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Introduction

Editorial

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.

Welcome to the twentieth issue of the policylink bulletin.

What's new –the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) is reviewing the Regulatory Impact Assessment template. This is in line with their commitment to re-evaluate the Northern Ireland RIA process to take account of developments in the rest of the UK, in particular the recent revision of the Whitehall Impact Assessment process. A proposed new NI template is now with Departments for consultation, and a decision will be taken by DETI officials on whether or not to adopt the proposed revisions when all comments have been considered.

If agreement has been reached to proceed with a revised template, DETI will arrange for the Centre for Applied Learning (CAL) training to be available to staff in advance of the changes coming into effect.

As always, there are a number of sections in this edition and hopefully there will be something of interest to everyone.

In Chapter 4 – new publications – we highlight new or forthcoming publications such as the report from the Institute of Public Health in Ireland “Tackling Health Inequalities: An All Ireland Approach to Social Determinants”, which highlights the extent to which health outcomes are influenced by social factors. We have also included a report from Belfast Healthy Cities “Divided by Health: A City Profile” which provides a comprehensive picture of health and wellbeing in the Belfast Health & Social Services Trust.

In Chapter 5 – new from research institutes and think tanks – we highlight a wide range of research on topics such as health and wellbeing, poverty, transport and sustainability and waste management.

Chapter 6 is a special theme chapter focusing on children and young people, including articles covering child poverty, education, sport, youth justice and crime. We have also included a short article from Paul Smyth, Director of *Public Achievement* summarising a recent seminar held in Belfast entitled [Learning Dreams](#), outlining a new approach to addressing the issue of school outcomes for children and young people focusing not on the school but on the culture of learning within their family and the local community.

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.

You can email us at 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 now 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](#)

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.

Excellence and Fairness

Key questions for policymakers

In the summer of 2008, the Cabinet Office published [Excellence and fairness: achieving world class public services](#) setting out the Government's overall approach to improving public services over the next few years. Although specific changes will vary from service to service, improvements will usually be driven by three main developments:

- Developing new approaches to empowering citizens
- Fostering a new professionalism across the whole public service workforce.
- Providing stronger strategic leadership from central government.

The Participation Network

In 2007, the [Children and Young People's Unit](#) of the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister demonstrated government commitment to promoting children and young people's participation, and allocated funding to form The Participation Network. The work of The Participation Network focuses on developing the capacity of statutory agencies, local government and government departments in Northern Ireland to fulfil their duties to effectively engage children and young people in public decision making.

The Participation Network is currently running free workshops to explore why children and young people should be involved in public decision-making. Further information is available on their [website](#).





New policy relevant publications

Summary

August 2008

[Scottish Government Urban Rural Classification - 2007-2008](#)

The Scottish Government acknowledges that issues such as transport, education and health can have a particular impact on rural communities and seeks to reflect this in mainstream policy development. This classification aids in developing our understanding of the issues facing urban, rural and remote Scotland. The publication includes background information and guidance on the use of the classification and also the geographic information to allow analysts to use the classification in their research.

August 2008

[Tackling Health Inequalities. An All-Ireland Approach to Social Determinants](#)

The report by the Institute of Public Health in Ireland and Combat Poverty Agency has highlighted the extent to which health outcomes are influenced by social factors, such as poor housing, nutrition and education.

August 2008

[Levelling Up, Securing health improvement by securing social inclusion](#)

A cross border action plan for social inclusion in the North West of Ireland, published by the Institute for Public Health in Ireland.

September 2008

[National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts \(NESTA\) Research Report: 'The art of innovation: how fine arts graduates contribute to innovation'](#)

'The art of innovation' is an inquiry into how fine arts graduates contribute to innovation throughout their working lives. Based on a survey of over 500 fine arts graduates from the University of the Arts London (UAL) since the 1950s, plus a series of 40 face to face biography interviews.

The accompanying policy briefing argues that fine arts graduates are well adapted to the needs of the knowledge economy, but that there are barriers, including long-standing attitudes and biases, to the contributions they make to innovation. Public policy should act to lower these

barriers without compromising the artistic integrity of artists' work.

September 2008

[Code of Good Agricultural Practice for the Prevention of Pollution of Water, Air and Soil \(The Code\)](#)

The Code was published on 3 September 2008 by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD). It is a practical guide for farmers outlining management practices for preventing pollution of water, air and soil. The Code combines legislative requirements with what is regarded as good practice in relation to pollution prevention. The Code is available on-line, or can be collected as a printed booklet or as a CD-Rom from local DARD offices.

September 2008

[Proposals for Health and Social Care Reform - Consultation Report](#)

**For further information contact:
David Reilly – telephone 028 9052 8137**

This report from the Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety, provides a summary of the consultation and the subsequent decisions taken in respect of proposals to transform health and social care in Northern Ireland as part of the Review of Public Administration. The new health and social care system is scheduled to be in place by April 2009.

October 2008

[Improving the Administration of Elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly: Draft Government response to consultation \(PDF 87.17KB\)](#)

In July 2008, the Northern Ireland Office published a consultation document on "Improving the Administration of Elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly". One of the key issues considered as part of the consultation was the method of filling seats vacated by members of the Assembly (MLAs) during term as well as the question of whether any changes should also extend to the filling of seats vacated by Northern Ireland members of the European Parliament (MEPs) during term. The Government response to the consultation has now been published.

October 2008

[UK Global Innovation - Engaging with new countries, regions and people](#)

This report from the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) tells us that the UK is a highly internationalised country. A long legacy of international engagement has developed a tradition of dealing with foreign countries and peoples. This is reflected in the global reach of some well-established UK organisations such as the British Council, the BBC World Service, the Royal Society, the Wellcome Trust and the Commonwealth.

October 2008

[Innovation by Adoption - Measuring and mapping absorptive capacity in UK nations and regions](#)

This report published by the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA), tells us that today's globalised economy has not only made it easier to trade and to travel. With new technologies and the growth of migration, new knowledge and ideas can be spread more

quickly than ever before.

Technology has also made novelty and innovation increasingly important to economic growth and development.

1 October 2008

[The Performance of the Health Service in Northern Ireland](#)

This report, published by the Northern Ireland Audit Office, shows that the health service is making good progress against many of the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety's (DHSSPS) key targets. For example, fewer people are dying from common conditions such as cancer and coronary heart disease and patients are waiting less time for treatments and appointments in hospital. At the same time, however, the Northern Ireland Audit Office report shows that public health issues such as obesity and suicide continue to need attention as does the issue of health inequality.

October 2008

[Climate Change: Financing Global Forests: The Eliasch Review](#)

The Eliasch Review is an independent report to government, commissioned by the Prime Minister and prepared by Johan Eliasch with the support of the Office of Climate Change. The Review aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of international financing to reduce forest loss and its associated impacts on climate change. It does so with particular reference to the international efforts to achieve a new global climate change agreement in Copenhagen at the end of 2009.

November 2008

[Getting on, getting ahead - A discussion paper analysing the trends and drivers of social mobility](#)

The Prime Minister commissioned the Strategy Unit in the Cabinet Office to produce a discussion paper which would analyse all the evidence available on how people from every background can get on and ahead in life, and identify the areas where government policy could have most impact.

November 2008

[Divided by Health: A City Profile](#)

This Profile published by Belfast Healthy Cities, provides a comprehensive statistical picture of health and wellbeing in the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust area and highlights that while there has been positive change in health over the last ten years, major inequalities remain.

November 2008

Consultation report on domestic rating reform

This will be published on the [DFP](#)

This report provides an overview of a recent consultation undertaken on the rating of empty homes, reducing the maximum capital value (for rating purposes) to £400,000, a rates deferment scheme for home owning pensioners, improved data sharing powers and green rebates. It sets

[website.](#)

For more information contact: Brian McClure at ratingpolicy.cfq@dfpni.gov.uk

out the views expressed during consultation, the issues raised and the decisions taken by the Minister.

November 2008

[Executive Summary on the Study on Common Approach to Natural Gas Storage and Liquefied Natural Gas on an All-Island Basis](#)

The objectives of this report published by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, are to assess the security of natural gas supplies for the island of Ireland, to consider the scope for a common approach to natural gas storage and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and to make recommendations accordingly. Thus the report examines possible supply/demand scenarios for natural gas between now and 2020 and recommends how to address gas security of supply in the short, medium and long term.

December 2008

Departmental Response to Consultation on Proposed Changes to Employment Agencies Investigation Powers and Penalty Regime

The Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) consulted on proposals to strengthen its powers of investigation and prosecution of employment agencies in breach of the law. The Department will publish its responses to this publication shortly with a view to legislating by way of an Employment Bill in 2009.

For further information contact: andrew.dawson@delni.gov.uk

December 2008 – January 2009

Departmental Response to Consultation on Proposals to amend Trade Union Law

The Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) will publish its responses to the Consultation on Amendments to Trade Union Law shortly with a view to legislating by way of an Employment Bill in 2009.

For further information contact: stephen.wilson@delni.gov.uk

End 2008

**Salmon and Inland Fisheries Stakeholder Forum
20/12/07 – 11/04/08**

In light of the abolition of the Fishery Conservancy Board, the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) sought the views of interested parties on the Department's proposals for the establishment of a new stakeholder forum.

For further information contact: kathleen.hyland@dcalni.gov.uk or check the [DCAL website](#)

The consultation closed in April 2008 and the Department hopes to publish its findings at the end of the 2008.

January 2009

Strategic Resources Framework 2008/09

This report from the Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety contains 2008/09 financial plans and activity volumes for NI and new Local Commissioning Group (LCG) areas by, Board of Residence, Trust, Programme of Care,

**For further information contact:
Paul Skillen – telephone 028 9052
0223**

Patient Classification and Specialty or Service. It also contains up to date outcome measures and analysis of Family Practitioner Services funds.

January 2009

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January 2009

**[HSC Workforce Key Facts Bulletin at
December 2008](#)**

**For further information contact:
Alison Dunwoody - telephone 028
9052 2468 or email
workforcestatistics@dhsspsni.gov.uk**

This is a quarterly overview published by the Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety of Human Resource Management System workforce data provided by the organisations within the Health Service. It includes the number of staff in each Trust or Organisation by working group.

January 2009

**Research on workplace dispute
resolution**

**For further information contact:
alan.scott@delni.gov.uk**

Department of Employment and Learning (DEL) will publish this report on research which seeks to ascertain attitudes towards the various options which exist throughout the employment dispute resolution process and the reasons why particular choices are made by parties at a given stage. The findings of the research will influence preparation for public consultation on systems for resolving workplace disputes.

February 2009

**Student enrolments on Higher
Education courses: Northern
Ireland 2007/08**

**This report will be available on the
Department for Employment &
Learning [website](#)**

**For further information contact:
allan.nesbitt@delni.gov.uk**

This bulletin will provide details of Northern Ireland domiciled students on Higher Education courses in the UK & ROI and details of students on HE courses in NI Institutions for the academic year 2007/08.

February 2009

**Students gaining Higher Education
Qualifications: Northern Ireland
2007/08**

**This bulletin will be available on the
Department for Employment &
Learning [website](#)**

This bulletin will provide details of qualifications gained by Northern Ireland domiciled students on Higher Education (HE) courses in the United Kingdom (UK) and details of students gaining qualifications at HE Institutions in NI for the academic year 2007/08.

For further information contact:
allan.nesbitt@delni.gov.uk

February 2009

**Research into the Northern Ireland
Private Recruitment Sector**

For further information contact:
andrew.dawson@delni.gov.uk

The Department for Employment and Learning is currently considering the commencement of a research project into the size and extent of the Northern Ireland Private Recruitment Sector. This will inform future policy and legislation development in this area. It is hoped that the research will be published in February 2009.

February 2009

**[HSC Workforce Vacancy Report at
September 2008](#)**

For further information contact:
**Alison Dunwoody - telephone 028
9052 2468**
or email
workforcestatistics@dhsspsni.gov.uk

This report to be published by the Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety, 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.

March 2009

**[Health & Social Care Workforce
Census March 2008](#)**

For further information contact:
**Alison Dunwoody - telephone 028
9052 2468 or email**
workforcestatistics@dhsspsni.gov.uk

This report from the Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety analyses the make up of the Health & Social Care (HSC) workforce in Northern Ireland, providing a specific profile of HSC workforce data by working group, age, gender and work pattern.

March 2009

**Improving Governance of Controlled
Drugs - Guidance and Training
materials**

For further information contact:
shona.coy@dhsspsni.gov.uk or
**Telephone: 028 9052 2669 (ext
22669)**

In 2008, the Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety consulted on proposals for the management of Controlled Drugs in the context of Clinical and Social Care Governance in Northern Ireland as a direct response to recommendations made in the Fourth and Fifth Reports of the Shipman Inquiry. Guidance and training materials will be available on the Department's web site in March 2009 which will inform and support those who will have responsibility for the implementation of the requirements of the forthcoming legislation which is anticipated for May 2009.

March 2009

**HPSS Summary of Expenditure
2007/08**

For further information contact:

This report to be published by the Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety contains actual expenditure relating to HSC organisations for the 2007/08 financial year. It includes expenditure summaries on Salaries and Wages, Hospital Specialties, Community & Personal

Lisa Williamson – telephone 028
9076 5630

Social Services.

[Location of Public Sector Jobs](#) (PDF
1.72 mb)

This report produced by Professor Bain tells us that the relocation of public sector jobs from capital cities to peripheral regions has attracted increasing attention in western societies over a number of years. Northern Ireland is no exception, where, in particular, the dispersal of civil service jobs from Belfast has been the subject of long-standing debate. Until now, however, relocations here have been ad hoc; a systematic and proactive approach has not been adopted.

The IoD 1.7 Challenge

Sets out the priorities for action identified by the Institute of Directors in Northern Ireland

For further information contact:
linda.brown@iod.com

2008

[Closing the Gap in a Generation](#)

This report from the **World Health Organisation** tells us that social justice is a matter of life and death. It affects the way people live, their consequent chance of illness, and their risk of premature death.... A girl born today can expect to live for more than 80 years if she is born in some countries - but less than 45 years if she is born in others.





New from research institutes and think tanks

Summary

September 2008

['Good Work': Job Quality in Changing Economy](#)

The Work Foundation

This paper published by The Work Foundation, sets out to explain why the quality of employment should be a matter of profound concern for government, employers and employees.

September 2008

[Gravity with Gravitas: A solution to the Border Puzzle](#)

Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis

Published by the Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis, Anderson and Van Wincoop (2003) estimate what trade between US states and Canadian provinces would have been if the border between Canada and the United States had not existed. They showed that computing the border effect requires solving a non-linear system of multilateral price indexes.

September 2008

[Cross your border and look around](#)

Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis

Published by the Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis, this study focuses on innovation, human capital, technology transfers and competition as potential sources of productivity growth for firms. It integrates the views of existing literature such as the two faces of R&D, the convergence debate and the existence of firm-level heterogeneity in productivity. Using firm-level data of 127 industries in the Netherlands, the document analyses which determinants are most relevant for a catch up to the global frontier and in that respect are important for the productivity performance of firms.

September 2008

[Research to Assess the Cost and Benefits of the Government's Proposals to Reduce the Carbon Footprint of New Housing Development](#)

Department for Communities and Local Government

This research, published by the Department for Communities and Local Government in September 2008, provides an analysis of the costs and benefits of the proposed policy options for all new homes being zero carbon from 2016. This research provided information to underpin the full Regulatory Impact Assessment published alongside the Building a Green Future Policy Statement on 23 July 2007 and will be updated to support a further consultation paper on the definition of zero carbon.

September 2008

[Homebuilding in the UK \(PDF 767.89kb\)](#)

Office of Fair Trading (OFT)

This market study, published by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT), finds that while homebuilding is broadly competitive, many homebuyers experience faults or delays. As a result, representatives from across the sector have agreed to form a body to deliver a code of conduct and redress scheme for consumers, scheduled to be fully operational by March 2010.

September 2008

[Tackling Canada's social housing challenge](#)

Canadian Policy Research Networks (CPRN)

On 25 September 2008, Canadian Policy Research Networks (CPRN) published three papers which reflect on the challenges, issues and opportunities of Canada's social housing sector.

[The role of public-private partnerships in funding social housing in Canada](#) Using case studies, the paper examines how partnerships can better use scarce public resources efficiently and equitably to meet the housing needs of low-income earners.

[Towards food security policy for Canada's social housing sector](#) Food insecurity is increasingly seen as a crucial issue that lacks a coherent policy response by all orders of government in Canada. The concentration of low-income populations in social housing makes the problem especially acute for its residents and providers.

[Housing for immigrants in Ontario's medium-sized cities](#) explores how medium-sized cities in Ontario provide affordable housing for newcomers; the challenges that immigrants, governments, housing providers and settlement agencies face; and the policies and strategies they adopt to surmount these challenges.

September 2008

[Well disposed: responding to the waste challenge](#)

Audit Commission

This report by the Audit Commission looks at how English councils are responding to the challenge of finding new ways to dispose of the country's waste, traditionally buried in landfill sites.

The report reviews progress against set targets, models the costs to councils under different scenarios, and evaluates the quality of strategic planning and local decision-making.

September 2008

[Thinking about rural transport: The contribution of transport to sustainable rural communities](#)

Commission for Rural Communities (CRC)

The Commission for Rural Communities (CRC) published five studies looking at the transport challenges facing rural areas. These 'thinkpieces' cover a range of topics including accessibility to key services, the likely effects of technological change and the implications of road pricing.

[The contribution of transport to sustainable rural communities](#)

[The implications of technological change for rural transport](#)

[Rural life without carbon](#)

[The potential impacts of road pricing on rural areas](#)
[Sustainable rural accessibility – is it really possible?](#)

September 2008

[Measuring equality at a local level](#)

Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA)

Published by the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) this report looks at the challenges faced by local authorities when gathering and publishing equality data.

September 2008

[The media, poverty and public opinion in the UK](#)

Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF)

This report published by Joseph Rowntree Foundation analyses how the media reports UK poverty and its impact on public understanding and opinion. It explores the role of national, local and community media in reflecting and influencing public ideas of poverty and welfare.

September 2008

[Health is global: a UK government strategy](#)

Department of Health

This UK Government Strategy sets out how it intends to work with the World Health Organisation, the EU and a number of other partners to improve the health of the world's population. The strategy highlights the critical global health challenges that the UK and the rest of the world face and seeks to provide a clear set of actions to respond to them.

September 2008

[Ageing in a consumer society](#)

Policy Press

Based on extensive analysis over two years, this book written by Ian Rees Jones, Professor of Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Wales, Bangor, examines the engagement of older people with consumer society in Britain since the 1960s. It charts the changes in the experience of later life in the UK over the last 50 years, the rise of the 'individualised consumer citizen' and what this means for health and social policies.

September 2008

[Moving up together: Promoting equality and integration among the UK's diverse communities](#)

Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR)

This publication addresses the question of why some migrant and minority communities in the UK are falling behind. It also assesses which policy interventions will promote greater equality and integration.

September 2008

[Your Place or Mine? The local economics of migration](#)

Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR)

This working paper is the first from The Institute of Public Policy Research's Economics of Migration project. The project aims to improve understanding of the economic impacts of migration in the UK, and how policy should respond to that migration in order to maximise its economic benefits, and minimise its costs.

October 2008

[Towards Agile Government](#)

Demos

This report published by Demos is based on research in Australia with the Victorian State Services Authority which explores, refines, and tests some of the public service reform themes of greater citizen involvement in design and delivery; more local decision making, better freedom for front line-staff, combined with greater efficiency. The Report presents some of the best practice from Victoria, and highlights key barriers and opportunities for future direction.

October 2008

[The GDP cost of the lost earning potential of adults who grew up in poverty](#)

This report published by Joseph Rowntree Foundation estimates the costs of child poverty in terms of reduced GDP, focusing on the lost earning potential of adults who have grown up in poverty. It includes:

Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF)

- empirical estimates of the impact of growing up in child poverty on adult earnings and employment;
- the role of education in the relationship between child poverty and adult earnings and employment;
- estimates of the overall monetary costs of child poverty; and
- a final assessment of the GDP benefits of abolishing child poverty in terms of foregone earnings, employment and benefit savings.

October 2008

[Transforming the patient's experience of care](#)

The King's Fund

This report by The King's Fund aims to improve the uptake of technology such as email and online booking systems to improve health outcomes by analysing the main barriers to adoption and suggesting measures to overcome them. It sets out an ideal scenario for the use of health care technology and the potential benefits to patients. Using examples from other sectors, it makes recommendations at national and local level to encourage the use of technology.

October 2008

[The inflation experience of older households](#)

Institute of Fiscal Studies

This report from the Institute of Fiscal Studies indicates that rapid increases in the prices of household fuel, petrol and diesel and, more recently, of food will have a differential impact on households according to their expenditure patterns.

October 2008

[Measuring material deprivation among older people: Methodological study to revise the FRS questions](#) (PDF 357.13kb)

National Centre for Social Research

Published by The National Centre for Social Research on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions, this research reports on a series of projects and discussions that were designed to improve the measurement of material deprivation for older people, by substituting new questions in the Family Resources Survey (FRS) for those aged 65 or older.

October 2008

[The problems and needs of newly sentenced prisoners](#)

Ministry of Justice

This report published by the Ministry of Justice presents information derived from interviews conducted shortly after reception into prison with a representative sample of nearly 1,500 newly sentenced adult prisoners. It is the first report from a major longitudinal survey of prisoners – 'Surveying Prisoner Crime Reduction' – which has several aims, including the collection of data on the problems and needs of prisoners; the interventions they receive while in prison; and outcomes upon release.

October 2008

[A one-year follow-up of prisoners who took part in the Resettlement Surveys 2001, 2003 and 2004 \(PDF 867.27 kb\)](#)

Ministry of Justice

This study published by the Ministry of Justice, looks at factors associated with re-offending. It took the results from three resettlement surveys of prisoners, conducted in 2001, 2003 and 2004 shortly before release from prison, and combined them with criminal history and re-offending information from the Police National Computer to look at the association between resettlement factors – such as having accommodation and obtaining education, training and employment – and one-year reconviction rates.

[Dealing with Uncertainty in Policymaking](#)

Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis

This publication from the Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis focuses on uncertainties in policy-related knowledge: how do you determine them, how do you communicate them to policymakers, and how can you help policymakers deal with them?

[Public Officials and Community Involvement in Local Services](#)

Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF)

A variety of measures have been introduced in recent years to encourage public engagement in local governance. This study by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation examines community involvement in local services with an emphasis on the role of public officials – officers and managers employed by public bodies. The role played by public officials – paid officials employed by public bodies – is important in affecting the extent to which community views can have an influence.

[Benchmarking and the Bottom Line: A proposal to improve infrastructure value for money in Britain](#)

Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR)

A submission to Institute of Public Policy Research's [Britain's Got Brains](#) competition outlines a scheme to reduce the amount of public money wasted on massive public contracts. Contracting out big infrastructure projects wastes millions of pounds of public money every year: £11bn was spent on constructing new transport, water, waste, school, stadium and hospital facilities in 2007, but seven in ten government construction projects are completed over tender price, and seven in ten are delivered late. Matti Siemiatycki has proposed a new benchmarking scheme for construction and service companies that tender for government projects which would keep a record of which companies go over budget so they are not used again.

[Rapid Evidence Assessment of the Research Literature on the Purchase and Use of Second Homes](#)

UK National Housing and Planning Advice Unit

This report from the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit and published in October 2008, sets out the results of a rapid evidence assessment of the research literature on the purchase and use of second homes.

[Greener British Future](#)

Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR)

A submission to Institute of Public Policy Research's [Britain's Got Brains](#) competition in October 2008 explains that whilst public interest in climate change issues has soared in recent years, people's behaviour has not become substantially greener. Lewis Dean has proposed a new Greener British Future competition along the lines of "Britain in Bloom" in which

communities would compete on their 'greenness'.

[Biofuels sustainability criteria](#)

Stockholm Environment Institute

This report from the Stockholm Environment Institute looks at the role envisioned for liquid biofuels for transport which has come under increased scrutiny in the past year or two, due to the potential social and environmental impacts associated with scaling up biofuels production and use from its low level—currently representing about 1% of transport fuels globally. The proposed EU Directive setting a target of 10% biofuels in transport sector by 2020 has therefore raised a number of concerns. The concerns about sustainability are addressed within the proposed Directive through criteria related mainly to GHG emissions, but also to biodiversity and other environmental impacts.

[Traffic Jam](#)

Policy Press

This book written by prominent transport experts and with a foreword by Christian Wolmar, reviews the links between the idea of sustainability and transport policy, and provides an analysis of the political realities surrounding the delivery of a sustainable transport agenda in the UK. It picks up on the principal components of A New Deal for Transport and evaluates to what extent these have, or have not, been delivered in England, Scotland, Wales and **Northern Ireland**.

[Why are fear and distrust spiralling in 21st century Britain?](#)

Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF)

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation's recent public consultation reveals a strong sense of unease about some of the changes shaping British society. This Viewpoint continues the discussion about modern 'social evils' on the theme of 'distrusting and fearful society'. Anna Minton argues that the cause of growing fear and distrust is visible physical inequality and segregation in the environment, combined with a commercially driven media with a vested interest in promoting fear.

[What and who is it we don't trust?](#)

Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF)

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation's recent public consultation reveals a strong sense of unease about some of the changes shaping British society. Shaun Bailey looks at relationships between individuals, the state and community, and the effects these relationships have on our daily lives that may reduce levels of trust.

[The Absence of Society](#)

Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF)

This recent public consultation by Joseph Rowntree Foundation reveals a strong sense of unease about some of the changes shaping British society. Zygmunt Bauman argues that current social evils are products of the withdrawal of the traditional conception of 'society' and are rooted in the way of life of today's individualised society of consumers.

[Individualism and Consumerism: refuelling the debate](#)

This Viewpoint from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation continues the discussion about modern 'social evils' on the theme of 'individualism'.

Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF)

Stephen Thake argues that, in the face of selfish individualism and wasteful consumerism, there is a need for a counter-dynamic that supports new forms of agency, solidarity and individual behaviour to rebuild a strong civil society. Investing in civil society will help to foster behavioural change and reinvigorate existing forms and create new forms of agency, which are better able to harness the advances in technology and economic development for the common good.

[Lessons from contracting out welfare to work programmes in Australia and the Netherlands](#)

Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF)

The UK Government is committed to contracting out delivery of welfare to work programmes and paying providers for getting participants into sustained employment. The main political parties concur that such a 'welfare market' will lead to service innovation, improved accountability, better job outcomes, and better customer service and value for money, referring to the success of similar reform in countries like Australia and the Netherlands. This study by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation examines particular lessons from these programmes for this country.

[Getting on, getting ahead: a discussion paper: analysing the trends and drivers of social mobility](#)
(PDF 1.53 mb)

Strategy Unit, Cabinet Office

The Prime Minister commissioned the Strategy Unit to produce a discussion paper which would analyse all the evidence available on how people from every background can get on and ahead in life, and identify the areas where government policy could have most impact. The paper discusses what is meant by social mobility and collates evidence on how it has changed and what is likely to drive it in the future.

The document does not identify future government policy but does set out a framework for thinking about the key strategic choices facing government.

[Monitoring poverty and social exclusion in Scotland 2008](#)

New Policy Institute

The New Policy Institute has produced its 2008 edition of indicators of poverty and social exclusion in Scotland, providing a comprehensive analysis of trends and differences between groups. Based on the latest available data, its starting point is that, while child and pensioner poverty in Scotland has fallen over the last decade, poverty among working-age adults has remained the same.

['Duty and obligation' - the invisible glue in services and support](#)

Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF)

This viewpoint from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation on the Department of Health's consultation paper, The Case for Change, tells us that the paper has opened a debate on the long-term future of England's care and support system. Kalyani Gandhi and Helen Bowers

argue that if social care services are to transform people's lives, they must be based on a deeper understanding of human relationships and the nature of duty and obligation inherent within them.

Accommodation for migrant workers

Building and Social Housing Foundation

This report looks at the issues of accommodation for migrant workers. Migrant workers come to the UK to seek employment but all too often find themselves living in expensive, overcrowded and poor-quality accommodation. This report seeks to make a fresh assessment of this important issue.





Special theme: children and young people

September 2008

[Child poverty in the UK](#)

The Campaign to End Child Poverty have published new figures which reveal that 174 parliamentary constituencies in Britain have 50% or more children living in or on the brink of poverty. Official measures of child poverty are based on a national survey of family income, highlighting poverty at a national and regional level but not in more local areas. In contrast, the figures supplied by the Campaign to End Child Poverty use tax credit data to determine the percentage of children in families with low incomes in local authorities and constituencies across the UK.

September 2008

[Education at a glance](#)

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

The OECD's Annual Report on education provides a detailed, comparable and up-to-date array of indicators on the performance of different education systems. These indicators focus on who participates in education, what is spent on it, how education systems operate and the results achieved.

September 2008

[Pathways for youth to the labour market: a synthesis report](#)

Canadian Policy Research Networks (CPRN)

This report argues that young Canadians lack the help they need to identify and navigate learning pathways that lead to good jobs. A key finding is that career development programmes and services can reduce dropout rates; increase aspirations and achievement; help people find jobs that match their talents and interests; and help employers meet skill needs. The best programs begin early and combine several elements.

- information about career opportunities and the learning paths needed to attain them;
- developing skills about how to analyse this information and deal with changes both in job prospects and in personal interests;
- co-operative learning opportunities; and
- the engagement of parents and employers in students' career-planning activities.

September 2008

This Report aims to deliver the latest information on how, as a nation, Australia stands according to key

[Making progress: the health, development and wellbeing of Australia's children and young people](#)

Australian Institute of Health & Welfare (AIHW)

statistical indicators of child and youth (0-19 years) health development and wellbeing.

Information is presented on mental health, disability, risk factors for chronic disease, mortality, education, homelessness, crime, jobless families and family economic situation. Particular attention is given to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and youth as well as how Australia compares internationally.

September 2008

[Youth mentoring: a good thing?](#)

Centre for Policy Studies

On 15 September 2008, the Centre for Policy Studies (CPS) published this report which looks at the effectiveness of mentoring schemes. The report notes that youth mentoring has experienced a dramatic growth in the UK over the last ten years. The practice is typically adopted to help young people who are thought to be socially excluded, are involved in the criminal justice system or are not in employment, education or training.

October 2008

[The public service costs of child poverty](#)

Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF)

This Joseph Rowntree Foundation report estimates the costs of child poverty to the Exchequer, focusing on public service costs.

It includes:

- services provided to individuals or families on a basis of need or demographic eligibility, including education, most health services, subsidised housing and social care services;
- services which provide local 'public goods' such as policing and the criminal justice system;
- area-based regeneration initiatives and more general supplementary expenditure targeted on deprived neighbourhoods.

October 2008

[The costs of child poverty for individuals and society](#)

Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF)

This literature review published by Joseph Rowntree Foundation examines the economic costs of child poverty's effect on individuals.

This report examines the costs of child poverty to individuals and wider society, through reduced productivity, lower educational attainment and poor health. It explores the financial consequences of child poverty for individuals, families, neighbourhoods, society and the economy in the following areas:

- health;
- education;
- employment;
- behaviour;
- financial;
- family and personal relationships; and
- subjective well-being.

October 2008

This research is an exploration of territorial behaviour

[Young people and territoriality in British cities](#)

Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF)

among young people in disadvantaged areas of British cities. It focuses on understanding territoriality in its own right and examines:

- what territoriality is, how it is experienced by young people and who is involved;
- the origins of territoriality in disadvantaged places;
- the impacts of territoriality on young people's lives;
- the range of projects which aim to deter or counteract territorial behaviour;
- the public policy implications of recognising territoriality as an important social force in disadvantaged places.

October 2008

[Taking Part: England's survey of culture, leisure and sport: headline findings from the child survey 2007](#)

Department for Culture, Media and Sport

The Taking Part survey collects data about engagement and non-engagement in culture, leisure and sport. The summary report begins by looking at what children do in their spare time, and cross-sector engagement. It presents selected findings from each cultural and sporting sector in turn, including the overall engagement rate in and out of school lessons and the frequency of engagement. Finally it looks at variations by three population sub-groups – gender, ethnicity and disability status.

October 2008

[A Rhythmic View of Reading: from word recognition to reading comprehension](#)

Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR)

A submission to the Institute of Public Policy Research's [Britain's Got Brains](#) competition in October 2008 explains that one in five children leave primary school without being able to read. A new rhythm-based scheme to improve reading amongst low-ability readers in primary schools is proposed, following Marion Long's own research in schools that has linked a child's sense of rhythm to reading ability. In this scheme, children who cannot clap in time to a simple piece of music are taught to stamp their feet in time to music for ten minutes a week. When this was trialed in schools, it improved children's reading comprehension.

October 2008

[Kids' Life and Times Survey Results](#)

ARK, Queens University

Results from the ARK 2008 Kids' Life and Times survey have been made available in a comic called 'What Kids Think'. This comic contains information on what kids think about school, bullying and the transfer test.

October 2008

[Evaluation of the Free School Meals Trial for P1 to P3 Pupils](#)

Scottish Government

This report presents the outcome of the evaluation of the free school meals trial for P1-P3 pupils, commissioned by the Scottish Government. The trial is part of the Government's drive to improve the nation's health and encourage good eating habits from a young age.

November 2008

[Youth Justice in Practice](#)

This book written by Bill Whyte, Professor of Social Work Studies in Criminal and Youth Justice at the University of Edinburgh examines youth justice in a UK

Policy Press

and international context and highlights the challenge facing all jurisdictions in balancing welfare and justice. It explores the impact of political ideas and influences on the structural and practical challenges of delivering youth justice.

November 2008

[Housing choices and issues for young people in the UK](#)

Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF)

Young people are experiencing increased risk and uncertainty as they move into independent housing. This review from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation considers their options and highlights some of the most pressing housing-related issues facing young people in the UK today.

2008

[Why are criminals less educated than non-criminals? Evidence from a cohort of young Australian twins](#)

Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis

Many studies find a strong negative association between crime and education. This study from the Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis raises the question whether crime reduces investment in human capital or whether education reduces criminal activity. This paper investigates this question by using fixed effect estimation on data of Australian twins.

[How to Reduce Youth Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour by Going Round in Circles](#)

Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR)

A submission to IPPR's [Britain's Got Brains](#) competition outlines a scheme to provide greater adult and community support young people at risk of falling into a life of crime and young offenders. The IPPR research has already shown that the most prolific criminals begin offending between the ages of 10 and 13, and that a lack of adult support is a key risk factor for young people turning to crime. The Scheme proposes creating mentoring circles for these young people, based on a model already used in Canada. The aim of the circles to prevent young people offending in the first place, and to prevent reoffending by young people who have already committed a crime.

[What is needed to end child poverty in 2020](#)

Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF)

How realistic is the government's pledge to end child poverty by 2020? The strategy is hugely ambitious and progress has stalled. This Round-up published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation draws on the findings of seven reports about how to take forward different aspects of a child poverty strategy; examines the impact of current policy; and suggests what is needed to ensure the target is met.

Learning Dreams: report of a recent seminar hosted by Public Achievement submitted by Paul Smyth, Director, Public Achievement.

At a recent seminar hosted by youth organisation Public Achievement, Dr Jerome (Jerry) Stein of the University of Minnesota outlined a new approach to addressing the issue of school outcomes for children and young people, by focusing not on the school – nor even on the young person themselves – but on the culture of learning within their family and the local community. Stein has called his approach ‘Learning Dreams’ – as the focus is on the parents of children who are not doing well at school, and on reconnecting the adults with their own learning in order to generate a culture of learning in the family and community.

Through his original pilot in an inner-city community in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and subsequent new programmes in Hispanic and rural communities, Stein has shown that by focusing on the learning dreams of adults, these adults learn to reengage with their own learning. This creates a learning environment within the home that helps to improve the learning outcomes of the children within these families. Stein uses ‘social capital’ measures developed by Robert Putnam (Harvard Professor and author of the influential ‘Bowling Alone’) and others to examine the impact of the project on learners and their families. Instead of focussing on the school as the only ‘hub’ of learning, he argues, we should look at all the places and ways in which people learn – recognising that this will be different for each individual.

A key player in his model is the ‘Neighbourhood Education Worker’ – a person (normally) employed and trained to work with the families to act as a support and as a conduit between the family and whoever they need to link to in order to facilitate their re-engagement with learning. He described how ideally this person should be someone who has reconnected with learning themselves, remains enthusiastic about their own learning, and who understands the social and psychological barriers that potential adult learners can face.

Using the metaphor of the driveway connecting a house to the road – he explained that in learning terms, it doesn’t matter how great the road infrastructure is, if the individual can’t get their car onto it. The worker helps to get learners to take their initial steps, and remains a support and mentor as they continue with their learning journey.

Dr Stein has been visiting Northern Ireland for several years now, and has been working with Public Achievement to try to set up a pilot of his approach in Northern Ireland. During his recent visit he worked with (and trained) people interested in the project from the Colin neighbourhood (Poleglass, Twrinbrook and Lagmore) and from Mount Vernon in north Belfast – where there is strong support for a pilot, and for cross-community collaboration on developing the model locally.

One of the issues that has arisen both in Minnesota and in Northern Ireland, is that whilst there is enthusiasm for the initiative – it falls between policy ‘stools’. For example the primary outcomes of the approach are improvements in the learning outcomes of children and young people which would generally be the concern of a Department focussed on education – whereas most of the activity is focussed on adults and their learning, which might be the focus of a Department focussed on social development, or adult learning (or both).

Learning Dreams poses challenges to policy makers to work in a joined-up approach to addressing the learning culture of communities which Stein and many others would assert is the key to addressing any other kind of social concern in ways which develop the capacity of communities and sustainable social change.

You can read more about Learning Dreams on www.learningdreams.org

Paul Smyth is the Director of Public Achievement.

[Editorial note: Public Achievement is a community/ voluntary organisation working with young people and adults to support them to build democratic communities together. The focus of its

work is on doing practical work with people in their own communities around issues that are of public importance. This can range from development activities for young people to working to improve the relationship between teenagers and adults. One of its innovative projects has been the WIMPS project – 'Where is My Public Servant' – a website and project run by and for young people containing a database of all public representatives in NI searchable by postcode. Further information on its work can be found on: www.publicachievement.com





Current consultations

Consultation period

Summary

9 October 2008 to 2 January 2009

The Seed Potatoes (Crop Fees) Regulations (NI) 2009.

For further information contact:
peter.toner@dardni.gov.uk

These Regulations increase the fees payable to DARD in respect of the certification of seed potato crops arising under the Seed Potatoes Regulations (NI) 2001. This is to ensure that users of the service meet the cost of using these services in full.

11 October 2008 to 10 January 2009

[Review of Irish-medium Education](#)

Sir George Bain, in the Report of the Independent Strategic Review of Education (the Bain Report), December 2006, recommended that the Department of Education should develop a comprehensive and coherent policy for Irish-medium education.

The Department accepted this recommendation and initiated this Review to provide the basis for that policy. The Review was asked to take stock of the best way to facilitate continued and sustainable growth of the sector for the next decade, ensuring the highest quality education outcomes for pupils, particularly in light of the revised Northern Ireland curriculum. The findings of this review and proposals for the way forward have now opened for consultation.

13 October 2008 to 12 January 2009

[Consultation on Pleural Plaques](#)

The Department of Finance and Personnel has published a Consultation Paper on Pleural plaques. The paper considers what is the most appropriate way of supporting people diagnosed with 'pleural plaques', following the House of Lords' decision in October 2007 that pleural plaques are not actionable or compensatable damage.

21 October 2008 to 9 January 2009

[Reform of the Medical Advisory](#)

The proposals of this consultation are intended to complement those envisaged for the oversight of health & social well-being & delivery of high quality

Structures

29 October 2008 to 20 January 2009

[Draft Equality Impact Assessment - Crumlin Road Gaol and Girdwood Park Draft Masterplan](#)

health & social care services.

The Department for Social Development (DSD) is carrying out an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) on the proposals for the redevelopment of the Crumlin Road Gaol/Girdwood Park site as set out in the draft Masterplan. A key part of assessing the impacts is the consideration of evidence and information and the Department would like to invite interested groups to provide their views and comments on the draft EQIA.

5 November 2008 to 21 January 2009

[Draft Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases Regulations\(Northern Ireland\) 2009](#)

The principal objective of the draft Regulations is to contain, prevent and thereby reduce emissions of certain fluorinated gases, as they have a very high Greenhouse Warming Potential.

For further information contact:
roger.irwin@doeni.gov.uk
or telephone 028 9054 4515

F gases include hydrofluorocarbons, used in refrigeration and air conditioning equipment, perfluorocarbons which can be used in the fire fighting and electronics sectors, and sulphur hexafluoride, used in training shoes and as a cover-gas in magnesium casting operations.

4 November 2008 to 27 January 2009

[Swine Vesicular Disease Regulations \(NI\) 2008](#)

The existing disease control legislation for Swine Vesicular Disease, the Swine Vesicular Disease Order (Northern Ireland) 1973, is now 35 years old. The effect of this legislation was to apply the control measures contained in the 1962 Foot and Mouth Disease legislation to an outbreak of Swine Vesicular Disease, which was not completely appropriate. The 2006 Foot and Mouth Disease Order is even less appropriate for the control of Swine Vesicular Disease and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has therefore drafted new Regulations to properly implement the Community Swine Vesicular Disease legislation.

7 November 2008 to 28 January 2009

[Zoonoses and Animal By-Products \(Fees\) Amendment Regulations \(NI\) 2008](#)

DARD has launched a consultation on the National Control Programme for the monitoring and control of Salmonella in broiler flocks (as supported by The Control of Salmonella in Broiler Flocks Order 2009), and a consultation on the charging of fees for services provided in relation to the control of salmonella (as supported by The Zoonoses and Animal By-Products (Fees) Amendment Regulations (NI) 2008).

24 November 2008 to 6 February 2009

[A Strategy to Develop the Recreational and Social use of Forest Service Forests](#)

The vision of this Strategy is that our forests will become more popular venues for outdoor recreation and tourism offering a wide choice of activities and recreation, used by an increasing number of visitors. The strategy will commit Forest Service to developing its approach to forest planning to create a strong focus on recreation and social use issues, including

For further information contact:
www.forestserviceni.gov.uk

opportunities that may become possible through partnership working, and to take a more proactive approach to building partnership arrangements with public and voluntary sector bodies and private businesses. This approach will enable opportunities for improving access to forests and for the introduction of new facilities into forest parks, for the benefit of the whole community, to be realised

Consultation period ends 13 January 2009

[A Review of Publicly Funded Fertility Services in Northern Ireland](#)

Since publicly funded fertility services were first introduced in Northern Ireland approximately 3000 cycles of IVF treatment have been provided. In the first year following the introduction of the new 2006 criteria, which increased the age limit for access to treatment, and removed restrictive criteria in other areas, an additional 233 patients accessed publicly funded fertility services who would previously have been ineligible.

Given the time that has now passed following the introduction of revised access criteria, it is appropriate to review how the service is performing in meeting the needs of patients, and look at whether there are areas which can improved.

Consultation ends on 19 January 2009

[Together, Stronger, Safer Community Safety in Northern Ireland: A consultation paper](#)
(PDF 229.68kb)

This consultation document published by the Northern Ireland Office, builds on the work of the first community safety strategy, "Creating a safer Northern Ireland through partnership". Building upon that success this new strategy will use existing structures to continue to work to make Northern Ireland a safer place to live, work and socialise.

3 November 2008 to 3 February 2009

[Cross-referencing the Qualifications and Credit Framework to the European Qualifications Framework](#)

The European Qualifications Framework for Life Long Learning (EQF) is a common European reference framework which enables European countries to link their qualifications systems to one another. Each country in Europe has a National Coordination Point (NCP), and the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) and the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA) coordinate the NCP for England and Northern Ireland. They are engaging in consultation with key stakeholder groups on proposals for cross-referencing the levels of the Qualifications and Credit Framework with those of the EQF.

The consultation period closes on 6 February 2009

Proposals for additional designations under the Shellfish Waters Directive

For further information contact:

This consultation document seeks comments on proposals by the Department of the Environment for additional designations under the Shellfish Waters Directive.

The aim of the Directive is to protect and improve the quality of coastal and brackish waters in order to support shellfish life and growth and to contribute to

carol.oboyle@doeni.gov.uk
or telephone 028 9025 7381

the high quality of shellfish products for human consumption.





Forthcoming consultations

Consultation start date/period

Summary

Estimated start date: November 2008

Consultation on action planning for environmental noise

For further information contact:
stephen.kerr@doeni.gov.uk
or telephone 028 9054 4565

The Department is required to produce a Northern Ireland consolidated Environmental Noise Plan under the Environmental Noise Regulations (NI) 2006.

Estimated start date: end November 2008

The Pollution Prevention and Control (District Council) Charging Scheme (Northern Ireland) 2009

For further information contact:
vivienne.collins@doeni.gov.uk
or telephone 028 9054 4532

The consultation will set out proposals for a revised charging scheme for Part C installations under The Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003. The overall aim of the charging scheme is to provide full costs recovery for regulation of prescribed installations in keeping with the Government's polluter pays policy.

Expected November/December 2008

Consultation on the Scotch Whisky Regulations

For further information contact:
peter.toner@dardni.gov.uk

A UK-wide consultation on a proposed Statutory Instrument, following earlier consultation with the industry in January/March 2008.

Expected November/December 2008
Consultation on a Code of Practice on Pathogen Control for Feed

For further information contact:
peter.toner@dardni.gov.uk

A UK-wide consultation on the way forward concerning supplements use in animal feedingstuffs.

Expected Mid December 2008
Review of Speed Management

For further information contact:
graeme.brown@drdni.gov.uk

Policy guidance for the setting of speed limits on urban and rural roads.

Estimated start date: December 2008
Transposition of the Groundwater Daughter Directive – 2006/118/EC

For further information contact:
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: December 2008
NI Consultation on The Local Air Quality Management Policy Guidance

For further information contact:
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 Consultation Period
December/January – 12 weeks
Draft EU Emissions Trading Scheme Charging Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009

For further information contact:
chris.mcwilliams@doeni.gov.uk or
david.latimer@doeni.gov.uk
or telephone 028 902 57371

To provide the NI Environment Agency with the means to make a charging scheme for Northern Ireland for the regulation of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. The charging scheme will supercede the provisions of Schedule 5 of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme Regulations 2005 thereby bringing Northern Ireland into line with the rest of the UK.

Planned Consultation period December 2008 to March 2009

Service Framework for Respiratory Health and Wellbeing

For further information contact:
john.maguire@dhsspsni.gov.uk

December 2008 to March 2009

The Seed Potatoes Regulations (NI) 2009.

For further information contact:
peter.toner@dardni.gov.uk

**Anticipated consultation period:
December 2008 to March 2009**

Consultation on the implementing detail of graduated fixed penalty and deposit schemes

For further information contact:
iain.cleland@doeni.gov.uk
or telephone 028 9054 0608

**Anticipated consultation period:
December 2008 – March 2009**

Consultation on technical changes to the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations Northern Ireland 2007

For further information contact:
wendy.cooke@doeni.gov.uk
or telephone: 028 9054 4513

The Respiratory 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.

These Regulations consolidate the Seed Potatoes Regulations (NI) 2001 and the Seed Potatoes (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2007. They regulate with a view to classification and marketing of seed potatoes including grading, classification, labelling and sealing and enforcement of disease control measures.

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.

The Department of the Environment will be consulting on proposed technical changes to the packaging regulations.

**Anticipated consultation period:
December 2008 to March 2009 (subject to
progress in GB)**

**Consultation on the implementing detail of
a scheme of continuous insurance
enforcement**

**For further information contact:
emma.rodny@doeni.gov.uk
or telephone 028 9054 0661**

**Expected December 2008 to March 2009
ICT policy review**

**For further information contact:
joe.reynolds@deni.gov.uk**

**Proposed consultation period: December
2008 to March 2009**

The Mining Waste Directive

**For further information contact:
Stephen Acheson - telephone 028 9041
6940 [x85940]**

**Anticipated consultation period:
December 2008 to February 2009**

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

**For further information contact:
planning.reform@doeni.gov.uk**

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
or telephone: 028 9025 7363**

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.

Review of Empowering Schools Strategy and proposals for how the strategy will be delivered over the period up to 2013.

This is a consultation on the proposal to transpose the EU directive 2006/21/EC the 'management of waste from the extractive industries', the Mining Waste Directive into Northern Ireland Law. It sets out requirements for the management of waste material such as rock, tailings and overburden, arising from the on-shore prospecting, extraction, treatment and storage of mineral resources and the workings of quarries for the purposes of preventing harm to the environment and human health.

This consultation paper on the reform of the planning system in Northern Ireland will propose wide-ranging changes to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning system and ensure that it provides transparency in decision making and gives confidence to its users. The proposed reforms will impact on all aspects of the planning system, including development plan, planning policy, enforcement, development control and various support type functions.

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:
January/February – March/April 2009**

**Consultation on Draft Controlled Waste
(Seizure of Property) Regulations 2009**

**For further information contact:
donald.starritt@doeni.gov.uk
or jennifer.mccay@doeni.gov.uk**

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

**Anticipated consultation period:
January/February – March/April 2009**

**Consultation on potential candidates for
inclusion in a new Waste Bill**

**For further information contact:
donald.starritt@doeni.gov.uk
or jennifer.mccay@doeni.gov.uk
or telephone: 028 9054 4511 or 028 9054
4552**

The Department of the Environment will be consulting on a range of measures designed to strengthen existing waste management controls and tackle illegal waste activity.

Planned for January to April 2009

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

**For further information contact:
enda.mccrory@doeni.gov.uk**

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

Anticipated January to March 2009

**Reducing the legal blood alcohol content
(BAC) limit for motorists in NI**

**For further information contact:
harry.green@doeni.gov.uk**

The current drink drive limit in NI is 80mg of alcohol per 100ml of blood. We need to consider whether it is appropriate to retain the current limit or to introduce a lower limit of 50mg as is the case across most of Europe for all drivers/riders and possibly even lower limits for other groups of drivers such as novice or professional drivers.

**Consultation period: January to March
2009**

**The Draft Planning (Control of Major
Accident Hazards) Regulations (NI) 2009**

**For further information contact:
wilfrid.reavie@doeni.gov.uk**

Consultation on the Department's proposals for implementing the land use planning requirements of European Directive 2003/105/EC, which amends Directive 96/82/EC (the 'Seveso II' Directive) on the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances.

January to March 2009

The Beef and Pig Carcase (Classification) Regulations (NI) 2009

For further information contact:
jill.garrett@dardni.gov.uk

These Regulations will implement ambulatory amendments as a result of the introduction of Council Regulation (EC) 1234/2007 (commonly referred to as the Single CMO) in relation to the classification of beef and pig carcasses and the associated reporting of prices to the EU.

January to March 2009

The Eggs and Chicks Regulations (NI) 2009

For further information contact:
jill.garrett@dardni.gov.uk

These Regulations will implement Salmonella controls on the marketing of eggs. In particular, they will ensure industry compliance with the National Control Plan (NCP) for laying flocks by requiring that only eggs which are from holdings which are in compliance with the NCP can be sold as Class A.

January to March 2009

The Poultrymeat Regulations (NI) 2009

For further information contact:
jill.garrett@dardni.gov.uk

These Regulations will implement EU requirements in relation to marketing standards for fresh, frozen and quick-frozen poultrymeat for human consumption.

January to March 2009

Charges for Residues Surveillance Regulations (NI) 2009.

For further information contact:
jill.garrett@dardni.gov.uk

These Regulations are required to implement EU law and will introduce charges for carrying out surveillance for residues of veterinary medicines and other substances in red meat, poultry-meat, equine meat, eggs, milk, fish, game and honey.

January – March 2009

Legislative framework for mental capacity and mental health legislation in Northern Ireland.

For further information contact: Pat McConville – telephone 028 9052 0779

The consultation document will set out the DHSSPS plans to reform current mental health legislation and introduce new mental capacity legislation in Northern Ireland.

**Anticipated Consultation start:
January/February 2009**

Regional Economic Strategy

**For further information contact:
peter.jakobsen@dfpni.gov.uk**

The revised Regional Economic Strategy will set out the policies and actions the Executive will take to achieve its overarching Programme for Government goal of a dynamic, innovative economy.

The Strategy is currently being taken forward by a DFP-led inter-departmental steering group.

Expected January-April 2009

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

**For further information contact:
alan.scott@delni.gov.uk**

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.

**Anticipated consultation period: January
2009 – March/April 2009**

**Consultation on the Carbon Reduction
Commitment**

**For further information contact:
keith.brown@doeni.gov.uk or visit the
[DEFRA website](#)**

The Carbon Reduction Commitment is a new measure to reduce emissions primarily from large non-energy intensive organisations in the private and public sectors.

This will be the third and final consultation held by UK Government into the design of the scheme.

February 2009

**Review of Support Arrangements for Less
Favoured Areas (LFAs)**

**For further information contact:
policy.development@dardni.gov.uk**

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

**Consultation planned to start before end of
March 2009**

Private Rented Sector Strategy

**For further information contact:
angela.clarke@dsdni.gov.uk**

The private rented sector has an increasingly important role to play in delivering the objectives of Minister Ritchie's New Housing Agenda. A new Private Rented Sector strategy will address core issues within the sector and encourage the development of a healthy private rented sector capable of responding effectively to housing need by providing real choice, well managed, good quality accommodation for consumers.

Expected March 2009

Review of Community Relations Policy

For further information contact:

elaine.mcfeters@deni.gov.uk

or telephone: 028 9127 9589

The review of community relations policy is progressing. As part of the pre-consultation process, a questionnaire will issue to all key stakeholders in November 2008. It is planned to commence public consultation in March 2009.

Estimated March 2009

Consultation on Draft Addendum to Planning Policy Statement 7: Quality Residential Environments

For further information contact:

philip.mcgowan@doeni.gov.uk or

telephone: 028 90 257302

Draft Addendum to reinforce the application of current policy on housing within urban areas, and take account of recent adjustments to the Regional Development Strategy. The addendum will also consider new policy provisions on apartment development and flat conversions, and highlight the need for appropriate design measures to alleviate the risk of localised flooding due to rain and storm run-off.

Estimated March 2009

Consultation on Draft Planning Policy Statement 2 (Revised): Natural Heritage (provisional renamed)

For further information contact:

valerie.hamilton@doeni.gov.uk Telephone:

028 9025 7357

Revised draft planning policy to protect and conserve, and where possible enhance and restore, the diversity of habitats, wildlife and earth science features. It will also address landscape issues and provide policy for the Region's designated landscapes.

Anticipated start date: March 2009

Draft Environmental Protection (Controls on Ozone-Depleting Substances) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009

And Draft Ozone-Depleting Substances (Qualifications) Regulations(Northern Ireland) 2009

For further information contact:

roger.irwin@doeni.gov.uk

or telephone 028 9054 4515

Ozone Depleting substances(ODS) are used in a number of sectors including refrigeration and air conditioning, fire protection using halons, fumigations using methyl bromide and solvents. The use of ODS in industry has already been restricted by previous NI legislation to help protect the ozone layer. However, the provisions of these draft Regulations include further restrictions.

The draft Qualifications Regulations detail new certifications which employees will be required to attain before being allowed to work with products and equipment containing ODS.

Expected to start in April 2009

Policy for managing vehicular access to pedestrian zones in town centres

Equality Impact Assessment of Policy for Management of Access to Pedestrian Zones

For further information contact:
harvey.hamilton@drdni.gov.uk





Newly announced policies and strategies

Summary

Ongoing

Review of “Priorities for Youth”

oliver.mckearney@deni.gov

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 by the Department of Education (DENI) and questionnaires have been issued to children and young people, youth workers, leaders and volunteers and managers in youth or relevant children’s services. The questionnaires had to be returned by 15 October 2008 and the findings from the questionnaires and other evidence presented will be discussed in a series of focus groups/conference with key stakeholders in February/March 2009. This will be followed by a formal consultation process.

Ongoing

Enhancing Sign Language Provision in Northern Ireland

For further information contact:

john.murray@delni.gov.uk

The Department for Employment and Learning is currently developing proposals to enhance the provision of Sign Language tutors and interpreters in Northern Ireland.

February 2009

DARD Evidence and Innovation Strategy 2008 – 2011

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

This Strategy provides the over-arching framework for all Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (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).





Policy reviews coming up

Summary

Ongoing

[Review of the Regional Development Strategy for Northern Ireland 2025](#)

For further information contact:
shapingourfuture@drdni.gov.uk

A major review of the Regional Development Strategy is currently being carried out. The aim of the review is to produce a revised regional Strategy that can accommodate the economic growth now expected in the medium to long-term. It will set direction for the location of jobs, houses, businesses, public services and facilities across the whole region.

To commence shortly and to be completed early 2009.

Review of support provisions for carers.

For further information contact
Mandy Jones - telephone 028 9052 2930

The Minister for the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety has committed to undertake a joint review with the Department for Social Development (DSD) of the support provisions for carers. The review will examine the Northern Ireland position in relation to health and social care support for carers against the recommendations contained in the new carer's strategy published by the Department of Health in June 2008. It will also examine issues in relation to Carer's Allowance but this aspect of the review will be carried out by officials from DSD.

December 2008 - March 2009

Evaluation of the Access to Work (NI)

For further information contact:
vincent.donnely@delni.gov.uk

The Department for Employment and Learning is carrying out an external evaluation of the Access to Work (NI) programme as part of its programme of evaluations. This will highlight potential policy development issues. AtW (NI) provides a range of individually assessed supports to assist people with disabilities to find and keep employment. The evaluation will involve consultation with programme users and stakeholders.





Conferences and seminars coming up

Summary

Series of seminars during November and December

Stakeholder Sub-Regional Workshops

For further information contact:
shapingourfuture@drdni.gov.uk

18 December 2008

Venue: Whitaker Square, Sir John Rogerson's Quay, Dublin 2

[Analysis of Spatial Disparities by a Structural Equation Model](#)

As part of the process for reviewing the Regional Development Strategy the Department is holding 11 half day sub-regional workshops. The purpose of these is to share with stakeholders the work that has been done so far in reviewing the Strategy and more importantly to listen to views and ideas about their areas.

Professor Peter Nijkamp from the Free University, Amsterdam will speak at this seminar which is being arranged by The Economic and Social Research Institute.

No booking required.

15 January 2009

[Empowerment 2009](#)

[The Consultation Institute](#)

This event to be held in London (venue to be announced) on 15 January 2009 is an appraisal of what is going to be possible to empower local people in an environment where case studies from recent years may not provide the most useful guidance. Topics will include:-

Neighbourhood voices: an evidence base for elected members.

Community self-help as bottom-up civic engagement.

e-participation – cost-effective tools whose time has come?

An international perspective on community involvement.

Satisfying the Comprehensive Area Assessment, ie how can we prove we're listening?

22 January 2009

[Oxford Media Convention 2009](#)

This one-day conference to be held on 22 January 2009 in the Saïd Business School, University of Oxford is organised by IPPR in partnership with MediaGuardian, returns for its seventh year. The Oxford Media Convention 2009 will focus on convergence as senior government and industry figures come together and discuss current and forthcoming challenges and opportunities around media policy, strategy and regulation.

Seen by many as the industry-defining event, the Oxford Media Convention provides an important opportunity for senior figures from broadcasting, academia and regulatory bodies to think creatively about the regulatory framework we want to see develop to guarantee the success of our creative and media industries.

28 January 2009

[Meaningful Consultation with Older Generations](#)

[The Consultation Institute](#)

This event which is to take place on 28 January 2009 at Lakeside, Aston University, Birmingham, places a firm focus on public engagement with older people – a growing part of every community. The Institute has worked with Age Concern and others to identify those issues which public bodies must address if they are to hold meaningful dialogues with such groups. Authoritative speakers, case studies and group discussions will take place aimed to ensure a valuable learning and networking experience.

29 January 2009

**Customer Service Excellence Seminar
Belfast Castle**

**For further information contact:
stephen.girvan@dfpni.gov.uk or check
the [Best Practice Website](#)**

Delivery and Innovation Division, in the Department of Finance and Personnel will hold an information seminar on 'Customer Service Excellence'(CSE), the new Government Standard for customer service. Speakers will include an experienced assessor, a representative from the Cabinet Office and a CSE holder. This seminar is open to all public sector and voluntary/ community sector organisations in Northern Ireland and is free of charge.

4 February 2009

[Developing LINKs as effective champions of dialogue](#)

[The Consultation Institute](#)

This event to be held in London (venue to be announced) on 4 February 2009 will seek to assess new developments and continue to build on shared experience, following two successful roundtable-based events in 2008 which provided input for local authorities, health trusts, LINK hosts and participants. The goal in 2009 is to achieve results and look at issues such as, what role can these new networks play, how will they relate to parallel channels of public engagement etc.

5 February 2009

Europa Hotel

[IoD Annual Dinner](#)

The Institute of Directors (IoD) Annual Dinner is the foremost business dinner in the NI calendar. A high profile speaker will address around 450 guests and the evening will include the after dinner speaker, Alan Cleary, and the presentation of the IoD Lunn's Award of Excellence.

Cost £85 + VAT

11 February 2009

[Best Practice Consultation with Children & Young People](#)

[The Consultation Institute](#)

Working with local specialists, this seminar to be held in Manchester on 11 February 2009, (venue to be announced) will focus on the unique challenge of engaging young people in dialogue. As Public Bodies and the Voluntary Community Sector all strive to understand and relate to the younger generation's needs and perceptions, this is a unique opportunity to exchange ideas and absorb new technologies for practical applications.

Afternoon roundtables will provide participation opportunities to consider aspects in depth.

4 March 2009

[Best Practice Consultation with Faith Groups](#)

[The Consultation Institute](#)

This event is to be held in London (venue to be announced) on 4 March 2009. Previous events have been useful for central and local government, public agencies and private companies working in areas of community sensitivity.

Hear authoritative speakers explain the practicalities of engaging with different faith groups, and join in participative roundtables to explore specific aspects in more detail.

10 March 2009

La Mon House Hotel & Country Club

IoD Women's Leadership Conference

**For further information contact:
lorraine.corry@iod.com**

The second annual IoD Women's Leadership Conference is a half day, women only event with an excellent line up of female speakers from a broad range of business and other backgrounds.

Price TBC in the region of £75 + VAT (includes lunch)





Summary of key past events

Summary

Service Framework for Cardiovascular Health and Wellbeing Consultation Workshops

- 08 September – City Hotel, Derry
- 09 September – City Hotel, Armagh
- 10 September – Hilton Templepatrick
- 10 September – Wellington Park Hotel, Belfast
- 15 September – Tullylagan Hotel, Cookstown
- 19 September – Mount Conference Centre, Belfast

For further information contact:
john.maguire@dhsspsni.gov.uk

30 September 2008

[Monetary Policy Roundtable](#)

A number of consultation workshops were held in September for a variety of voluntary and community groups and health professionals to inform about the Cardiovascular Health and Wellbeing Service Framework and offer guidance in responding to the consultation.

The Bank of England and the Centre for Economic Policy Research jointly hosted a Monetary Policy Roundtable. This was the first in what is expected to become a regular series intended to provide a forum for economists to discuss key issues affecting the design and operation of monetary policy in the United Kingdom. Participants included a range of economists from private sector financial institutions, academia and public sector bodies. There were four discussion topics:

- The prospects for the housing market and consumer spending;
- Oil and other global price pressures;
- Monetary policy considerations at the current juncture;
- Lessons from the financial turmoil for monetary policy.

5 November 2008

**Stakeholder Conference – Stormont
Hotel, Belfast**

**[Shaping our future: Reviewing
Northern Ireland's Regional
Development Strategy](#)**

**For further information contact:
shapingourfuture@drdni.gov.uk**

This conference was aimed at those stakeholders with an interest in the ongoing review of Northern Ireland's Regional Development Strategy, the key policy document in outlining the strategic future development of Northern Ireland.

12 November 2008

**[Ideopolis City Leaders Network –
The Credit Crunch](#)**

This is the first of five events on key issues affecting cities as part of the Ideopolis City Leaders Network and is exclusive to members of this group. The event discussed the credit crunch in historical context and its likely impact on different cities in the UK. What can cities learn from previous recessions? Which cities are most vulnerable? And how can they work with the private sector to capitalise on the opportunities that do exist and weather the economic storm?

13 November 2008

**[Independent Healthy Ageing –
Showcasing research and
identifying issues to inform public
policy and develop the evidence
base](#)**

**More information available from:
franca.eirich@scotland.gsi.gov.uk**

The purpose of this event was to showcase existing research relating to independent healthy ageing, to inform the development and delivery of public policy.

The target audience was academic evidence providers who are interested in independent healthy ageing; evidence users in the policy and practice community; and researchers in the wider public and private sector who wish to engage in using and developing the evidence base relating to independent healthy ageing.





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