

2009/10 Update to the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM)

1. The Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2005, commissioned by NISRA from the Social Disadvantage Research Centre at the University of Oxford, is the current measure of the spatial distribution of deprivation in Northern Ireland. This note provides an overview of the progress that has been made regarding the 2009/10 update to the NIMDM.
2. The project Steering Group met on 22 June and will meet again on 16 December. A formal consultation period ran from 27 July until 6 November. Around six hundred hard copies of the consultation document were distributed to interested parties. Three public consultation events were also held to raise awareness of the consultation and to provide an opportunity for questions. The first event was held on 22 September in Omagh, the second on 30 September in Lisburn and the third, by request, on 2 November 2009 in Belfast. A meeting with the Committee for Finance and Personnel also took place on 4 November 2009 to brief the Committee on the consultation process. The minutes from the meeting are available on the Assembly website (XXX)
3. In total around 40 consultation responses have now been received from various Assembly Committees, Ministers, agencies, charities, councils, committees, community groups and neighbourhood partnerships etc...
4. The main issues raised by the consultation exercise were:
 - importance of HMRC tax credit data in the income domain;
 - support for inclusion of Housing Benefit data in the income domain;
 - support for / concerns around emergency admissions data in the health domain;
 - support for / concerns around mental health admissions data in the health domain;
 - significant demand for an access to services rather than proximity to services domain (e.g. wider issues around access rather than just geographical access, consideration of public transport data, peacelines etc...);
 - mixed responses to general services, food shop, primary health care indicators, inclusion of cross-border service centres in the proximity to services domain;
 - significant support for a child specific spatial deprivation measure;
 - significant demand for more detailed Output Area level deprivation indicators,
 - concern regarding LGBC boundary review and Output Areas / Super Output Areas,
 - demand for NISRA to provide further user guidance on NIMDM.