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Neighbourhood Statistics Unit  
Demography & Methodology Branch  
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Dear Sir / Madam

**Response to the multiple deprivation measures consultation**

This response relates to the Health Deprivation and Disability domain's 2<sup>nd</sup> 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