



## contents

*Please note that individuals and organisations outside of government also contribute items to the bulletin; consequently, the content of this bulletin should not be assumed to reflect government policy or opinion.*

- 1) Contents
- 2) Introduction
- 3) Support for policy-making
- 4) New policy relevant publications
- 5) New from research institutes and think tanks
- 6) Newly announced policies and strategies
- 7) Conferences and seminars coming up
- 8) Current consultations
- 9) Forthcoming consultations
- 10) Policy reviews coming up
- 11) Summary of key past events
- 12) Contact us





## Introduction

### Editorial

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Welcome to the nineteenth issue of the policylink bulletin

In this edition we would like to draw your attention to the new [Code of Practice on Consultation](#) (PDF 223KB) published by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) on 22 July 2008. This Code was produced following a review of government consultations carried out in 2007 in which Northern Ireland participated. The new Code will come into effect in November 2008 and sets out the Government's general policy on formal, public, written consultation exercises. In the meantime the existing [Code of Practice](#) will apply. Information on the review of consultation and the Government's response is available on the [BERR website](#).

In Chapter 4 – new publications – we highlight a range of new or forthcoming publications covering topics such as welfare reform, the UK Energy Brief, and the Continuous Household Survey.

In Chapter 5 – new from research institutes and think tanks – we highlight research on issues such as: neighbourhood deprivation, the elderly and their care; the knowledge economy; and young carers etc.

As usual, this edition includes a number of sections which provide details of:

- Conferences and seminars coming up;
- Newly announced policies and strategies;
- Current and forthcoming consultations; and
- Policy reviews coming up.

Hopefully there is something of interest for everyone! As always, you can email us at [policylink@ofmdfmi.gov.uk](mailto:policylink@ofmdfmi.gov.uk) with your views or suggestions.





## support for policy-making

### Summary

#### [Policy Hub Bulletin](#)

You will find a host of items in the Policy Hub Bulletin which is published on the National School of Government website. There are articles under the headings of: better policy-making; improving delivery; and evaluating policy, plus a “website of the month” feature.

#### [Policy Toolkit](#)

The Policy Toolkit is intended to provide a practical overview of the key steps and phases in the policy development process. It is divided into individual workbooks, structured around the key stages of the policy process to enable policy-makers to dip into the guidance as appropriate. The Toolkit is available on OFMDFM's [Policylink webpages](#). Amendments and updates to the Toolkit will be undertaken as required.

#### [Evidence Network](#)

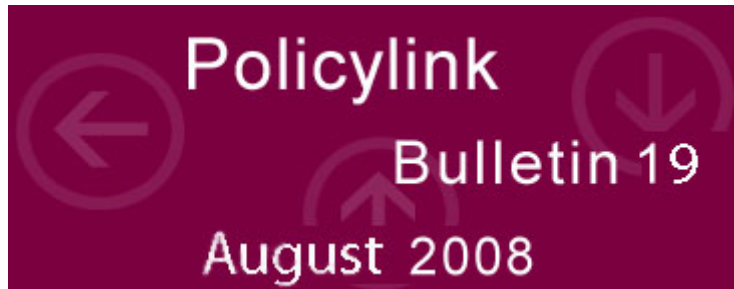
Established by the Economic and Social Research Council following a major initiative taken in 1999 to bring social science research much nearer to the decision process, the UK Centre for Evidence Based Policy and Practice provides a focal point for those interested in evidence based policy and practice. So far some 1,350 researchers, practitioners and policy makers from 25 countries have signed up to the Evidence Network over the last seven years. The Network maintains a useful website and is a useful source for tracking down social science evidence and expertise.

[www.C4ni.com](http://www.C4ni.com)

This web-based project aims to encourage active participation in which citizens actively engage in the decision and policy making processes. Using the internet as a delivery mechanism, the project provides valuable explanations and insights into a range of policy related areas such as:

- what is policy?
- different levels of government
- the role of devolved government
- how to make a change
- expert advice from four highly respected campaigners on how to influence policy decisions.
- the project has potentially a large interested constituency including public, community and voluntary sectors as well as universities, colleges and schools.





## **new policy relevant publications**

### **Summary**

**January 2008**

[All Island Grid Study – Work Stream 4 – Analysis of Impacts and Benefits](#)

The All Island Grid Study is the first comprehensive assessment of the ability of the electrical power system and, as part of that, the transmission network (“the grid”) on the island of Ireland to absorb large amounts of electricity produced from renewable energy sources. The objective of this five part study is to assess the technical feasibility and the relative costs and benefits associated with various scenarios for increased shares of electricity sourced from renewable energy in the all island power system.

**February 2008**

[e-Consultation with Pupils – A Pilot Study](#) (PDF 117KB)

This research commissioned by the Department of Education, provides an evidence base for the development of an effective e-consultation strategy to develop mechanisms for schools to incorporate active citizenship into the curriculum by providing the pupils with real opportunities to shape policy.

**February 2008**

[Literacy and Numeracy of Pupils in Northern Ireland: Good Practice in Literacy and Numeracy in British and Irish Cities](#) (PDF 169.45 KB)

The aim of this research commissioned by the Department of Education was to identify what is working successfully in delivering better literacy and numeracy outcomes in comparator cities elsewhere in the UK and Ireland.

**March 2008**

[2006 Labour Force Survey Religion Report](#) (PDF 2.38 KB)

This report presents information from the 2006 Labour Force Survey (LFS) on the labour market characteristics of Protestants and Roman Catholics in Northern Ireland. The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) is responsible for the conduct of the survey in Northern Ireland and produces a

range of publications relating to the labour force and to the wider economy.

**March 2008**

**[An Assessment of International Trends in Occupational Forecasting and Skills Research: How Does Northern Ireland Compare? \(Phase 1\) - Full Report](#)**

This report presents the findings from research carried out by the Priority Skills Unit, Economic Research Institute of Northern Ireland (ERINI) for the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL). The research reviewed current international best practice in the area of skills planning and forecasting and provides an assessment of Northern Ireland's position within this context. The work reviews the various methodologies and approaches that can be applied and makes recommendations with respect to the existing framework in Northern Ireland.

**April 2008**

**[Sports Participation and Satisfaction with Sports Provision in Northern Ireland](#) (PDF 305.38 KB)**

This bulletin published by the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, aims to highlight findings from the 2003/04, 2004/05, 2005/06 and 2006/07 Continuous Household Surveys (CHS) by providing year on year comparisons for sports participation figures for the last 12 months, last month and last week. The bulletin also compares satisfaction with sports provision in Northern Ireland over each of the four surveys for all respondents covering those who had or had not participated in sport over the last 12 months.

**April 2008**

**DSD Statistics and Research Bulletin 5 - [Poverty in Northern Ireland](#)**

This bulletin analyses Northern Ireland households by assigning them to an income status and a household status. For the purposes of this paper, those households whose household income is less than 60% of UK median but at least 50% of the median are determined as being in poverty whilst those whose income is less than 50% of the UK median are determined to be in deeper poverty.

**April 2008**

**DSD Statistics and Research Bulletin 4 - [Climate and Mortality in NI 2001-2006](#)**

In support of its work, the Department for Social Development published a research paper in November 2007 on the relationship between temperature, fuel poverty and mortality. This bulletin extends the second part of that paper by looking at the impact on the findings from adding additional data relating to deprivation, distance from medical services, illness and disability.

**May 2008**

**[Social housing and worklessness: key policy messages](#) (PDF 305.21 KB)**

This report from the Department for Work and Pensions details findings of a study which sought to explain the relatively high levels of worklessness among tenants in social housing. In addition to a review of the relevant literature and secondary data, the research centres on in-depth qualitative interviews with social tenants with recent or ongoing experience of worklessness.

**June 2008**

[Carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities: a caring system on your side, a life of your own](#)

The carers' strategy, published by the Department of Health, sets out the Government's short-term agenda and long-term vision for the future care and support of carers.

The carers' strategy is underpinned by £255 million to implement some immediate steps alongside medium and long-term plans. New commitments in the carers' strategy include: £150 million towards planned short breaks for carers; £38 million towards supporting carers to enter or re-enter the job market and £6 million towards improving support for young carers. Other schemes include the piloting of annual health checks for carers to help them stay well and training for GPs to recognise and support carers.

**June 2008**

[Excellence and fairness: achieving world class public services \(PDF 1002.79.KB\)](#)

This report from the Cabinet Office was published in June 2008. Better public services are at the core of the Government's mission to deliver social justice and increase social mobility, using the power of collective action to benefit each family and individual. If we are to compete effectively as a country in today's globalised economy and match people's ever rising aspirations, our public services must be able to bear comparison with the best in the world.

Over the past decade our public services have improved across the board, in many cases dramatically so. This has been the product of sustained investment and radical reforms. But there is much more to do. Our next challenge is to ensure that all of our public services are world class.

**June 2008**

[Young Persons' Behaviour and Attitudes Survey Bulletin 2007](#)

Conducted by NISRA's Central Survey Unit (CSU) the survey was commissioned by the cross-departmental Equality and Social Need Steering Group (ESNSG). Its aim is to examine the behaviour and attitudes of young people towards a range of different topics, including: demographics; social support; money; school; subject choices and further education; starting a business; nutrition; sport and physical activity; libraries, museums and arts; modern technology; the environment; travelling to school; road safety; policing; attitudes towards domestic violence; anti-social behaviour and personal safety; knife culture; smoking; alcohol; solvents and drugs; and sexual experience and knowledge.

**June 2008**

This bulletin presents key findings at a local level from the second drug prevalence survey of

**[Drug Use in Ireland and Northern Ireland 2006/07](#)**

households in both Ireland and Northern Ireland. The survey sampled a representative number of people aged between 15 and 64 during late 2006 and early 2007. The survey was carried out by Ipsos MORI in Ireland and by the Central Survey Unit of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency in Northern Ireland according to standards set by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). This bulletin presents results relating to drug prevalence on a lifetime, last year (recent) and last month (current) basis for illegal and other drugs including alcohol and tobacco for each Regional Drugs Task Force area (RDTF) in Ireland, and Health and Social Services Board (HSSB) in Northern Ireland.

**June 2008**

**[ICT Future Skills Action Plan](#)**

The ICT Future Skills Action Plan is aimed at tackling the immediate high level skills needs of the software industry. It has been produced in partnership with Invest NI, Momentum and e skills UK. The plan is based around three thematic areas of Skills Provision, Career Attractiveness and Additional Sources of Talent.

**June 2008**

**[Attitudes & perceptions of NI school pupils towards higher & further education, training & employment](#)**

**For further information contact:**  
**[wendy.lecky@delni.gov.uk](mailto:wendy.lecky@delni.gov.uk)**  
**tel: 028 9025 7672**

This research report assesses school pupils' attitudes and intentions towards further and higher education, training and employment. A particular focus of the research included an examination of the factors which are important to pupils when they make up their minds about applying to Higher Education (HE). The report indicates that student choices are most heavily influenced by their desire to go to the best place for their chosen course, rather than a strong desire to leave Northern Ireland. The report also examines how the availability of financial support influences pupils' decisions about entering HE and also examines the key factors that influence pupils' choices about HE including the role of peers, parents and careers guidance.

**June 2008**

**[Data Handling Procedures in Government: Final Report](#) (PDF 277.73 KB)**

The review, which was commissioned by the Prime Minister, sets out the wide range of actions that have already been put in place to improve data security, and outlines what will be done to strengthen policies further by building on existing momentum.

**June 2008**

**[Work Skills](#) (PDF1.42 MB)**

This report was published jointly by the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

In today's global economy Britain must compete through higher levels of skills. We must take

advantage of new opportunities, new jobs and new industries and make sure that all the people and places across the country are able to benefit. In a rapidly changing world, the Government is determined to unlock the talent and potential of all our people. We need to give people the skills that will be required in both today's and tomorrow's labour market.

**June 2008**

[Developing the NHS Performance Regime \(PDF 768.67 KB\)](#)

This document provides a framework for managing the performance of all NHS health care provided, whether that care is delivered in a hospital, in a local GP surgery, or in a community care setting. The philosophy underlying its approach is that individual organisations, and in most cases their Boards, are responsible for improving performance and addressing underperformance. In this way, providers, commissioners and Strategic Health Authorities (SHA) are held to account at organisational level. For example, where a Primary Care Trust (PCT) or NHS Trust fails to demonstrate recovery following remedial action, intervention on behalf of the NHS Chief Executive would be aimed at identifying and addressing weaknesses in Board capability and organisational governance.

**27 June 2008**

[DETI Economic Research Agenda 2008 – 11](#)

The Economic Research Agenda sets out The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment's (DETI) research priorities over the three year period 2008-11, which are: improving productivity; increasing employment; and promoting tourism. The Department is calling for research proposals from suitably qualified organisations in these priority areas.

**July 2008**

[Food Matters: Towards a Strategy for the 21st Century](#)

The cultural change, along with more recent events in global food markets, has brought new and urgent policy challenges to the fore, which governments must act to meet.

To ensure that the UK's food policy framework could meet these new challenges, the Prime Minister commissioned the Strategy Unit to examine our approach to food policy right across the board. This report, published on 7 July 2008, sets out the conclusions of that work, providing an overarching statement of government food policy that sets a benchmark for the action we must take – both in the UK and globally – to ensure our long-term food security, the sustainability of food production and consumption, and the promotion of public health.

July 2008

[Youth Crime Action Plan](#)

The youth crime action plan, published by the Home Office, is a comprehensive, cross-government analysis of what the government is going to do to tackle youth crime.

It sets out a 'triple track' approach of enforcement and punishment where behaviour is unacceptable, non-negotiable support and challenge where it is most needed, and better and earlier prevention.

July 2008

[RFA Review of the Indirect Effects of Biofuels](#)

On 21 February 2008 the Secretary of State for Transport, Ruth Kelly, invited the Renewable Fuels Agency (RFA) to undertake a Review of the Indirect Effects of Biofuels. This was done in the light of new evidence suggesting that an increasing demand for biofuels might indirectly cause carbon emissions because of land use change, and concerns that demand for biofuels may be driving food insecurity by causing food commodity price increases. **The Gallagher Review** was published on 7 July 2008 and can be accessed from the link aside.

July 2008

[Mid-Year Population Estimates Northern Ireland 2007](#)

The 2007 Northern Ireland mid-year estimates of population, disaggregated by age, sex and local area – Local Government District, Parliamentary Constituency, Health and Social Services Boards and Education and Library Boards will be published at the end of July 2008.

July 2008

[Long-term International Migration Estimates for Northern Ireland \(2006-7\) \(PDF 132.56 KB\)](#)

A paper will be published at the end of July 2008 entitled "International Migration Estimates for Northern Ireland (2006-7) – Sources and Methodology". This updates analysis undertaken by NISRA in the previous two years and provides more detailed statistics on measures of long-term international migration.

July 2008

**Creating small area income deprivation measures for Northern Ireland: spatial microsimulation modelling**

Further details will be available on the [NISRA website](#).

This report describes results from a preliminary investigation of the value of a spatial microsimulation technique in the estimation, for Northern Ireland, of the incidence of income poverty as measured by the proportion of households whose income is below 60% of the UK median household income (HHBMI). The report concludes with a summary of the findings and recommendations for further work.

July 2008

[Welfare Reform green paper – No one written off: reforming welfare to](#)

This report has been published by the Department for Work and Pensions.

"No one written off: reforming welfare to reward responsibility" is a wide ranging consultation on the

[reward responsibility](#)

future of welfare. The Green Paper sets out plans for improving support and work incentives to create a system that rewards responsibility. The majority of people of working age – who can work now or at some point in the future – and their families will no longer be on benefits for life. There will also be greater choice and control over the support that is provided.

**July 2008**

[Government Departments on track to meet challenges of the future](#)

The Cabinet Office has published the first three new Capability Review reports which outline the progress made by each department in question – the Home Office, Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) – since their performance was first assessed two years ago. The Progress and Next Steps reports show that all three departments have improved on their previous scores and are delivering key improvements in their business areas.

**31 July 2008**

[UK Energy in Brief – July 2008](#)

This report provides a summary of the latest statistics on energy production, consumption and prices in the UK.

**August 2008**

**Water Air and Soil**

**Code of Good Agricultural Practice for the Prevention of Pollution of Water, Air and Soil**

This publication will be available on the [DARD website](#).

The Code of Good Agricultural Practice for the Prevention of Pollution of Water, Air and Soil ('Code') is a practical guide for farmers, outlining management practices for preventing pollution of water, air and soil. The 'Code' combines legislative requirements and what is regarded as good practice in relation to pollution prevention.

**Expected August 2008**

**Destinations of Leavers from higher education in Northern Ireland 2006-2007**

For further information contact: [statistics@delni.gov.uk](mailto:statistics@delni.gov.uk)

This Statistical Bulletin is produced by the Department for Employment and Learning using data collected by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). It provides details of the destinations of leavers from Higher Education who obtained qualifications in Northern Ireland (NI) Higher Education Institutions and NI domiciled leavers obtaining qualifications in UK Higher Education institutions in the academic year 2006/07.

**21 August 2008**

**Northern Ireland Hospital Statistics 2007/2008**

For further information contact: [statistics@dhsspsni.gov.uk](mailto:statistics@dhsspsni.gov.uk)

Publication of data relating to activity in Health and Social Care hospitals in Northern Ireland during 2007/2008.

or check the [DHSSPS website](#)

**Expected Summer 2008**

**The Importance of Qualifications in Achieving High Wages and Productivity**

**For further information contact:**  
[wendy.lecky@delni.gov.uk](mailto:wendy.lecky@delni.gov.uk)  
or telephone 028 9025 7672

This research examines the links between qualifications and their impact on wages and productivity at personal and national scales. At the regional scale, where skills are more mobile, the author argues that graduate skills have most impact on wages and productivity. It also draws out some possible implications for policy in the Northern Ireland context – including the importance of upskilling those with poor skills and improving Northern Ireland's attractiveness to graduates.

**Expected late Summer 2008**

**Salmon and Inland Fisheries Stakeholder Forum**

**For further information contact:**  
[kathleen.hyland@dcalni.gov.uk](mailto:kathleen.hyland@dcalni.gov.uk)

In light of the abolition of the Fishery Conservancy Board, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development carried out a consultation seeking the views of interested parties on the Department's proposals for the establishment of a new stakeholder forum. The Department hopes to publish its findings at the end of the summer 2008.

**September 2008**

**[Health & Social Care Workforce Census March 2007](#)**

**For further information contact:**  
Alison Dunwoody on 028 9052 2468  
or email:  
[workforcestatistics@dhsspsni.gov.uk](mailto:workforcestatistics@dhsspsni.gov.uk)

This publication analyses the make up of the Health & Social Care workforce in Northern Ireland, providing a specific profile of HSC workforce data by working group, specialism and locations.

**September 2008**

**Publication of the Continuous Household Survey Bulletin 2008**

**For further information contact:**  
[edel.birrane@dfpni.gov.uk](mailto:edel.birrane@dfpni.gov.uk) or  
telephone 028 9034 8209

A selection of tables from the 2008 Northern Ireland Continuous Household Survey (CHS) and, where appropriate, some indication of the changes that have taken place since the survey began in 1983. Data includes information such as housing characteristics, tenure, consumer durables, environmental issues, internet access, mobile phones, accidents at work, health, and smoking and drinking trends.

**04 September 2008**

**Northern Ireland Waiting Lists – June 2008**

**For further information contact:**  
[statistics@dhsspsni.gov.uk](mailto:statistics@dhsspsni.gov.uk)  
or check the [DHSSPS website](#)

Publication of data on the number of people waiting for inpatient treatment, a first outpatient assessment of a diagnostic service in Health and Social Care hospitals in Northern Ireland at 30 June 2008.

**September/October 2008**

The Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety plans to publish its Departmental

**Departmental Resource Accounts & Annual Report (2007/08)**

Resource Accounts and Annual Report for 2007/08.

For further information contact:  
[paula.shearer@dhsspsni.gov.uk](mailto:paula.shearer@dhsspsni.gov.uk)

**September/October 2008**

**Health & Personal Social Services (HPSS) Boards' Accounts 2007/08**

The Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety plans to publish the HPSS Board Accounts for 2007/08.

For further information contact:  
[paula.shearer@dhsspsni.gov.uk](mailto:paula.shearer@dhsspsni.gov.uk)

**Expected Sept/Oct 2008**

**An Analysis of UK Graduate Earnings**

For further information contact:  
[alan.ramsey@delni.gov.uk](mailto:alan.ramsey@delni.gov.uk)  
or telephone 028 9025 7755

This report sets out the extent and source of variation in UK graduate earnings. It focuses in particular on estimating the effect of factors such as degree subject, degree classification, and Institution attended, as well as a range of personal and social characteristics. It concludes that estimates of the average rate of return to a university degree are likely to conceal much variation about the average. The paper also offers an assessment of the extent of graduate deprivation and inequality in the UK.

**Autumn 2008**

**Research on workplace dispute resolution**

For further details contact:  
E-mail: [alan.scott@delni.gov.uk](mailto:alan.scott@delni.gov.uk)  
or telephone 028 9025 7531

An external consultant has been commissioned to carry out qualitative research into the factors which influence the outcome of workplace disputes over employment rights. The research seeks to ascertain attitudes towards the various options which exist throughout the dispute resolution process and the reasons why particular choices are made by parties at a given stage. The findings of the research, expected in October, will influence preparation for public consultation on systems for resolving workplace disputes.

**October 2008**

**[Health & Social Care \(HSC\) Workforce Key Facts Bulletin at September 2008](#)**

This is a quarterly overview of Human Resource Management System workforce data provided by the organisations within the Health Service.

For further information contact:  
Alison Dunwoody on 028 9052 2468  
or email:  
[workforcestatistics@dhsspsni.gov.uk](mailto:workforcestatistics@dhsspsni.gov.uk)

**October 2008**

**[Health & Social Care \(HSC\) Workforce Vacancy Report at March 2008](#)**

This is produced from a vacancy survey carried out on all staff groups within all of the Health & Social Care (HSC) organisations in Northern Ireland. The information is also available by Programme of Care.

**For further information contact:**  
**Alison Dunwoody on 028 9052 2468**  
**or email:**  
[workforcestatistics@dhsspsni.gov.uk](mailto:workforcestatistics@dhsspsni.gov.uk)

**November 2008**

**Departmental Response to  
Consultation on Proposals to  
Amend Trade Union Law**

The Department for Employment and Learning will publish its response to the Consultation on Amendments to Trade Union Law which closes on 30 Sept 2008.

**For further information contact:**  
[brian.patterson@delni.gov.uk](mailto:brian.patterson@delni.gov.uk)  
**or telephone 028 9025 7545**

**Early 2009**

**Research on Statutory Annual Leave  
Entitlement - additional two days**

KPMG have been commissioned to undertake research into the impact of increasing workers' statutory minimum leave entitlement. Findings should be available in early 2009, and will inform policy development in relation to any future variations that may be considered in this area.

**For further information contact:**  
[brian.patterson@delni.gov.uk](mailto:brian.patterson@delni.gov.uk)  
**tel: 028 9025 7545**





## new from research institutes and think tanks

### Summary

#### [The Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey](#)

The **Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey** was launched in October 1998. The survey puts on record the attitudes, values and beliefs of the people in Northern Ireland to a wide range of social policy issues. The results from the 2007 Survey are now available.

#### [What are today's social evils?](#) (PDF 110.58 KB)

According to this consultation on modern-day social evils from the **Joseph Rowntree Foundation**, people feel a deep sense of unease about some of the changes shaping British society.

#### [The Influence of Neighbourhood Deprivation on People's Attachment to Places](#)

This study from the **Joseph Rowntree Foundation** considers the factors that cause people to become attached to deprived neighbourhoods in England, and the things that prevent attachment from developing. In particular, it examines how social mix and high population turnover affect attachment.

#### [From poverty to prosperity: a national strategy to cut poverty in half](#) (PDF 8.11 MB)

This report from the US think tank **Center for American Progress (CAP)** examines the causes and consequences of poverty in the US and makes recommendations for national action. The report recommends some key steps to reduce poverty by half over the next ten years.

#### [Supporting older people in care homes at night](#)

This study from the **Joseph Rowntree Foundation** explores the night-time care experiences of residents, relatives and staff in three care homes in Scotland. It identifies good practice and suggests improvements through a series of interventions. These are used to make recommendations for care regulators, commissioners and providers, home managers and night-time care staff.

#### [ORB– Children's Database](#)

The Online **Research Bank** is a collection of searchable databases containing bibliographies and summaries of

**research** focused on the lives of adults and children in Northern Ireland. This database is sponsored by the [Children and Young People's Unit](#) in the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister in conjunction with Access Research Knowledge (ARK). The framework for the search categories is based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child ([UNCRC](#)).

### [Young Carers](#)

This Research Update (June 2008) uses data from the 2007 **Young Life and Times** (YLT) Survey to explore the extent, nature and effect of caring among young people in Northern Ireland.

### [Housing market recessions and sustainable home ownership](#)

Drawing on evidence from previous periods of instability, this study from the **Joseph Rowntree Foundation** reviews how the government might respond to housing market recessions in the short term, and what longer-term measures it might take to promote sustainability through the housing market cycle.

### [Housing policies for Scotland: challenges and changes](#)

This study from the **Joseph Rowntree Foundation** is a timely contribution to the debate on housing policy in Scotland started by the Scottish Government's Firm Foundations paper.

### [Youth Homelessness in the UK](#)

There have been significant policy developments across the UK to address youth homelessness in recent years, most particularly the extension of priority need groups and a new emphasis on the prevention of homelessness. This study from the **Joseph Rowntree Foundation**, the first UK-wide review of youth homelessness for a decade, explores whether these changes have been effective in tackling youth homelessness.

### [Housing and disabled children](#)

(Joseph Rowntree Foundation)

An overview of the housing circumstances of disabled children and their families.

### [Housing aspirations of white and second generation south Asian British women](#)

A review by the **Joseph Rowntree Foundation** of housing market mobility and aspirations among south Asian (Bangladeshi and Pakistani) and white British households in Bradford, Birmingham and Tower Hamlets.

### [Community engagement and community cohesion](#)

An exploration by the **Joseph Rowntree Foundation** of the challenges to be addressed if government policies to promote community engagement are to be genuinely inclusive of newcomers as well as more established communities.

[Designing citizen-centred governance](#)

The expansion in opportunities for citizen participation and of partnerships as a means of making policy and delivering services has created a wide range of different ways in which public services are governed. This can result in confusion about who is responsible for what and how people can get involved in decision making. This study from the **Joseph Rowntree Foundation** investigated different models of citizen-centred governance and the principles on which this is based.

[Evidence & Policy](#)  
[A journal of research, debate and practice](#)

This publication from **The Policy Press** is described as the first peer-reviewed journal dedicated to comprehensive and critical treatment of the relationship between research evidence and the concerns of policy makers and practitioners, as well as researchers. International in scope and interdisciplinary in focus, it addresses the needs of those who provide public services, and those who provide the research base for evaluation and development across a wide range of social and public policy issues – from social care to education, from public health to criminal justice. As well as more traditional research articles, the journal includes contemporary debate pieces, articles from practice and an invaluable sources and resources section.

[Breaking the Holding Pattern](#)  
[A new approach to aviation policy making in the UK](#)

In 2007 and early 2008, to inform its advice to Government, the **Sustainable Development Commission (SDC)**, with the **Institute for Public Policy Research**, ran a stakeholder assessment on aviation. This unlocked a range of views, from businesses, industry representatives, governments, academia, citizens' groups and NGOs. This report, published on 21 May 2008, presents their observations from the assessment, followed by their recommendations for Government.

[The Knowledge Economy Programme](#)

The knowledge economy is the story of how new technologies combine with human brainpower to transform the basis of economic activity. **The Work Foundation** is running a three year, £1.5 million research initiative to better understand the knowledge economy, the largest of its kind in Europe. It will finish in April 2009.

The Work Foundation's research looks at many issues surrounding the knowledge economy – spanning economic theory, occupational change, outsourcing, trade, globalisation, innovation, R&D and education and skills. The ultimate hope is to gain insight and better understanding as to how the way we work and the changing economy project into the social, corporate and political worlds.

### Thursday's Child

**(Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR))**

This report published in May 2008, takes account of tangible change in how policy on schools in England has emphasised the different objectives of the school system. Recent reforms have returned to the idea that schools have a wider role to fulfil than simply delivering on narrow measures of attainment – in equipping young people with the skills they need to achieve a version of success more broadly defined.

There has also been a shift from the idea prevalent in the 1980s that educational reform should mainly be about curriculum, assessment and accountability. There is now a recognition that focusing on these policy levers alone seriously undervalues the role of the teacher, which educational research shows has the biggest impact on learning in schools shifts as its starting point. It looks to the future of educational reform, underpinned by an understanding of the changing needs, goals and objectives of schools and sets out short- and long-term recommendations to address the barriers that prevent our school system from being world-class.

### Those who can?

**(Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR))**

This report, published in May 2008, considers the implications of trends for teaching in England. It also explores the central role that teachers play in pupil attainment and development.

Developments in technology and media have altered the way in which information is accessed, processed and shared by young people and have changed leisure and social experiences beyond recognition. Shifts in family formation, which began before the 1980s, have continued to alter the context in which schooling takes place.

### Private Spending on Healthcare

**(Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR))**

This report, published on 25 June 2008, attempts to address two key policy problems about healthcare finance in the UK:

1. The macro level problem. It looks at the role private health spending may play in meeting future healthcare spending demands.
2. The second problem concerns how the current contribution of private spending in the health economy could be improved.

### Just Care? A fresh approach to adult services

**(Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR))**

This paper outlines how a care system that is fair for those that need or give care could take shape. It starts from a central point: the state cannot support adults with care needs to maximise their independence without better supporting care within families and across communities. This requires looking at how the range of public services - not just adult social care - support adults, families and communities.'

[A Tale of Two Cities:  
Neighbourhood segregation by  
income in two urban case  
studies](#)

**(Institute of Public Policy  
Research (IPPR))**

Different national, regional and local processes can lead to income segregation at the neighbourhood level. Policy and economic drivers interact with the processes of income segregation at different spatial scales.

This research, published on 28 April 2008, focuses on the processes at the local level. In particular, it explores the relationship between a neighbourhood's income profile, and the housing market.

It highlights that it is now well understood that people living in deprived areas have poorer access to goods and services, frequently experience lower quality goods and services, and often have to pay more for these goods and services than those in better off areas. Evidence shows that living in an area of concentrated deprivation tends to exacerbate residents' problems, compromising health, educational outcomes and employment.

[Best Before:  
How the UK should respond to  
food policy challenges](#)

**(Institute of Public Policy  
Research (IPPR))**

This study points out that with rising food prices, concerns about environmental impacts of agricultural production and worrying levels of obesity, food has never been more topical. Ensuring a safe, affordable, sustainable and healthy supply of food is one of the most fundamental challenges facing policymakers in the UK and, indeed, around the world.

[Floodgates or turnstiles?  
Post-EU enlargement migration  
flows to \(and from\) the UK](#)

**(Institute of Public Policy  
Research (IPPR))**

To mark the fourth anniversary of the enlargement of the European Union in 2004, IPPR has undertaken a major study that aims to provide as definitive a picture of post-enlargement migration flows to and from the UK as possible. This report presents fresh evidence on the scale and nature of migration from the eight new Central and Eastern European countries that joined the EU in 2004 and, to a lesser extent, from Romania and Bulgaria, which joined in 2007.

The report is based on new analysis of a range of existing sources of data on migration flows. It also draws on the results of a specially commissioned survey, believed to be the first of its kind, of Poles who have recently returned from the UK to their home country. The report also draws on qualitative interviews with Polish migrants living in the UK.

[For Love or Money:  
Pay, progression and  
professionalisation in the 'early  
years' workforce](#)

**(Institute of Public Policy  
Research (IPPR))**

The first report from Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR) *Working out of Poverty* series, highlighted the significant and growing problem of poverty among working people and their families. The aim of this report, published on 2 April 2008, is to investigate how these issues play out in one particular low wage sector – the early years – highlighting both challenges that are common across low wage sectors and those that are distinctive to the early years.

[Widening Participation in Higher Education: analysis using linked administrative data](#)

**(Institute for Fiscal Studies)**

Higher education (HE) participation has expanded dramatically in England over the last half century; however, access to HE amongst particular groups of students remains a major policy concern. This report, published in June 2008, makes use of newly linked administrative data to understand more fully the determinants of participation in HE - and participation in high status universities - amongst those facing socio-economic disadvantage, those from poorly educated families and ethnic minorities. It is unique in being able to follow a particular cohort of children (all state school children in England in Year 11 in 2001-02) from age 11 right through to HE participation at age 18 (in 2004-05) or age 19 (in 2005-06).

The findings documented in this report show that while there are large gaps in HE participation rates by socio-economic status, these differences disappear once controls for prior attainment are included. This suggests that it is not barriers arising at the point of entry into HE (eg borrowing constraints) that are most problematic, but poor attainment in secondary schools. Indeed, if results can be improved between age 11 and age 16, those from poorer backgrounds are at least as likely to go on to university as their more advantaged peers. By contrast, most ethnic minority groups are now significantly more likely to participate in HE than their White British counterparts.

[Fair Shares? Barnett and the politics of public expenditure](#)

**Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR)**

The Barnett formula – the Treasury mechanism used to fund the devolved administrations (DAs) in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland – is now the subject of widespread political debate across the four nations of the UK.

In particular this report indicates that there are growing concerns that the current disparities in funding across the UK are not fair and that this is creating a tension between the four nations, especially between England and Scotland, which could serve to undermine the Union unless addressed.





## **newly announced policies and strategies**

### **Summary**

**19 July 2008**

#### **A Migrant Workers Strategy for Northern Ireland**

**For further information contact:**  
[jim.walker@delni.gov.uk](mailto:jim.walker@delni.gov.uk)

The purpose of this strategy is to ensure that, within the context of UK immigration and migration policy, Northern Ireland Government departments and relevant statutory and non-state bodies ensure that the employment related needs of migrant workers and those who employ and advise them are met effectively through provision of appropriate information and advice, and by ensuring that associated state and non-state services and systems are effective, complementary and fit for purpose.

**Ongoing**

#### **Review of Community Relations Policy**

**For further information contact:**  
[elaine.mcfeters@deni.gov.uk](mailto:elaine.mcfeters@deni.gov.uk)  
or telephone 028 9127 9589

A review of the current community relations policy is underway in the Department of Education. It takes into account the introduction of the citizenship element of the curriculum and the key drivers affecting the education system in relation to enhanced collaboration. The Review of Community Relations Working Group has been established and first meeting was held on 3 June 2008. At this meeting the Terms of Reference and Project Initiation Document were agreed.

**Ongoing**

#### **Review of 'Priorities for Youth'**

**For further information contact:**  
[oliver.mckearney@deni.gov.uk](mailto:oliver.mckearney@deni.gov.uk)  
or telephone 028 9127 9518

A process has begun to develop Priorities for Youth which builds on the current Strategy for the Delivery of Youth Work in NI 2005-2008. The Priorities for Youth review has been initiated and three questionnaires have been issued to three groups (children and young people, youth workers, leaders and volunteers and managers in youth or relevant children's services). The questionnaires have to be returned by 30 September 2008 and the findings from the questionnaires will be discussed in a series of focus groups. This will be followed by a formal consultation process.





## conferences and seminars coming up

### Summary

**September/November/December 2008**

**Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) Seminars (Details to be arranged)**

Further information will be published on the [DFP website](#) or contact: [info.epb@dfpni.gov.uk](mailto:info.epb@dfpni.gov.uk)

These seminars will promote the second and third phase of the implementation of the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) Regulations (NI) 2008.

**3-5 September 2008**

**Venue: Queen's University, Belfast**

**REE (Roundtable for Entrepreneurship Education) Conference**

For further information contact: [oonagh.hinds@investni.com](mailto:oonagh.hinds@investni.com)

The target audience are members of the entrepreneurial community ie educators, researchers, advisers, policy-makers, funders and companies of all sizes who want to discover what is new in applied entrepreneurship and how other countries are involving a consortia of universities and industry to work together to increase economic prosperity.

The conference will provide an opportunity for NI to make useful international connections throughout Europe and the world, providing opportunities for business development and sales.

**11 September 2008 - 11.00-13.00**

**[Company visit to Forensic Science NI, Carrickfergus](#)**

For further information contact: [lorraine.corry@iod.com](mailto:lorraine.corry@iod.com)

Company visit to learn about the services that Forensic Science NI can provide to business

**Second Week in September 2008 (venues to be confirmed)**

**Cardiovascular Health and Wellbeing consultation workshops**

**For further information contact:**  
[john.maguire@dhsspsni.gov.uk](mailto:john.maguire@dhsspsni.gov.uk)

A number of workshops are to be held in the second week of September to assist people in responding to the consultation document on cardiovascular health & wellbeing.

**12 September 2008**

**Northern Ireland Best Practice Scheme Seminar – Focusing on Service Users**

**For further information contact:**  
[stephen.girvan@dfpni.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.girvan@dfpni.gov.uk) or go to the [Best Practice website](#)

The Northern Ireland Housing Executive will host a learning activity as part of the Northern Ireland Best Practice Scheme.

**18 September 2008**

**Northern Ireland Best Practice Scheme Seminar – Effective ICT & partnerships promoting learning**

**For further information contact:**  
[stephen.girvan@dfpni.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.girvan@dfpni.gov.uk) or go to the [Best Practice website](#)

Belfast Model School for Girls will host a learning activity as part of the Northern Ireland Best Practice Scheme.

**18 September 2008**

**Northern Ireland Best Practice Scheme Seminar – Developing and managing processes**

**For further information contact:**  
[stephen.girvan@dfpni.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.girvan@dfpni.gov.uk) or go to the [Best Practice website](#)

The Cedar Foundation will host a learning activity as part of the Northern Ireland Best Practice Scheme.

**29 September 2008**

**Northern Ireland Best Practice Scheme Seminar – Developing innovative procurement practices**

**For further information contact:**  
[stephen.girvan@dfpni.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.girvan@dfpni.gov.uk) or go to the [Best Practice website](#)

Roads Service will host a learning activity as part of the Northern Ireland Best Practice Scheme.

**2 October 2008**

**Northern Ireland Best Practice Scheme Seminar – Innovation in problem solving and developing communication strategies**

For further information contact:  
[stephen.girvan@dfpni.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.girvan@dfpni.gov.uk) or go to the [Best Practice website](#)

Belfast City Council will host a learning activity as part of the Northern Ireland Best Practice Scheme.

**9 October 2008**

**Venue: Millennium Forum, Londonderry**

**All Island Skills Conference 2008**

For further information contact:  
[sian.mccleave@delni.gov.uk](mailto:sian.mccleave@delni.gov.uk)

For the first time, the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs and the Northern Ireland Skills Expert Group will host an All Island Skills Conference.

This event will take place on Thursday 9 October in the City of Derry's Millennium Forum. The conference will focus on the all island demand for skills and will explore examples of best practice from border regions both locally and further afield.

**9-10 October 2008**

**[9th International Health Impact Assessment \(HIA\) Conference](#) (PDF 39.13 KB)**

**Venue: Liverpool Marriott City Centre Hotel**

This Conference will provide an international forum to debate and discuss a wide range of perspectives in Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and to explore the role of HIA across a range of sectors.

**10 October 2008**

**Northern Ireland Best Practice Scheme Seminar – Developing effective communication using IT**

For further information contact:  
[stephen.girvan@dfpni.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.girvan@dfpni.gov.uk) or go to the [Best Practice website](#)

North Eastern Education and Library Board will host a learning activity as part of the Northern Ireland Best Practice Scheme.

**16 October 2008**

**Northern Ireland Best Practice Scheme Seminar – Involving users**

For further information contact:  
[stephen.girvan@dfpni.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.girvan@dfpni.gov.uk) or go to the [Best Practice website](#)

BIH Housing Association will host a learning activity as part of the Northern Ireland Best Practice Scheme.

**16 October 2008 - 07.45-09.00**

Seminar on getting the most out of networking.

**Venue: Institute of Directors, Belfast**

**[How to network](#)**

**For further information contact:  
[lorraine.corry@iod.com](mailto:lorraine.corry@iod.com)**

**3-5 November 2008**

**Venue: Europa Hotel, Belfast**

**Institute of Small Business and  
Entrepreneurship (ISBE) Annual  
Conference**

The Institute of Small Business and Entrepreneurship (ISBE) is the leading UK network for individuals and organisations involved with SME research, entrepreneurship education and policy development. The conference theme is promoting excellence in education, research and practice.

**For further information contact:  
[alan.morrow@investni.com](mailto:alan.morrow@investni.com)**

**4-6 November 2008**

**Venue: Europa Hotel, Belfast**

**International Small Business Congress  
(ISBC)**

The International Small Business Congress (ISBC) will run in conjunction with ISBE and brings together trade associations, governments and business support organisations. ISBC is an international event with representatives from over 60 countries and a global reach.

**For further information contact:  
[alan.morrow@investni.com](mailto:alan.morrow@investni.com)**

**7 November 2008 - 12.15-14.15**

Lunch with Speaker Ian Smith MD Oracle UK

**Venue: Belfast Hilton**

**[IoD Annual Lunch](#)**

**For further information contact:  
[lorraine.corry@iod.com](mailto:lorraine.corry@iod.com)**

**19 November 2008**

**Northern Ireland Best Practice Scheme  
Seminar – Joined-up government /  
developing services**

NI Direct will host a learning activity as part of the Northern Ireland Best Practice Scheme.

**For further information contact:  
[stephen.girvan@dfpni.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.girvan@dfpni.gov.uk) or go to the  
[Best Practice website](#)**

**20 November 2008 - 12.30-14.15**

Lunch with Speaker Andrew Sentence, Bank of  
England Monetary Policy

**Venue: City Hotel Derry**

**[Institute of Directors \(IoD\) Bank of  
England Lunch](#)**

**For further information contact:  
[lorraine.corry@iod.com](mailto:lorraine.corry@iod.com)**





## current consultations

### Consultation period

### Summary

**23 May 2008 – 8 September 2008**

Consultation on "[Learning to Drive](#)"

For further information contact:  
[emma.rodny@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:emma.rodny@doeni.gov.uk)  
Or telephone 028 9054 0661

Department for Transport has issued a consultation document in GB on proposals to reform the way people learn to drive and the way they are tested. These include:

- an improved driving test;
- an improved learning process;
- better information about driving instructors and improved instructor training; and
- further options for learning and qualifications.

The Department has issued a letter to a wide range of interests in NI announcing the DfT consultation and seeking their comments

**Consultation closes 16 September 2008**

[Rating Policy - Consultation on a rates deferment scheme for home owning pensioners](#) (PDF 307.55KB)

As part of the Executive Review of the domestic rating system it was agreed that a scheme should be introduced for home owning pensioners to allow them to defer rates payments, should they meet certain criteria. Consultation on the detailed policy proposals and initial impact assessments is currently underway.

**Consultation closes 19 September 2008**

[Rating Policy – Consultation on data sharing](#) (PDF 154.78KB)

Views are being sought on proposals to improve data sharing, for rating purposes, between the relevant delivery agents. This is intended to target those most likely to qualify for lone pensioner allowance, disabled person's allowance and rate relief and improve levels of take up.

**Consultation closes 26 September 2008**

[Rating Policy – Consultation on green rebates](#) (PDF 135.34KB)

A final element of the Executive's Review, currently subject to consultation, is proposals to introduce rate rebates for those householders who carry out loft and cavity wall insulation to make their homes more energy efficient. It is also proposed to provide a

'rates holiday' for a few years to the first purchasers of zero carbon rated homes.

**2 June 2008 – 30 September 2008**

**[Consultation on Proposals to Amend Trade Union Law](#)**

**For further information contact:**  
**[brian.patterson@delni.gov.uk](mailto:brian.patterson@delni.gov.uk)**  
**or telephone 028 9025 7545**

Judgement of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of ASLEF-V-UK. In relation to GB law, the Court decided that trade unions must be given greater autonomy to decide whether the political party membership of individuals should debar them from belonging to the union. Article 38 of the 1995 Order will require amendment in light of this decision. The document will also address a range of minor miscellaneous employment law changes.

**2 June 2008 – 30 September 2008**

**[Employment Agencies and Employment Businesses: Proposed Changes to Investigation Powers and Penalty Regime](#)**

**For further information contact:**  
**[andrew.dawson@delni.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.dawson@delni.gov.uk)**  
**or telephone 028 9025 7536**

This consultation document contains proposals to:

- allow for serious offences under employment agency law to be triable either in the Magistrate's Court (as at present) or the Crown Court, thereby allowing the award of increased fines and the creation of "attempted" offences; and
- provide the Department for Employment and Learning with a power to compel third parties, such as banks, to produce financial information about agencies for investigation purposes.

**10 June 2008 - 2 September 2008**

**[Consultation on the Scrapie Monitoring \(Fees\) Regulations 2008](#)**

**For further information contact:**  
**[thomas.craig@dardni.gov.uk](mailto:thomas.craig@dardni.gov.uk)**

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development will be consulting on new fees regulations associated with the operation of the Scrapie Monitored Flock Scheme. The proposed new Regulations will give the Department the powers to charge fees at an appropriate level on the basis of certain criteria to recover operating costs of the Scheme.

**13 June 2008 to 4 September 2008**

**[DARD Draft Evidence and Innovation Strategy \(2008-2013\)](#)**

This Strategy provides the over-arching framework for all DARD-funded research and development. It identifies the research required to provide the evidence base for DARD policy development and delivery and represents our contribution to the promotion of innovation as outlined in the Regional Innovation Strategy Action Plan (2008-2011).

**13 June 2008 – 12 September 2008**

**[Proposed Changes to the Capitation Formula](#)**

**For further information contact:**  
**Paul Skillen (telephone 028 9052 0223) or email:**  
**[capitation.consultation@dhsspsni.gov.uk](mailto:capitation.consultation@dhsspsni.gov.uk)**

The Regional Capitation Formula is a statistical tool that is used by DHSSPS to inform the allocation of financial resources in Health and Social Care. A public consultation is taking place on improvements that are being recommended to the way in which the formula assesses the need for Acute Services and Elderly Care.

- 17 June 2008 – 30 September 2008** [Service Framework for Cardiovascular Health and Wellbeing](#)  
The Cardiovascular Health and Wellbeing Service Framework will set out, at high level, the type of service that patients and users should expect, and will specify Northern Ireland standards and supporting actions - linked to recognised good practice guidance. It will promote and secure better integration of service delivery along the whole pathway of care from prevention of disease/ill health to diagnosis/treatment and rehabilitation, and on to end of life care.
- 20 June 2008- 9 September 2008** [UK wide consultation on REACH \(Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals\) Regulation](#)  
The REACH regulation aims to address a number of issues, mainly lack of available information on risks to human health and the environment for the majority of chemical substances on the EU market and the inefficiency of the current system. The UK is required to have an enforcement and penalties regime in place by December 2008. The proposed enforcement authorities in NI will be the HSENI in respect of supply and retail of chemical substances and DOE (EHS) in respect of use of chemical substances and environmental protection.  
For further information contact: [barry.mcauley@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:barry.mcauley@doeni.gov.uk) or telephone 028 9054 4586
- 25 June 2008 – 5 September 2008** [Consultation on legislative proposals arising from the Common Agricultural Policy \(CAP\) Health Check reform.](#)  
The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is seeking the views of stakeholders on the legislative proposals that have emerged from the CAP 'Health Check'. These proposals include simplification of the Single Farm Payment (SFP) Scheme, modulation, further decoupling across the EU, phasing out of milk quotas and abolition of set-aside. Options to make changes to the model of decoupling have also been proposed. Responses to this consultation will be used to inform the Department's position in relation to the EU negotiations on the Health Check which are expected to conclude in October or November 2008.  
For further information contact: [seamus.mcerlean@dardni.gov.uk](mailto:seamus.mcerlean@dardni.gov.uk)
- 26 June 2008 - 26 September 2008** [Draft UK Renewable Energy Strategy \(PDF 2.09 MB\)](#)  
This is a UK wide consultation by Dept of Business Enterprise & Regulatory Reform on the draft UK Renewable Energy Strategy.
- 30 June 2008 – 26 September 2008** [UK-wide consultation on the Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance](#)  
This revised guidance provides local authorities and district councils with the technical guidance to enable them to carry out their statutory duties with regard to the review and assessment of local air quality.  
For further information contact: [dan.kennedy@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:dan.kennedy@doeni.gov.uk) or telephone 028 9054 4523

**4 July 2008 – 26 September 2008**

**[Consultation on the revised TSE \(Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies\) Regulations \(NI\) 2008](#)**

**For further information contact:**  
**[andrew.kell@dardni.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.kell@dardni.gov.uk)** or  
**telephone 028 9052 4730**

These regulations provide implementation powers to the Department in relation to Commission Regulation 999/2001 on the prevention, control and eradication of certain Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (e.g. BSE and scrapie). The new Regulations will be updated to take account of EU developments on TSEs.

**5 July 2008 – 5 September 2008**

**[Public Consultation on the Draft Equality Impact Assessment \(EQIA\) for the Roll-out of DARD Direct](#)**

This Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) has been compiled for discussion as part of a public consultation exercise with stakeholders, public representatives, groups and individuals on the proposals to roll-out DARD Direct. It considers the implications for staff and customers of having farmer focused services provided from a proposed 10 strategic locations and makes recommendations for mitigations that need to be considered.

**Mid July 2008-October 2008**

**Public use of the Records (Management and Fees) Rules (Northern Ireland)**

**For further information contact:**  
**[sandra.ireland@dcalni.gov.uk](mailto:sandra.ireland@dcalni.gov.uk)**

This is a review of existing legislation relevant to the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland and seeks the views of interested parties on new charging proposals.

**28 July – 20 October 2008**

**Consultation on Responsibility and Cost Sharing Proposals for Animal Health and Welfare**

**For further information contact:**  
**[philip.gilmore@dardni.gov.uk](mailto:philip.gilmore@dardni.gov.uk)** or  
**telephone 028 9076 5851**

The consultation sets out a vision for responsibility sharing through a partnership between government and industry and seeks views on a long term strategy for cost sharing. It makes specific proposals to share costs of some BSE and Scrapie controls. The aim of responsibility and cost sharing is to achieve a new partnership between industry and government which delivers a lasting and continuous improvement in the health and welfare of kept animals whilst protecting the general public, the economy and the environment from the effects of animal disease. Responsibility and cost sharing will reshape the existing relationship between government and industry, simplify regulatory burdens and share the responsibility and costs of animal health and welfare policy and delivery more equitably.





## forthcoming consultations

Consultation start date/period

Summary

**Anticipated consultation start date is late August (subject to ministerial consent).**

**Review of Entertainment Licensing Fees**

**For further information contact:**  
[brenda.mooney@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:brenda.mooney@doeni.gov.uk)

Entertainment Licensing Fees were last reviewed in 1995. When introducing fees, the objective is generally to recover the total cost of carrying out a function or providing a service, thus ensuring value for money. District councils are currently not recovering the cost of administering the system for entertainment licences. Following the outcome of a review by an Entertainment Licensing Fees Working Group, consisting of members of the Licensing Forum Northern Ireland and Department of the Environment officials, consultation will now take place on a revised entertainment licensing fee structure.

**Estimated August 2008 – Subject to the agreement of the Executive**

**Consultation on Draft Planning Policy Statement 14: Sustainable Development in the Countryside**

**For further information contact:**  
[john.linden@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:john.linden@doeni.gov.uk) or  
telephone: 028 9025 7363

Draft planning policy based on the principles of sustainability which will support rural communities and allow the rural economy to flourish, both socially and economically, whilst at the same time protecting the countryside from unnecessary development.

**Anticipated consultation period:**  
**August – October 2008**

**Consultation on driver training, testing and licensing**

**For further details contact:**  
[emma.rodgy@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:emma.rodgy@doeni.gov.uk)  
or telephone 028 9054 0661

As part of the review of driver training, testing and licensing in Northern Ireland, including the future direction of the “L” and “R” driver schemes, the Department will issue a consultation document seeking views on proposed changes.

**Proposed consultation dates:** August – November 2008  
**Consultation on proposals for amendments to waste management licensing exemptions relating to hazardous waste.**

This consultation seeks comments on proposed changes to the regime of waste management licensing exemptions in Northern Ireland, in order to achieve compliance with the Hazardous Waste Directive.

**For further information contact:**  
[wendy.cooke@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:wendy.cooke@doeni.gov.uk)  
or telephone: 028 9054 4513

**Estimated start date:** August 2008  
**Consultation on Gas Licence Criteria**

Consultation on the criteria which will be used by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment and the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation to decide on the issuing of a gas licence.

**For further information contact:**  
[fred.fraser@detini.gov.uk](mailto:fred.fraser@detini.gov.uk) or check the [DETI website](#).

**Estimated start date:** August 2008  
**Consultation on provisions for a Natural Gas Supplier of Last Resort**

Consultation on Regulations to amend the Gas (NI) Order 1996 to make provisions for appointment of a supplier of last resort for natural gas in the event of gas supply company failure.

**For further information contact:**  
[fred.fraser@detini.gov.uk](mailto:fred.fraser@detini.gov.uk) or check the [DETI website](#)

**August 2008 – November 2008**  
**Statutory Consultation on the Reform of the NI Renewables Obligation Order**

**For further information contact:**  
[malachy.mckernan@detini.gov.uk](mailto:malachy.mckernan@detini.gov.uk)

**August 2008**  
**Review of Support Arrangements for Less Favoured Areas (LFA)**

Review of the rationale for the provision of support within Less Favoured Areas, to determine whether the current LFA Scheme meets the identified needs and represents value for money, and to present options for the future of LFA support.

**For further information contact:**  
[policy.development@dardni.gov.uk](mailto:policy.development@dardni.gov.uk)

**Aim to consult between August and October 2008**  
**Regulation of vocational qualifications in NI**

There are currently many developments in the area of vocational qualifications, notably the proposed establishment of a Qualifications and Credit Framework. This consultation will seek views on a proposed way forward.

**For further information contact:**  
[marian.cree@delni.gov.uk](mailto:marian.cree@delni.gov.uk)

**Estimated start date August 2008**

**Consultation on defining the role of Rural Champion and enhancement of the Rural Proofing process**

**For further information contact:**  
[zita.murphy@dardni.gov.uk](mailto:zita.murphy@dardni.gov.uk) or  
telephone 028 9037 8511

The role of Rural Champion is about creating a collective approach to championing rural issues inside and outside government. This consultation will look at options for sharing this responsibility and will propose roles for Rural Champion such as how to advocate and advise on rural issues, how to embed rural issues into policy making across Government, and how to listen better to the needs of rural communities. The consultation will also propose mechanisms for an enhanced rural proofing process so that the rural dimension becomes an integral part of the making and implementation of policy.

**Estimated start date: September 2008**

**Consultation on action planning for environmental noise**

**For further information contact:**  
[stephen.kerr@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.kerr@doeni.gov.uk)  
or telephone 028 9054 4565

The Department is required to produce action plans for industrial noise and the urban area of Belfast under the Environmental Noise Regulations (NI) 2006.

**Anticipated September/October 2008**

**Transposition of the Groundwater Daughter Directive – 2006/118/EC**

**For further details contact:**  
[michelle.hull@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:michelle.hull@doeni.gov.uk)

The Groundwater Daughter Directive (GWDD) is a 'daughter' Directive to the Water Framework Directive (WFD). Its aim is to clarify objectives for groundwater quality in the WFD. The three key requirements of the GWDD are to establish criteria for the assessment of good chemical status, for identifying and reversing upward trends in pollution and to establish measures to prevent or limit discharges to groundwater. Member States have until 16 January 2009 to transpose the GWDD.

**Estimated start date: September 2008**

**NI Consultation on The Local Air Quality Management Policy Guidance**

**For further information contact:**  
[dan.kennedy@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:dan.kennedy@doeni.gov.uk)  
or telephone 028 9054 4523

This revised guidance provides district councils with the policy guidance to enable them to carry out their statutory duties with regard to review and assessment of local air quality.

**Estimated start date: September –** The draft Regulations prescribe offences and

**November 2008**

**Consultation on the draft  
Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases  
Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008**

**For further information contact:**  
[roger.irwin@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:roger.irwin@doeni.gov.uk) or  
telephone 028 9054 4515

penalties applicable to infringements of EC Regulation No 842/2006 on certain fluorinated greenhouse gases (F gases) together with proposed powers for authorised persons to enforce these Regulations.

The EC Regulation aims to restrict the use of F gases, because they have a particularly high Greenhouse Warming Potential.

**Mid – late September 2008**

**Draft Equality Impact Assessment  
on DETI telecommunications  
projects**

**For further information contact:**  
[bill.stevenson@detini.gov.uk](mailto:bill.stevenson@detini.gov.uk)

The draft Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) will explore the potential equality impacts of the implementation of four separate telecommunications projects being implemented by the Telecoms Policy Unit of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment. The EQIA will consider the implications of the rollout of next generation broadband services, the establishment of a direct international telecommunications channel and two broadband stimulation projects targeting SMEs, making recommendations for mitigations that may need to be considered.

**Estimated start date Sept/Oct 2008**

**It is proposed to consult on the  
Seed Potatoes Regulations (NI) 2009**

**It is proposed to consult on the  
Wine Regulations (NI) 2008**

**For further information contact:**  
[renee.mcdowell@dardni.gov.uk](mailto:renee.mcdowell@dardni.gov.uk)  
or telephone 028 9052 0855

To implement the Conservation Varieties Directive 2008/62/EC and some local amendments.

To consolidate the 2001 principal Regulations with the updates made from 2003 to 2007.

**Anticipated consultation period:  
September – December 2008**

**Consultation on the implementing  
detail of Graduated Fixed Penalty  
and Deposit Schemes**

**For further information contact:**  
[iain.cleland@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:iain.cleland@doeni.gov.uk)  
or telephone 028 9054 0608

Under current arrangements for road traffic and roadworthiness offences, penalties are not related to the severity of the offence. However, under the new powers it will be possible to graduate penalties, so that they reflect the level of offending, and to collect deposits from those offenders who do not have a UK address suitable for later proceedings. In addition the Driver and Vehicle Agency (DVA) will be empowered to issue fixed penalty notices in respect of many of the offences they are charged with enforcing.

**Anticipated consultation period:  
September – December 2008 -  
subject to progress in GB**

**Consultation on the implementing**

The scheme will make it possible to prosecute for having control of an uninsured vehicle without first having to detect the person using it on a road. The primary legislation – the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 2007 – is already in place.

**detail of a scheme of continuous enforcement of motor insurance requirements from the record**

**For further information contact:**  
[emma.rodgy@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:emma.rodgy@doeni.gov.uk)  
or telephone 028 9054 0661

**Planned for September – December 2008**

**Consultation on regulations requiring new signage and lighting on school buses.**

**For further information contact:**  
[enda.mccrory@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:enda.mccrory@doeni.gov.uk)

**Estimated start date: October 2008**

**Consultation on draft policy proposals from the Review of Special Educational Needs (SEN) & Inclusion.**

**For further information contact:**  
[donna.reid@deni.gov.uk](mailto:donna.reid@deni.gov.uk)

All school buses will be required to fit an illuminated 'schoolchild' sign and flashing amber lighting to be used when children are getting on and off.

The Department of Education will be consulting on the draft policy proposals which have emerged from the Review of Special Educational Needs (SEN) & Inclusion.

From a high level perspective the draft policy proposals which emerge from the review are designed to ensure that :

1. Access to assessment and provision for children who face barriers to learning is consistent across Northern Ireland;
2. All teachers receive appropriate training to help with general issues relating to SEN;
3. Each school promotes the inclusion of all children.

**Estimated start date: 31 October 2008**

**Transposition of the Environmental Liability Directive – Draft Regulations and Guidance**

**For further details contact:**  
[jennifer.stewart@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:jennifer.stewart@doeni.gov.uk) or  
telephone 028 9025 7390

The Environmental Liability Directive is intended to provide a regime for the prevention and remediation of significant environmental damage through the 'polluter pays' principle and in line with the principles of sustainable development. These Regulations will transpose the Directive into Northern Ireland legislation and the associated guidance will assist enforcing authorities to apply the Regulations.

**Anticipated consultation period:**  
**Late October 2008 – January 2009**

This consultation paper on the reform of the planning system in Northern Ireland considers a series of improvements in the planning system so

**Consultation on reform of the planning system in Northern Ireland.**

**For further information contact:**  
[planning.reform@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:planning.reform@doeni.gov.uk)

that it supports the future economic and social development needs of Northern Ireland and manages development in a sustainable way, particularly with regard to large, complex or strategic developments: it is delivered at the right level with the appropriate managed processes for regionally significant, major and local applications: has streamlined processes that are effective, efficient and improve the predictability and quality of service delivery: and allows for full and open consultation and engages communities.

**Anticipated consultation period:**  
**October/November 2008 –**  
**January/February 2009**

**Consultation on draft seizure regulations**

**For further information contact:**  
[donald.starritt@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:donald.starritt@doeni.gov.uk)  
or telephone: 028 9054 4511

The Department of the Environment will be consulting on draft regulations which would permit an authorised officer of the Department to seize a vehicle, suspected of involvement in illegal waste activity, without a court warrant.

**November 2008**

**[Service Framework for Respiratory Health and Wellbeing](#)**

The Respiratory Health and Wellbeing Service Framework will set out, the type of service that patients and users should expect, and will specify Northern Ireland standards and supporting actions - linked to recognised good practice guidance. It will promote and secure better integration of service delivery along the whole pathway of care from prevention of disease/ill health to diagnosis/treatment and rehabilitation, and on to end of life care.

**Start date: November/December 2008**

**Review of dispute resolution at work: public consultation**

**For more information contact:**  
[alan.scott@delni.gov.uk](mailto:alan.scott@delni.gov.uk) or  
telephone 028 9025 7531

Consultation is expected to begin in November or December on possible options for change to systems for resolving workplace employment rights disputes. The content of the consultation will be determined with the assistance of key stakeholders through discussion during the months prior to publication and will also be influenced by the findings of associated research. The consultation is likely to address such issues as: the future of statutory employment dispute resolution procedures; the role and powers of employment related-tribunals; the role and powers of the Labour Relations Agency; and possible scope for increased use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) techniques.

**Estimated start date: November**

Proposed amendments to the Public Service

**2008**

**Proposals for licensing of American Style Stretched Limousines**

Vehicles Regulations (NI) 1985 to introduce revised licensing requirements for American Style Stretch Limousines.

**For further information contact:**  
[adele.willis@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:adele.willis@doeni.gov.uk)

**Estimated start date:**  
**November/December 2008**

DETI is in the lead on drafting a refreshed social economy strategy with actions by key stakeholders designed to increase awareness of the sector, develop its business strength and provide a supportive environment in which it can prosper.

**8-12 week consultation on a new strategy for “Developing the Social Economy in Northern Ireland” (working title)**

**For further information contact:**  
[anne-marie.davison@detini.gov.uk](mailto:anne-marie.davison@detini.gov.uk)

**Estimated start date: September 2008**

This consultation will seek views on Article 13 of the Energy End Use Efficiency and Energy Services Directive which looks at improved energy billing and metering, including the use of smart meters in Northern Ireland.

**Consultation on Article 13 of the Energy End Use Efficiency and Energy Services Directive – Smart Metering.**

**For further information contact:**  
[alison.clydesdale@detini.gov.uk](mailto:alison.clydesdale@detini.gov.uk)





## policy reviews coming up

### Summary

#### Ongoing

**Rating Policy - further review and evaluation of the rate relief scheme for those in full time education and training, young people leaving care and persons under the age of 18.**

For further information check the [DFP Website](#)

The Executive has agreed that a further review should be undertaken, including consultation and evaluation, in relation to the rate relief scheme for those in full-time education and training, young people leaving care and persons under the age of 18. The further evaluation work, along with a targeted consultation exercise, is currently being taken forward by FGS McClure Watters who are due to report back on their findings in September 2008.

#### Ongoing

**Rating Policy – Small Business Rate Relief Scheme**

For further information check the [DFP Website](#)

The Economic Research Institute of Northern Ireland carried out a review in March 2008 to consider the rationale for introducing a small business rate relief scheme for Northern Ireland. The Minister is considering the Review findings and will make decisions soon on what type of scheme, if any, is needed.

#### February 2008

**ICT Strategy Review**

For further information contact: [joe.reynolds@deni.gov.uk](mailto:joe.reynolds@deni.gov.uk)

To review the impact of ICT in schools and to review targets for educational outcomes. It is expected that the Education and Skills Authority (ESA) and schools will deliver enhanced educational outcomes for pupils as a result of the review.

#### October 2008

**Evaluation of The Walled City Project (Phase 1)**

For further information contact: [alistair.pyper@detini.gov.uk](mailto:alistair.pyper@detini.gov.uk)

The Walled City is one of the five signature projects in the 'Tourism in Northern Ireland – A Strategic Framework for Action'. The project seeks to enhance the tourism potential of the city and allow it to meet visitor expectations as a unique, inspirational and stand-alone destination within Northern Ireland. The evaluation is part of the DETI evaluation programme

for 2008-09 and will cover phase 1 of the project which has just been completed.

**October 2008**

**Evaluation of The Causeway Coast Tourism Masterplan**

**For further information contact:**  
[alistair.pyper@detini.gov.uk](mailto:alistair.pyper@detini.gov.uk)

The Masterplan was commissioned in order to spread the benefits of visitors attracted by the Giant's Causeway to a wider geographic area. The Masterplan 2004 - 2013 was launched on 7 April 2004 and covers the Ballymena, Ballymoney, Carrickfergus, Coleraine, Larne, Limavady, Moyle and Newtownabbey district council areas. The evaluation will seek to assess the progress made against the objectives of the Masterplan with a view to informing future policy and delivery within the wider context of tourism development in Northern Ireland.

**November 2008**

**Evaluation of the Crescent Capital Venture Capital Fund**

**For further information contact:**  
[richard.molyneaux@investni.com](mailto:richard.molyneaux@investni.com)

An evaluation of the Crescent Capital Venture Capital Fund will be undertaken to assess the impact on the Northern Ireland economy. The Fund was established in the 1990s when the UK Government recognised the potential benefits of developing a vibrant venture capital market across the UK, and it was accepted that public sector intervention would be required to attract venture capitalists away from the highly lucrative areas around London and SE England.

**Autumn 2008**

**Issues Paper on Review of the Regional Transportation Strategy (RTS)**

**For further information contact:**  
[gregor.kerr@drdni.gov.uk](mailto:gregor.kerr@drdni.gov.uk)

The Regional Transportation Strategy (RTS) 2002-2012 contained a commitment to undertake a review.

The review will take into account, inter alia:

- The rate of implementation;
- Its effectiveness;
- Transport budgets secured; and
- Changes in the wider environment.

The issues paper will seek to elicit the views of stakeholders on the scope of the RTS Review.





## summary of key past events

### Summary

#### **Energy Performance of Buildings - Seminars:**

**4 Apr & 22 May – Ballymena**  
**3 June – Limavady**  
**6 June – Omagh**  
**9 June – Armagh**  
**10 June – Templepatrick**  
**11 June – Newcastle**  
**26 June – Belfast**

A total of 8 seminars have been held across Northern Ireland between April and June 2008 to promote the requirements of the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) Regulations (NI) 2008. In total approx. 1200 delegates have attended.

Further information can be obtained from the [DFP website](#)

**22 April 2008**

[ESRC: Sub-Sectoral Productivity in Northern Ireland](#) (PDF 2.04 MB)

DETI recently co-hosted a public policy seminar on 'sub-sectoral productivity in Northern Ireland' along with the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). It addressed a number of issues including: how NI's productivity performance compares with the UK, EU and US; the differences in labour productivity by sector; and policy directions for how productivity can be improved.

**4 June 2008 & 13 June 2008**

**Launch of Agri-environment Measure 2.2**

**For further information contact:**  
[cmbenquiries@dardni.gov.uk](mailto:cmbenquiries@dardni.gov.uk) or  
**telephone Countryside Management Branch on 028 8675 75097**

The Minister for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development hosted an event in County Down to launch the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme (NIRDP) Measure 2.2. Dates were announced for the opening dates of the NI Countryside Management Scheme (NICMS) and the Organic Farming Scheme (OFS). The event was attended by farmers, industry representatives, EU Commission officials, Government and non-government organisations. NICMS opens to applications from 30 June to 29 August 2008. OFS opens from 1 September to 31 October 2008.

The Minister also hosted a similar event to further promote NICMS and OFS in Fermanagh on 13 June

2008.

**11 June 2008**

**Institute of Rating Revenue and  
Valuation/NILGA Conference**

**For more information contact:**

**[Fraser.Macpherson@irrv.org.uk](mailto:Fraser.Macpherson@irrv.org.uk)  
or visit [IRRV Website](#) or visit [NILGA  
Website](#)**

The annual conference of the Institute of Rating, Revenue and Valuation (IRRV) was held, jointly with the Northern Ireland Local Government Association, in the Park Avenue Hotel on Wednesday 11 June 2008.

The conference looked at the many facets of the rating and valuation system in Northern Ireland in 2008, with contributions from Alan Bronte the Commissioner of Valuation for Northern Ireland, Brian McClure the head of Rating Policy Division and an opening address from the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Finance and Personnel, Leo O'Reilly.





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