

NORTH DOWN LOCAL STRATEGY PARTNERSHIP

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Our Ref: JN/wea

Date: 22nd October 2004

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

Dear Jenny

Re: Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2004: Consultation Document

Please find below North Down Local Strategy Partnership's response to the above document.

1.0 Regarding the Domain 'Geographical Access to Services Domain, and the indicators proposed:

- Road Distance to Services
- Road distance to a GP
- Road Distance to an Accident and Emergency Hospital
- Road Distance to a General Food Store
- Access to Transport

Looking at these indicators, it could be argued that rather than measuring the Deprivation of an area, they are measuring how rural an area is. Areas may be far away from all these services, and not necessarily be 'deprived'. There has been no consideration given to areas which are geographically not far removed from the above services, but which suffer from inefficient transport services due to "no go" areas; a problem experienced within many urban estates.

As the indicators stand, they will show a higher level of deprivation for rural areas, and a lesser level of deprivation for urban areas, which in many cases also experience poor access due to insufficient transport services.



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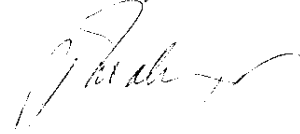


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2.0 Looking at the weighting allocated to each of the Domains, it would be the opinion of North Down LSP that 'Weights B' should be supported, with the following amendment:

Education, Skills and Training Deprivation		15%
Geographical Access to Services		5%

Yours sincerely



Jan Nixey
Project Officer

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