



Lakeland Echo Studio, Drumcoo Centre, Enniskillen, County Fermanagh. BT74 6AY
Telephone 028 6632 7153 • email info@ftna.org

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Neighbourhood Statistics Unit
Demography & Methodology Branch
NISRA
McAuley House
2-14 Castle Street
BELFAST
BT1 1SA

Dear Sir / Madam

Response to the multiple deprivation measures consultation

This response relates to the Health Deprivation and Disability domain's 2nd proposed indicator ie. Comparative Illness and Disability Ratio (2003, Source: IS, AA, DLA, SDA, IB from DSD).

Our client group is vision-impaired, and we believe that claim rates of the above mentioned benefits may under represent the occurrence of vision impairment.

We believe this because a statistic in a recently published Quarterly Statistical Inquiry by the Department of Work and Pensions states that only 6% of vision impaired people claim all of the benefits to which they are entitled. Although we do not have figures for the claim rate of the benefits included in the proposed indicator, in as much as the very low claim rate of all relevant benefits by vision impaired people is reflected in the claim rates of the listed benefits, the occurrence of vision impairment is under represented.

We would like your team to ascertain the claim rates of the listed benefits by vision impaired people, and, if they are significantly low, to amend the proposed indicator so that it produces a true representation of the occurrence of vision impairment.

Yours sincerely

Kieran Leonard
Projects Co-ordinator