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# LISBURN

Health & Social Care Group

Our ref: SG/eb

15 October 2004

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

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2004:  
Consultation Document**

I am writing with regard to the above on behalf of Lisburn HSCG and would like to make the following comments: -

1. Health deprivation and disability; exclusion of dental health measure

We believe that this measure is of significant importance and should not be excluded. Whilst we accept that other domains may capture the broader socio-economic determinants, this particular health measure, the only measure which looks specifically at children and young people, gives an indication of future health status. It allows health commissioners to direct services into areas of low uptake and allows us to monitor progress over time.

2. Geography and Spatial Scale

We believe that the spatial scale should remain at OA, rather than being aggregated at SOA. We would support our position by illustrating it with an example using your very own example of Hilden Ward in Lisburn.

Lisburn HSCG is committed to the social model of health, which drives towards empowering communities to improve and protect their own health. We have a team of community health development workers who deliver this agenda within distinct communities. One of our workers is heavily involved with the Hillhall Estate (within the Hilden Ward), an area of significant deprivation, and she uses the existing MD outputs as a vital management tool in the work she undertakes. By moving Hilden ward to two SOA's the MD figures for Hillhall would be combined with a number of more affluent areas including 54 apartments in the same complex as our own offices!

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**EHSSB**

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These apartments sell for between £110,000 and £190,000, and I am sure that you appreciate the health status of the professionals and retired couples who can afford them.

This proposal to move to SOA's would make future statistics meaningless as a management tool for the public sector, as their size would hide differences which are at present available to us. We would strongly contend that for MD outputs to be useful as a management tool, they should reflect the needs of the 'customers' who use them.

I hope these comments will be useful.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Gibson', written in a cursive style.

Simon Gibson  
Manager, Lisburn HSCG