

Our Ref JD/tm

29 October 2004

Ms J McGarry
Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
McAuley House
2-14 Castle Street
BELFAST
BT1 1SA

Dear Ms McGarry

Re Consultation on the 'Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measures 2004'

Thank you for the opportunity to respond in writing to the above. The Trust was represented at the consultation event on the 5 August 2004 and we were able to participate fully and give our views. However, we do have a number of general comments to make. These are:

- **Domains:**

The Trust welcomes the new set of domain measures which are now more relevant. In particular, the domain on crime is welcome given the emerging Community Safety Agenda.

- **Indicators:**

The Trust believes the indicators proposed are a comprehensive set and as such does not have any comment in relation to additional indicators for inclusion.

- **Data Time Point Denominator, Geography and Spatial Scale:**

The Trust believes that in compiling the data, the most up to date information should be collected and used. We note that this will primarily be for data available in 2003. If the information is being collated in 2005 we would prefer it to be for 2004 were possible. In terms of the geography and spatial scale, the Trust welcomes the move towards the use of Output Areas and Super Output Areas as these will be much more relevant for local planning and welcome the fact that they will be available in the N.I.N.I.S site.

- **Methodology:**

In relation to choosing relative weightings, the Trust would be in favour of using Weights A. We believe that Health, Disability and Education do have more relevance to deprivation than access to service crime and the living environment and therefore should retain their weightings of 15% as opposed to reducing them to 10%. We also note that under Weights A, geographical access rates more significantly than crime and environment. We would not be of this view and believe it should rate either equally or preferably lower than crime and the environment.

If you require any further clarification please do not hesitate to contact us and the Trust is quite happy for our response to be made available.

Yours sincerely



Mr J Dunne
Deputy Director Planning and Performance