

**Minutes of the Second Steering Group Meeting**  
**2pm Friday 17th June 2016**  
**Boardroom, McAuley House**

<b>Present: Name</b>	<b>Department / Organisation</b>
Dr Tracy Power (Chair)	NISRA
Brian Green	NISRA
Dr Jos Ijpelaar	NISRA
Claire McCann	NISRA
Joe Frey	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
Claire Shortt (standing on for Sharon McNicholl)	Belfast City Council
Aidan Campbell	Rural Community Network
Dr Paul Caskie	DAERA
Dr Stephen Donnelly	Dept. for Economy
Simon Hookham	Equality Commission
Karen McCullough (standing in for David Hughes)	Dept. of Education
Liz Loughran	Dept. of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Michael Gallagher	Derry City and Strabane Council
Joe Reynolds	The Executive Office
Freda Magill	Ulster Farmers Union
Andrea Thornbury	NICVA
<b>Apologies:</b>	
Glyn Capper	Dept. of Justice
Karen McCoy	Southern Health Trust
Tom Reid	Dept. for Infrastructure
Louise Scullion	Causeway Coast & Glens Council
Teresa Canavan	Rural Development Council

(i) Welcome and introduction

Tracy Power opened the meeting, welcomed everyone present and initiated introductions.

(ii) Minutes from Last meeting

Tracy asked if members were happy with minutes from previous meeting. Aidan highlighted that he had sent amendments to the minutes that hadn't been included.

**Action – Jos Ijpelaar will capture Aidan's changes into minutes of first meeting. Updated minutes will be published on the NISRA website.**

(iii) Amendments to Terms of reference

Brian Green presented the changes to terms of reference to the group as per the discussion at last meeting.

The group discussed whether the phrase 'clear majority' was appropriate and agreed that it should be removed from the TOR. In discussions, it was clarified that decisions on the updated rested with the Steering Group and would only be referred to the Statistics Coordinating Group (SCG) in the event that a consensus could not be reached.

**Action – Brian Green will change the phrase 'no clear majority' to consensus in the Terms of Reference. Updated Terms of Reference will be published on the NISRA website.**

(iv) Geography Consultation

Jos Ijpelaar gave a presentation outlining the responses to the geography consultation. The group was advised of NISRA recommendation to go with Option 1 – using Super Output Areas (SOAs) and Census Small Areas (SAs) as the main output geography for deprivation measures. He also explained that, due to user need expressed in the consultation responses, that deprivation measures for the new electoral Wards would be created on an approximated basis, consistent with SOA/SA, and to be released after the main results. Tracy stressed that the Ward-level measures would not be assessed for National Statistics status given the approximations involved.

Karen McCullough queried if Councils should be consulted on this proposal. Tracy explained that there has been contact with the Councils throughout the consultation stage. Councils on the whole want data that reflect their new ward geography, but the benefits of this geography is outweighed by the disadvantages as reflected in the consultation document.

Brian Green advised that the consultation document had stressed the importance of considering deprivation at the lowest geographical area possible as larger areas, such as wards (which are roughly twice the size of SOAs on average), can hide pockets of deprivation.

Paul Caskie supported the proposal, and asked if all data will be available for the new Wards. Brian indicated that while this is currently not known, the team would endeavour to have similar coverage to that at the main output geography. Tracy added that it may well depend on data providers and their perception of disclosure risk given that old ward information may also be available and that triangulation could be possible.

Paul Caskie had some concerns about the Regional Development Policy, where DEARA provides funding to the Councils based on SOAs/SAs, who then allocate this using new Ward deprivation measures. Tracy Power stressed that Ward data will provide an accurate ranking of constituent wards, as it will use the same underlying data as the main output by SOA/SA. Brian Green stressed the role of the communication strategy will play at the dissemination stage of the project, particularly in terms of the use of the measures. He added that Steering Group members will have the opportunity to shape the guidance and key messages that are delivered to users.

Joe Reynolds queried why ward level will not be assessed for National Statistic<sup>1</sup> status. Tracy Power outlined that every effort would be made to gather good quality data at the smallest geographical area possible (e.g. small areas). While for SOAs, small areas (for example) nest exactly within SOAs this isn't the case for the new wards and, as such, ward level measures will involve a degree of approximation. Tracy assured the group that the information which NISRA will produce will, despite the approximations involved, provide reliable relative rankings for the new wards that will be regarded as Official Statistics.

Michael Gallagher queried if the updated information will be released for the old wards, which would facilitate comparisons over time. Tracy Power responded that SOA level measures were more appropriate for that purpose as they were both smaller and they haven't changed over time in terms of their spatial limits. Furthermore, some of the new Wards have the same name as the former Wards, but cover a geographically different area, which could cause confusion. The group was reminded that an extra six months have been built into the project to advise users on how to make best use of the new measures.

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/national-statistician/types-of-official-statistics/>. The NIMDM2010 was assessed in

The Steering group agreed with NISRA's proposal for the deprivation output geographies.

**Action – Jos Ijpelaar will update the draft report on the output geography consultation. This document will be published on the NISRA website.**

(v) Update on Domain Expert Groups

Jos Ijpelaar advised the group of the progress of the meetings. The Group agreed to wait until the next Steering Group meeting to discuss (1) the recommendations from the expert groups for selected indicators, and (2) progress towards the 36 recommendations from the 2010 work.

(vi) User Engagement Strategy

Brian Green presented the user engagement strategy – reiterating the links to the Code of Practice for Official Statistics – and invited comments, particularly whether stakeholders were missed from the list in paragraph 5.3 and whether there are other potential channels for user engagement.

Michael Gallagher proposed adding schools, which was supported by Simon Hookham who suggested a dedicated webpage for pupils with accessible infographics. Brian Green responded that the Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information System ([NINIS](#)) will be used as one of the primary dissemination vehicles for the updated measures. Importantly the NINIS team has considerable experience in developing infographics / interactive context and has had ongoing engagement with Officials from the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (NI).

Paul Caskie suggested adding MEPs and cross-border organisations as stakeholders. Freda Magill mentioned existing channels currently used by the Ulster Farmer's Union, Northern Ireland Agricultural Producers' Association and the Young Farmers Clubs of Ulster.

Brian Green agreed to update the user engagement strategy to reflect these suggestions.

**Action – Brian Green will update the draft user engagement strategy and publish it on the NISRA website.**

#### (vii) Amendments to Risk Register

Brian Green presented the changes to the risk register. This was presented to the Steering Group to exemplify that the deprivation team regularly reviews and updates this register.

Karen McCullough queried why a new risk was added relating to the availability of a specific dataset (Key Stage results), whilst other risks are of a more general nature. Brian Green responded that the issue was highlighted by the DE representative on the Education Domain Expert Group, who developed the narrative around the risk and cleared it within their Department. He added that the deprivation team will be happy to reconsider its inclusion when the Education domain group next meets.

#### (viii) PfG Terminology

Tracy Power introduced this agenda item and invited comments for alternative terminology for deprivation. One possibility is to use the forthcoming consultation to include questions on the terminology. Joe Reynolds provided some more background on the recent Programme for Government (PfG) discussions.

Simon Hookham argued that 'deprivation' is commonly used and understood. Michael Gallagher added that the consultation should focus on the proposed indicators, with less focus on the terminology used. Aidan Campbell suggested looking at academic definitions to inform the debate on terminology.

Aidan Campbell indicated that relative rankings are not particularly helpful, and re-iterated that relative measures based on degrees of distance from the mean, as used in the Trutz-Haass method, may be more useful and informative.

Aidan Campbell commented that the proposed PfG measures make reference to deprivation quintiles, and would be better targeted at clusters of areas with comparable levels of deprivation rather than an arbitrary cut-off of 20 per cent of all areas. Brian Green indicated that this will be addressed as part of the dissemination and user guidance after publication of the main results.

**Action – The deprivation team will draft a question on the deprivation terminology for the forthcoming consultation. This draft question will be discussed at the next Steering Group meeting.**

(ix) AOB

No other issues raised.

(x) Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Steering Group is planned for mid September 2016.

**Action – Jos IJpelaar to organise the next Steering Group meeting.**