **Super Output Areas**

The proposed Super Output Areas should be useful in terms of highlighting deprivation pockets therefore allowing a more accurate assessment of areas and the impact they will have on the allocation of limited resources.

Regards,

Mairead McEntee
Manager
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