

Our ref: CB/New TSN/rep

Ms Liz McMeekin  
Anti-Poverty Unit  
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Belfast BT4 3SR

ANTI-POVERTY

26 AUG 2005

RECEIVED

25 August, 2005

Dear Ms McMeekin

**New TSN - Phase II Consultation**

Thank you for forwarding us a copy of New TSN - The Way Forward.

We do not intend to make a lengthy response to the Phase II consultation as our concerns were set out in detail in our response to the Phase I consultation.

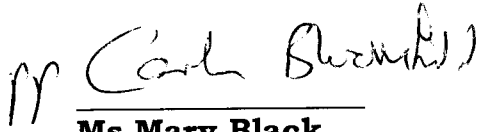
A key concern was that the Phase I document contained little information on a proposed framework for an anti-poverty strategy. We assumed that the second phase document would contain much more detail on the substance of the strategy, and we are therefore disappointed that it does not appear to do so.

A clear action plan is required with measurable high level objectives and targets. In particular, cross-departmental planning, implementation and monitoring is required. A key goal should be coherence within Government so that tackling poverty and social exclusion is core to the business of each Department.

The newer information on poverty and social exclusion is of critical importance. It is clear that a long-term strategy is required, and a meaningful engagement with community and other sectors in determining priorities. However, the absence of a clear framework and accountability mechanism will not support a robust implementation process.

This is an important opportunity to improve lives and I would hope that further attention could be given to these points.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of Ms Mary Black in cursive script.

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**Ms Mary Black**  
**Health Action Zone Leader**