

ANTI-POVERTY

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ORDNANCE SURVEY NORTHERN IRELAND

(OSNI)

**RESPONSE TO PHASE 2 PUBLIC CONSULTATION
“NEW TSN – THE WAY FORWARD - TOWARDS AN ANTI-
POVERTY STRATEGY” CONSULTATION PAPER**

August 2005

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OSNI Response to Phase 2 Public Consultation “New TSN – The Way Forward Towards an Anti-Poverty Strategy” Consultation Paper – August 2005

OSNI General Comments

As an overriding comment, OSNI believe that most information is to a greater or lesser extent geographical in nature, in that it concerns events, characteristics, statistics, objects, properties and people, which exist in specific locations and/or vary from place to place. The physical relationship of this information is often very important to understanding it, using it and communicating it, both strategically and tactically. Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and Location-Based Services (LBS) are both very relevant to the Information Communication Technology (ICT) revolution at all levels, be it governmental, commercial or consumer. Their existence and potential are however poorly known and understood across much of the country.

As the National Mapping Agency who provides digital mapping at all scales and levels of detail for the whole of Northern Ireland, OSNI is committed to enhancing the exploitation of geographical information by facilitating the awareness, understanding and development of this specific area of ICT, which is itself relevant throughout most, if not all, areas of ICT.

With regards to the use of Noble indicators for assessing, targeting and managing the New TSN/Anti-Poverty policy, Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland (OSNI) believe that the development of a Northern Ireland Mapping Agreement (NIMA) will enable OSNI to efficiently extend its supply of appropriate mapping and other Geographic Information (GI) such as address data, for all of Northern Ireland, to the whole of the NICS, thus helping to support the analysis and management of the policy. The separate development of a Geographic Information Hub for on-line access to wider GI, planned by OSNI and still subject to Business Case approval, will help in the physical sharing of data across the public sector as a whole, and indeed the private and voluntary sectors, and will allow for more effective targeting of Social Need.