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Policylink

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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 sixteenth issue of the policylink bulletin!

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

In Chapter 3 'Support for policy-making', we look at some of the ongoing work to help improve policy-making, including the Policy Toolkit and the latest edition of the Policy Hub Bulletin .

In Chapter 4 – new publications - we highlight a range of publications covering topics such as education, employment issues, human rights and migrant workers.

In Chapter 5 'New from research institutes and think tanks' you will see references to new or forthcoming publications relating to themes such as care for the elderly, unlocking innovation, and the creative economy.

Chapter 6 is a special theme chapter focusing on poverty, including articles covering pensioner poverty and poverty and educational disadvantage.

As usual, this edition includes details of:

- current and forthcoming consultations;
- conferences and seminars;
- newly announced policies and strategies; and
- policy reviews coming up.

We have also included two articles in this edition from Disability Action: (i) on the Centre on Human Rights for Disabled People and (ii) the findings of a research study identifying human rights for people with disabilities. OFMDFM's Policy Innovation Unit (PIU) has also contributed an article on the Future of Citizenship.

NICS readers may wish to note that the Centre for Applied Learning in association with PIU has reviewed its suite of policy development courses which will be made available later in the year.

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

Editorial Note:

Over the last few years, the production of the Policylink Bulletin within PIU has been managed and coordinated by Tanya Gillanders. Since the last Bulletin, Tanya has moved to a new post. The Editorial Team would like to acknowledge the enormous contribution made by Tanya to the Bulletin, especially in terms of its quality and accuracy of content as well as her coverage of policy issues and developments. We wish her every success in her new post.

Centre on Human Rights for Disabled People (COHR)

The COHR aims to secure the human rights of people with disabilities in Northern Ireland . The objectives of the Centre are to:

- create and sustain a sectoral coalition of human rights expertise on disability.
- identify and deliver key campaigns to ensure the abuse of disabled people is recognised and accepted as a mainstream human rights issue.
- develop and ensure the delivery of an effective system of accessible legal redress.
- deliver key policy changes to promote the human rights of people with disabilities.
- develop and mainstream a system of human rights proofing which includes disability issues and to report on the extent to which existing protection systems recognise the human rights abuses faced by disabled people.

To achieve the above objectives the COHR is setting up a Disabled Activist Rights Network (DARN), campaigning on issues relating to health and education, producing a range of information materials, submissions, policy documents and toolkits, responding to enquiries and reporting on service providers policy and practice.

Recently the COHR has produced a range of information on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Leaflets (in plain English) entitled 'An Overview' and 'The Principles' are now available for dissemination. The leaflets are also available, on request, in Easy Read, Braille, audio, large print, computer disk, or as a pdf document. A more in-depth briefing paper on the Convention is also available.

To find out more about the work of the COHR please contact us at:

Centre on Human Rights for Disabled People
Disability Action
189 Airport Road West , Belfast BT3 9ED
Telephone: 028 9029 7880
Textphone: 028 9029 7878
Fax: 028 9029 7881
Email: humanrights@disabilityaction.org
Web: www.disabilityaction.org

Key Human Rights Issues for Disabled People

A recent research study produced by Disability Action entitled: '*Securing our Rights – the development of a strategy to secure the human rights of people with disabilities in Northern Ireland*' has eleven key human rights for people with disabilities. These were identified in three ways:

- active research in open sessions for disabled people throughout Northern Ireland ,
- one-to-one sessions with disabled people and organisations representing disabled people, and
- a review of priorities articulated in submissions by the Alliance of Human Rights for People with Disabilities, Disability Action and Mencap.

Disabled people identified the eleven key human rights that would have the most positive impact on their community of interest, if properly implemented. These rights are listed below.

1) The right to fair access to health and social services support.

3% of women with learning disabilities have smear tests compared to 86% of the general population and 17% have breast screening compared to 76% of the overall population.

2) The right to have a voice, be heard and be consulted on decisions affecting their daily lives.

The lack of an enforceable statutory right to access advocacy impacts significantly on this right. This includes the absence of a co-ordinated, funded advocacy strategy and need for diversity in advocacy provision to meet the specific needs of different groups.

3) The right to respect for privacy in all areas affecting a disabled person's intimate and family life.

Those consulted, especially young people in institutionalised environments, expressed concern at not being able to develop relationships as other non-disabled people do.

4) The right to work on a fair basis.

One in four disabled adults of working age in Northern Ireland has a job. Disabled people earn, on average, 12% less per hour compared to non-disabled people.

5) The right to an effective education.

Whilst the Education (NI) Order 1996 contains a presumption that children with special needs will receive their education in a mainstream setting, in Northern Ireland there are 49 special schools and 172 special units providing for 5000 children. Pupils with statements comprise 2-3% of the mainstream school population, but all disabled children have special educational needs and not all children with special needs have a disability.

6) The right to access to independent living.

Independent living has a special resonance for disabled people and was mentioned frequently throughout the research study. It embraces the philosophy of freedom which empowers disabled people and enabled them to exert influence, choice and control in every aspect of their life. This aspiration has been fundamentally compromised by limited resources in relation to demand for independent living.

7) The right to an adequate standard of living.

It is estimated that 70% of disabled people live in or on the edge of poverty. Incapacity benefit, the main replacement benefit for those with disabilities not able to currently work, is 17% of average earnings.

8) The right to adequate housing and an accessible built environment.

Those consulted provided many examples of the difficulties in ensuring that housing meets the needs of disabled householders including limited resources in relation to demand for independent living and Housing Executive adaptations taking too long. In relation to the built environment, some progress has been made through the implementation of the Disability Discrimination Act. However, key problems remain with most of the built environment constructed before the current legal duties, developers failing to understand the needs of abilities, needs and expectations of disabled people and access provision tending to focus on minimum standards rather than best practice.

9) The right to appropriate transport.

This right is perceived as high priority as it provides access/barriers to other economic and social rights. Key difficulties with public transport include costs, the poor levels of accessibility of buses, trains and taxis, lack of community transport options (especially for those in rural areas) and the unhelpful attitudes of some staff.

10) The right to accessible information.

Anecdotal evidence amongst those involved in the research suggested there has been some positive profiling of communication needs in recent years. However, the level of accessible information remains a problem. For example, there are only six fully qualified sign language interpreters for an estimated 4500 users in Northern Ireland .

11) The right to engage in culture, arts, leisure and sporting activities.

Many of the people involved in the research process, notably young people, felt that this was a key right in developing their own identity. Incidents cited included leisure centres not being fully accessible, signed performances excessively restricted and, for those 'institutionalised' the opportunity to socialise with those that they chose but instead being forced to socialise with those with a similar disability as the only common ground.

Those consulted sought not to prioritise these rights since they each have a different priority for people with different disabilities and identities.

The research concluded that the human rights priorities for disabled people, those that would impact most on their life experience, are economic and social rights.

The key barriers to achieving these rights were identified as poor co-ordination on human rights issues, a lack of capacity in the disability sector, low awareness levels and different cultural aspects which minimise human rights for disabled people, a lack of accessible support to challenge abuses and the lack of evidence of the commitment to human rights for disabled people through public policy.

Disability Action

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The Future of Citizenship

In this article, James McEldowney of the Policy Innovation Unit sets out some of the findings contained in a Government report The Future of Citizenship launched on 22 February 2007 by the Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA)¹ . The implications of the report for policy are discussed in terms of how departments and external organisations might plan their future policymaking, planning and communications.

Background

The Future of Citizenship project emanates from previous work undertaken by DCA which looks at trends in public perceptions and behaviours in respect of the way people relate to each other, to public services and with Government. The project seeks to address two questions:

- how might societal notions, definitions and behaviours of citizenship in the UK evolve over the next 20 years?.
- What are the implications for Government policy, planning and communication.

Methodology

Administered by a joint team from DCA and the Henley Centre Headlight Vision (HCHLV), the project involved a highly participative and interactive scenario process designed around workshops. These were supported by an extensive review and analysis of the literature on citizenship as well as qualitative research on the meaning of citizenship to a diverse range of people in the UK .

Key Findings: Four scenarios of citizenship

The research process identified an extensive list of 'drivers' ie; factors, forces, trends which could influence societal notions, definitions and behaviours of citizenship in the UK . Prioritising these drivers they were further analyzed in terms of their importance or dominance in terms of having a major influence and impact on change and those which were uncertain or dependent on other drivers for their impact. The drivers which emerged were clustered on the basis of two axes of uncertainty. The horizontal axis (resource-constrained-resource rich) relates to the nature of the external operating environment of citizenship. This relates to natural resource constraints, consumption culture and performance of the UK economy. The vertical axis (pro-active citizens- reactive citizens) relates to the nature of engagement of people with their communities; social issues and systems of governance. At the pro-active end, people are more likely to be interested in issues of societal and community well-being. At the reactive end, individuals are more individualised, self-interested and sometimes apathetic.

Using the two axes, four possible scenarios or future worlds of citizenship in the UK are identified. These are summarised in Table 1 and can be explained as follows:

- i. 'Global Politics': In this scenario, there is greater concern over wider sustainability issues. 'Global citizens' are increasingly engaged with the state and global politics. There is an expectation that government should address large scale economic and environmental constraints.
- ii. 'Charity Begins at Home': This scenario has a strong community focus. Society has enjoyed growing affluence. There is an increasing emphasis on quality of life issues with emphasis more on the safety and quality of local neighbourhoods. There is a desire for greater local control of taxes, welfare provision, a growing need for carers for the elderly population.
- iii. 'Tribal Politics': Set within the context of rising energy costs and serious environmental concerns, communities become more polarised. There is a significant increase in the segregation of communities and socio-economic inequalities. As the public's confidence in the economy changes, people react more strongly to government policy. Government is expected to come up with increasingly customised solutions.
- iv. 'Remote Self': In this scenario, life is fast paced. The nature of society is more fragmented. Virtual communities and connections are spurred on by technological developments. The majority of citizens have prospered from a booming economy.

There is little proactive engagement in society and little acceptance of state intervention unless it relates to the protection of private property.

Table 1: Four possible scenarios or future worlds of citizenship in the UK :

Proactive Citizens

Resource Constrained

Global Citizens:

- Long term sustainability issues
- Increased engagement with the state and global politics
- Recognition that citizens have responsibilities
- Acceptance that government has the right to enforce these responsibilities

Tribal Politics:

- Society is individualistic and inward looking.
- Increasingly fragmented and isolated groups
- Unstable economy & environmental concerns
- Potential climate of unrest

Resource Constrained

Resource Rich

“Charity begins at home”:

- Strong local ties and community engagement
- Strong community focus in an environment of relative affluence
- A new local philanthropy has emerged
- Growing need for carers for an ageing population

Remote Self:

- Life is fast paced- difficult to think beyond short term
- Virtual IT communities become more important
- Isolation & disengagement from community and state processes
- Apathy & little proactive engagement in society

Resource Rich

Reactive Citizens

Source: Adapted from DCA (2007) The future of citizenship: A report for the Department for Constitutional Affairs, London .

Taking account of the above scenarios, three points are worth noting. Firstly, none of the above scenarios are mutually exclusive. They represent possible development paths for the future of citizenship which may or may not occur due to government intervention.

Secondly, their true utility lies in their ability to be used as a tool to identify preferred strategies for the future.

Thirdly, no single scenario is simply “better” or “worse” than the others. Each has its own significance in terms of benefits and opportunities as well as potential risks. Each provides a “...way of thinking about how different trends might interact and

the policy implications arising”.

Research with the public

This project also included research with the public to explore the meaning and definition of citizenship to people as well as with senior government policymakers. Though no research was conducted in Northern Ireland, the findings combined with the views of senior government policy-makers provide a set of observations on the future of citizenship which are worthy of serious reflection. These include findings which show:

- That Government and citizens share many of the same preferred elements of the future of citizenship in the UK but differ in how to reach this
- Government policy may be a relatively weak driver of citizenship. Indeed the scenarios imply that unless there is a 'shift' or 'shock' in the external environment, it is unlikely that the public will substantially re-engage with the national state.
- Both government and the public desire a re-engagement
- Government believes that it has relatively little ability to make this happen. The public believes that government is choosing not to engage with people.
- The public have a greater interest to be engaged with home affairs rather than international affairs

Implications for policy

Drawing on the evidence collected as part of the project, six broad policy options are presented. These include:

- i. Recognising that democratic re-engagement is not going to happen automatically, a strategic long term perspective is required. It is recommended that the scenarios are used by policy makers within government and by individual government departments to consider where their current policy imperatives and outcomes are taking them.
- ii. Getting the language 'right' when talking to the public about the value of democratic engagement. This means greater consistency with government communications with the public, especially in terms of the meaning given to 'citizenship'.
- iii. Using intermediaries to encourage 'vertical' interaction with the state. This might involve for example, employers encouraging people to engage with the legal system.
- iv. Placing more emphasis on maximising the experience for the public of engagement with the state. For example, making public consultation as time and energy efficient for the public as possible.
- v. Targeting the increasingly disengaged. The paper specifically highlights concern over what appears to be a growing 'anti-engagement' sentiment amongst low income working group people, reflecting that this group feels disadvantaged in

terms of access to public services. In short this group feels it is not getting a decent payback for their taxes and public contributions. Equally research also points to the existence of a “too rich/too busy to care” group who are declining to vote or engage with public services.

vi. Reinforcing citizenship education and supporting household and community behaviours around good parenting with schools for example communicating more widely with parents about how they can become more widely involved.

Conclusions

This report provides an excellent example of evidence based futures analysis being used to lead a strategic review of an important policy issue. While not representing Government policy, the report provides a valuable foundation to stimulate informed debate around the issue of citizenship and associated issues concerning the decline in democratic engagement and the challenges that lie ahead. The scenarios and policy options should help contribute to a debate amongst those involved in policy-making and planning for the future. The report itself concludes that “the real future of citizenship in the UK in 2026 will probably lie in some combination of these scenarios...”. In looking to develop a future strategy of citizenship, this report makes a valuable contribution for those involved in policy formulation at both national and regional levels.

The Department of Constitutional Affairs became the Ministry of Justice on 9 May 2007 and took over all the previous responsibilities of the DCA.

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Support for Policy - Making

Summary

[The Policy Toolkit](#)

PIU has now published a Policy Toolkit. This 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 workbooks cover the following topics: (i) Justification and Set-Up (ii) Developing and Analysing the Evidence Base (iii) Identifying and Appraising Policy Options (iv) A Practical Guide to Impact Assessment (v) From Consultation to Announcement.

Workbook 4 provides a comprehensive guide to impact assessment and has been designed around a range of impact assessments. It is structured under the three pillars of sustainable development. The Toolkit is available on [OFMDFM's Policylink website](#) where comments and suggestions for its future development are invited. Amendments and updates to the Toolkit will be undertaken as required.

[The Tomorrow Project](#)

The Tomorrow Project is an independent, registered charity undertaking a programme of research, consultation and communication in Britain about people's lives in the next twenty years – where we've come from and where we are going. The "GLIMPSES of tomorrow" framework was developed by the Tomorrow Project. GLIMPSES is an acronym for: Globalisation; Life Course; Individuals, Identity and values; Media and technology; Politics and government; Social exclusion; Employment; and Sustainability. Information under these eight headings is stored on an online database. It describes emerging social, economic and demographic trends. The Tomorrow Project also runs The Tomorrow Network. This provides regular briefing through the Tomorrow Bulletin on current and future trends, with articles and interviews by authoritative observers. It also holds Network events – three or four events a year – in both England and Scotland – at which speakers address topics of current interest and which provide an opportunity for networking. Information on how to join The Tomorrow Network is available from www.tomorrowproject.net

[Policy Hub Bulletin](#)

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





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New Official Publications

Summary

March 2007

DEL Research Agenda 2007-09

For further details contact: Tertiary Education Analytical Services Branch (TEASB)
Telephone: 028 9025 7606

The Department for Employment and Learning's updated Research Agenda 2007-09 will reflect, as far as possible, the Department's research needs for the coming three-year period. The Agenda will also set out details of the expanding evidence base and the link that it has with policy development as well as how the Department plans to deliver its new research needs.

March 2007

An examination of Higher Education Research Development and Knowledge Transfer in Northern Ireland .

For further details contact: Tertiary Education Analytical Services Branch (TEASB)
Telephone: 028 9025 7606

Regional economic strategies stress the importance of building a knowledge based economy, with universities as knowledge-generators and industry as a key exploiter of this knowledge. This Report compares the resource input and outcomes from these activities to other regions and identifies best practice from elsewhere.

March 2007

[Education \(Student Support\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\)](#)

This Statutory Rule will provide support for students taking designated higher education courses in respect of an academic year beginning on or after 1 st September 2007. It also amends the Education (Student Support) Regulations 2006 which make provision for support for students taking designated higher education courses in respect of an academic year beginning on or after 1 st September 2006. This rule is made in broad parity with the arrangements coming into operation from 1 st March 2007 for students in England .

March 2007

A guide to financial support for higher education students in 2007/08

For further details go to:

www.studentfinanceneni.co.uk

This booklet will set out the financial help the Government has put in place for the 2007/08 academic year for higher education students whose homes are in Northern Ireland (whether they are studying in Northern Ireland, England, Wales, Scotland or the Republic of Ireland). It will outline the application process to access financial help. It applies to the 2007/08 academic year only.

March 2007

Student Loans – a guide to terms and conditions

For further details go to:

www.studentfinanceneni.co.uk

This guide will issue to students who take out loans to support their study at higher-education institutions in England , Northern Ireland , Scotland and Wales . It will explain in detail what students are committing to when taking out a student loan.

Spring 2007

Leading ...to Success

For further details contact:

kieran.mannion@delni.gov.uk

Leading... to Success, the management and leadership strategy and implementation plan, outlines the actions to be taken to improve the quality and quantity of qualified managers in the public, private, and voluntary and community sectors in Northern Ireland.

Spring 2007

Understanding why people return to the New Deals in Northern Ireland

For further details contact:

sheila.mcneill@delni.gov.uk

The Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) has recognised that those starting on New Deal increasingly comprise those who had participated on the programme previously. DEL wanted to understand more about the characteristics of New Deal returners and if there is anything that could be done to minimise the number of people that return to the programmes. This study will describe the extent and characteristics of those who return to the New Deals.

April 2007

Health and Human Rights

For further details contact:

information@nihrc.org

The connection between health, healthcare and human rights was recently explored at a discussion event held by the NIHRC. The event involved a number of contributors from the legal and health fields, service users and health providers. The discussion papers arising from the event are available in the [Special focus](#) section of NIHRC website.

18 June 2007

Attitudes to Migrant Workers: results from the Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey

The report presents the findings from a range of questions asked in the Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey on the attitude of the public to migrant workers.

22 June 2007

[Significant Water Management Issues - Water Matters, Have your Say](#)

Summary reports of the significant issues identified, to date, in each river basin district (RBD). Each also outlines the current measures for dealing with the issues. Significant Issues are defined as environmental pressures that pose the greatest risk to water bodies in the RBD. These are the issues that could cause them to fail to achieve the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive by 2015. Comments will be welcomed at any time but preferably before 22 nd December 2007.

June 2007

[NIHRC response is proposed Irish language legislation](#)

The Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission has responded to the consultation document issued by the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) on 13 March 2007, which outlined indicative clauses for an Irish Language Bill. This followed an earlier consultation on a document issued in December 2006.

For further details contact:
information@nihrc.org

July 2007

[The prison within](#)

Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (NIHRC) report on the imprisonment of women at Hydebank Wood during 2004-06.

For further details contact:
information@nihrc.org

July 2007

[Report on the Mid-scheme Review of the Financial Assistance for Young Farmers Scheme \(June 2005-December 2006\)](#)

An operational review of the first 18 months of the Financial Assistance for Young Farmers Scheme. The aims of the review were to: determine if the Scheme is delivering on its original aim; assess the uptake levels; and consider whether any adjustment to the Scheme is necessary or any other action is necessary to address areas of underperformance.

July 2007

Air Quality Strategy for England , Scotland , Wales and Northern Ireland

For further details contact: dan.kennedy@doeni.gov.uk

This is a new version of the UK Air Quality Strategy, first published in 2000. Its purpose is to set out national objectives and policies for managing ambient air quality and move us towards meeting our legal EU air quality obligations.

July 2007

[Northern Ireland Housing Bulletin: January to March 2007](#)

Report on Northern Ireland new house prices, house starts, mortgage repossession and homelessness.

July 2007

[DSD Statistics and Research Occasional Bulletin 1: Value of Domestic Properties](#)

Capital Value of domestic properties has been used to estimate the impact of revaluation on rate charges. This is linked to tenure type rather than income. The value of properties at January 2005 is analysed by tenure, local deprivation, location, settlement type and catchment area.

July 2007

[DSD Statistics and Research Occasional Bulletin 2: Factors affecting Value of Domestic Properties](#)

The value of domestic property in January 2005 is analysed by a range of variables. In the east of Northern Ireland, distance from Belfast is a key variable and access to services is not. The trend in values with distance from Belfast, although marked, implies a very low valuation on the additional time and costs taken up by commuting.

July 2007

[DSD Statistics and Research Occasional Bulletin 3: Settlement Catchment areas: populations, travel distances and travel times](#)

SRB has divided Northern Ireland into catchment areas for the various types of service centre identified by the Settlement Information and Classification Group. These are determined by straight line distance to the nearest centre with some adjustment for unbridged waterways and bodies of water. Catchment populations are estimated, as is travel time to the centre. In general, about two thirds of the population served by a service centre is resident outside it.

August 2007

[Households below average income in Northern Ireland 2005/06](#)

Report on Northern Ireland households and individuals in poverty, including estimates of the level of risk of poverty for various categories.

August 2007

[Increasing the Holiday Entitlement - Departmental response to the second consultation](#)

Between February and May 2007 the Department consulted on Regulations to increase the statutory minimum holiday entitlement in NI. This document sets out the Department's response to this consultation.

For further details contact:

christine.donnelly@delni.gov.uk

or Telephone : 028 9025 7687

August 2007

A report into savers' views of the Farepak collapse

Farepak – An Unfair Deal for Savers

For further details contact:

Susie Brown at the NI Consumer Council
on 028 9067 2488

August 2007

Details of activity and annual accounts

**NI Consumer Council Annual Report
2006-07**

For further details contact:

Susie Brown at the NI Consumer Council
on 028 9067 2488

August 2007

Details of complaints activity and resolution

**NI Consumer Council - Complaints
Report 2006-07**

For further details contact:

Susie Brown at the NI Consumer Council
on 028 9067 2488

August 2007

Consumer Council newsletter covering Dec 2006 to June 2007.

Consumernet

For further details contact:

Susie Brown at the NI Consumer Council
on 028 9067 2488

August 2007

**Guidance on Waste Incineration
Directive (WID)**

The guidance will describe the scope, regulatory and technical requirements of the Waste Incineration Directive (WID) and how they should be interpreted and applied. The guide is particularly intended for operators of incineration and co-incineration plants, regulators, waste producers, statutory consultees and waste managers, all of whom will be affected by the implementation of the WID.

For further information contact dan.
kennedy@doeni.gov.uk

August 2007

**[Destinations of Leavers from Higher
Education 2005/06: Statistical Bulletin](#)**

Statistical bulletin providing details of destinations of leavers from higher education who obtained qualifications at NI higher education institutions and NI domiciled students obtaining qualifications in UK higher education institutions in the academic year 2005/06.

September 2007

'Exploring the Efficacy of the STRIVE Ó Model in the Derry City Council and Strabane District Council Areas'

For further details contact:

Annette@crescotrust.com

Given the high levels of unemployment and economic inactivity within the Derry City Council and Strabane District Council areas, The Cresco Trust identified the need for a labour market intervention to facilitate the (re)integration of those furthest removed from the labour market in these areas. This interventionist strategy took the form of the STRIVE Ó model which was piloted via the *Key Project* under EQUAL (Round II) in Derry and Strabane in the period between November 2005 and May 2007. The aim of conducting this practitioner-based research was to investigate the efficacy of this intervention within the context of this North West region.

September 2007

Financial Capability Research

For further details contact: Julie Megrath at the NI Consumer Council on 028 9067 2488

A report into the adults' financial behaviour and attitudes in the UK .

September 2007

Analysis of Sickness Absence in the NI Departments 2006/2007

For further details contact: joan.ritchie@dfpni.gov.uk

This report is produced by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. It documents the level of sickness absence in the 11 NI Departments and the progress made towards ministerial targets during 2006/2007. It also provides information on reasons for absence and long-term sickness.

September 2007

Noise Complaint Statistics for Northern Ireland 2006-2007

For further details contact: colin.nugent@doeni.gov.uk

The Northern Ireland Noise Complaint Statistics Report is an annual publication which presents research conducted by the Department of the Environment into the number and type of noise complaints received by district councils. It also reports the levels of action taken by councils to mitigate against noise.

September 2007

Evaluation of the Employment Rights Project managed by the Northern Ireland Law Centre and supported financially by DEL.

For further details contact: jim.hanna@delni.gov.uk or Telephone: 028 9025 7485

DEL provides the NI Law Centre with financial support (c£150k per annum) to run an Employment Rights project. The project provides advice, support and representation to people who have employment problems and who have no other source of professional support and expertise because of personal financial constraints or other disadvantage. This project has been subject to the normal financial accountability processes and these will continue to apply to this project or any future similar initiative.

September 2007

DRD Teleworking Scheme

For further details contact:
Michael Deery
on 028 9054 1121

This Scheme is 'distance working facilitated by appropriate information and communication solutions'. It aims to enhance the Work Life Balance of staff by giving them greater flexibility in how they organise their working lives along with their domestic responsibilities. It enables the organisation to provide flexibility in working arrangements yet meet business needs. Accommodation has been secured in four locations around the province which will become the teleworking centres.

Due to be published Oct/Nov 2007

UK Graduate Earnings: An Analysis by Variation, Inequality and Deprivation.

For further details contact:
Wendy Leckey on 028 9025 7672

This research examines the earnings data from the cohort of 2005/06 graduates from UK Higher Education Institutes. The research applies advanced modelling techniques to examine the variability in graduate earnings by Gender, Subject, Degree Classification, Region of Employment, Occupation and Industry. Further, it applies the techniques of inequality decomposition and deprivation analysis to investigate the source and extent of graduate inequality and poverty in the UK.

22 November 2007

Continuous Household Survey Bulletin

For further details go to:
www.csu.nisra.gov.uk

The Continuous Household Survey is an important source of information and is designed to provide an ongoing snapshot of social and economic conditions in Northern Ireland. Regularly produced data includes information such as housing characteristics, changing population trends, health and use of the Health services and smoking and drinking trends.

November 2007

NI Response to Leitch Review of Skills

For further details contact:

Tim.Devine@delni.gov.uk

December 2006 and the devolved administrations are currently reflecting on the report and its implications for each respective administration.

Many of the Leitch Review's specific recommendations relate to England only and the NI inter-Departmental response will focus on measures that will apply in the Northern Ireland context.





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New from Research Institutes and Think Tanks

Summary

[Free personal care in Scotland: recent developments](#)

Website:
<http://www.jrf.org.uk>

This study by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation reviewed the Scottish Executive's policy of free personal care for older people, and researched the perceived impacts. It notes that there has been Scotland-wide increase in demand for care at home.

[How can funding of long-term care adapt for an ageing population?](#)

Website:
<http://www.jrf.org.uk>

This Joseph Rowntree Foundation study says that the current long-term funding model in the United Kingdom is unfair, not clear and unlikely to be sustainable in future. It lists problems with the growing demand for long-term care; low spending on services; inconsistencies in the system and so on.

[The impact of enforcement on street users in England](#)

Website:
<http://www.jrf.org.uk>

This study evaluates the impact of enforcement measures aimed at street users involved in rough sleeping, begging and drinking in the street in five different areas in England. The researchers conclude that it is impossible to predict with certainty the outcomes of enforcement measures for any individual street user. Enforcement is considered a very high risk strategy only to be used as a last resort and never with very vulnerable street users such as those with severe mental health problems.

[Unlocking the community](#)

Website: www.ilcuk.org.uk

The International Longevity Centre – UK (ILC-UK) has published this “think piece” which finds that older people's growing capacity for organising in the community can promote better social engagement and well-being in later life.

[Public space and interaction between diverse communities](#)

Website: www.demos.co.uk

This report published by the think tank Demos offers an analysis of how public spaces can contribute to building positive relationships and bridges between different communities. Drawing on expertise from the fields of regeneration, community activism and education, the report explores people's motivations for entering public spaces and assesses the potential for interaction that can be found herein. It ends with a series of practical recommendations for those working in the field .

[Publicly funded culture and the creative industries](#)

Website: www.demos.co.uk

The creative industries are often poorly understood in policy because they do not conform to traditional expectations about how businesses work; their scale may make them hard to measure and to engage with. This paper calls for new understandings of how culture can benefit the creative industries.

[Unlocking Innovation: Why citizens hold the key to public service reform](#)

Website: www.demos.co.uk

A collection of essays and analysis from a wide range of public sector experts and practitioners offering lessons on how public services can better engage their users based on examples of best practice in the public and private sectors. Contributions from Sir David Varney, Treasury Adviser on transformational government and Geoff Mulgan, former Head of Policy in the Prime Ministers Office.

[So, What do you do? A new question for policy in the creative age](#)

Website: www.demos.co.uk

This pamphlet explores the crucial role of public policy in supporting the creative economy.

[Nanodialogues: experiments in public engagement with science](#)

Website: www.demos.co.uk

A pamphlet presenting the findings of a series of experiments in upstream public engagement with a range of partners such as the Environment Agency, research Councils where members of the public were asked to join scientists in discussions on regulation, research funding, development and corporate innovation.

[The Disrupters: Lessons for low-carbon innovation from the new wave of environmental pioneers](#)

Website: www.demos.co.uk

In this report, eight innovators are profiled who have pioneered solutions to climate change with potentially significant carbon cuts. Potentially their they could help to move the UK onto a low carbon path. The case studies were selected to reflect a arrange of private, public and voluntary sector initiatives across the UK . The report was commissioned by NESTA (National Endowment for Science Technology and the Arts).

[Who cares now? Changes in informal caring 1994 and 2006](#)

Website: www.ark.ac.uk

A research update using data from the 1994 Northern Ireland Social Attitudes Survey and the 2006 Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey to examine changes that have occurred in informal caring across the years.

[Improving small scale grant funding](#)

Website: www.youngfoundation.org.uk

A discussion paper from The Young Foundation, supported by The Office of the Third sector, that brings together both domestic and international evidence to guide decisions on how financial support should best be provided to local, voluntary and community organisations.

[In and out of sync: The challenge of growing social innovations \(Sept 2007\)](#)

Website: www.youngfoundation.org.uk

This report is about how social innovations spread and grow. It aims to provide a theoretically and empirically grounded guide for the many people involved in social innovation: innovators, funders, policy-makers and commissioners. It draws on a growing body of research on patterns of growth, and distils its conclusions into a guide to help direct scarce resources more effectively to maximise social impact.

[The Northern Economic Agenda](#)

The Northern Economic Agenda
Institute for Public Policy Research

Website: www.ippr.org.uk

This report due to be published by IPPR in October 2007, examines levels of prosperity as measured by GVA per head across all UK regions. Recommendations are made regarding targets to reduce the absolute gap in levels of GVA between regions, not just the gap between growth rates.





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Special Theme: Poverty

Summary

[Poverty dynamics research in the UK](#)

Website:

<http://www.jrf.org.uk>

This systematic literature review of UK poverty dynamics research since the 1990s published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation shows that this approach provides a more comprehensive understanding of poverty than point-in-time studies. Dynamics research traces change in circumstances of the same households over time, identifying their movements in and out of poverty. It shows that poverty is fluid and dynamic. Although it offers a more sophisticated understanding of poverty, the approach has not been exploited effectively in UK social policy. The aim of this review is to inform current policy and to highlight gaps in the evidence on UK poverty dynamics. Covering research spanning well over a decade, the review provides a robust account of the dynamic nature of poverty; the different forms of poverty, how poverty is experienced over time and how people enter and leave poverty.

[Poverty and Wealth across Britain 1968 to 2005](#)

Website:

<http://www.jrf.org.uk>

This study provides a new spatial analysis of Britain's changing picture of poverty and affluence over the last 40 years. It has developed new measures of wealth and mapped and assesses whether Britain's population has become more or less polarised with regard to area poverty and wealth.

[Public attitudes to economic inequality](#)

Website:

<http://www.jrf.org.uk>

This study examines public attitudes to economic inequality and related issues of poverty and redistribution. It finds that public attitudes to redistribution are complex, ambiguous and apparently contradictory.

[Are mixed communities the answer to segregation and poverty](#)

Website:

<http://www.jrf.org.uk>

Based on an extensive literature search and consultations with over 20 experts in the field, this study considers whether mixed communities are an effective way to reduce deprivation and social exclusion. The author of this study for the Joseph Rowntree Trust argues that creating mixed neighbourhoods treats a symptom of inequality not its cause.

Pensioner poverty over the next decade: what role for tax and benefit reform

Website: www.ifs.org.uk

This report looks at the prospects for pensioner poverty in England over the next decade. The authors find that the proportion of those aged 65 and over living in poverty is set to remain at its current level – around one in five between 2007-08 and 2017-18. This is despite the overall increase in the generosity of state pensions arising from the Pensions white Paper and the fact that younger cohorts are expected to have more private pension income and higher employment rates at older ages than those preceding them.

Experiences of Poverty and Educational Disadvantage

Website:
<http://www.jrf.org.uk>

This study from JRF suggests that children growing up in poverty and disadvantage are less likely to do well at school. This feeds into disadvantage in later life and in turn affects their children. To break this cycle, we need to address the attitudes and experiences that lie behind social differences in education.





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Newly Announced Policies and Strategies

Summary

February 2007

Increasing the Holiday Entitlement – Departmental Response to the initial consultation.

For further details contact: Jeff.ard@delni.gov.uk
Or Telephone: 028 9025 7687

Between July and October 2006, the Department for Employment and Learning consulted on proposals to increase the statutory minimum holiday entitlement. This document sets out the Department's response to the consultation.

July 2007

Rural childcare group

For further details contact:
ruralpolicy.branch@dardni.gov.uk

This group has been established to examine the issues surrounding childcare in rural areas with a view to developing a rural childcare strategy as a result of any of the group findings.





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Conferences and Seminars coming up

Summary

12 October 2007 - 08.00-10.00
Institute of Directors , Belfast , 4
Royal Avenue

How to protect your organisation in the event of a major emergency.

Business continuity seminar with EPS

For further details contact:

lorraine.corry@iod.com

or Telephone: 028 9023 2880

www.iod.com/northernireland/events

8 & 9 November 2007

Europa Hotel, Belfast .

Travelwise NI is an initiative of DRD Roads Service, working to promote sustainable transport. The Conference is on behalf of the National TravelWise Association (www.travelwise.org.uk) of which NI is a member. Upwards of 150 + delegates are expected from across NI, GB, ROI & Sweden. A number of expert speakers involved in Climate Change prevention have been invited including Dr Barry Wellar, Distinguished Research Fellow, Transport 2000, Canada . There will also be a series of workshops aimed at sharing best practice.

Transport & Climate Change -
Understand the problem: Be part of
the solution.

For further details contact the Conference
Co-ordinator: laura.hamill@drdnigov.uk

or brian.moreland@drdni.gov.uk from

Travelwise NI.

9 November 2007- 12.15-14.15

Holiday Inn, Ormeau Ave , Belfast

Annual speaker lunch with Jim French, Chairman and CE of Flybe, talking about the low cost airline business generally and the growth of Flybe in particular.

Annual Lunch with Jim French, Flybe

For further details contact:

lorraine.corry@iod.com

or Telephone: 028 9023 2880

www.iod.com/northernireland/events

22 November 2007 - 08.00-10.00
Institute of Directors , Belfast , 4
Royal Avenue

Seminar to highlight the opening of the single electricity market and the measurement and reduction by organisations of their carbon footprint.

Energy and carbon footprint

For further details contact:

lorraine.corry@iod.com

or Telephone: 028 9023 2880

www.iod.com/northernireland/events





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Current Consultations

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9 July to 5 October 2007

The Inshore Fishing (Prohibition of Fishing and Fishing Methods) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007.

For further details contact:

Kenny.parker@dardni.gov.uk

11 July to 5 October

Additional Paternity Leave and Pay: consultation on administration

For more details contact lynne.taylor@delni.gov.uk

Or go to:

www.delni.gov.uk/consultation-zone

July to October 2007

Consultation on the Transposition of Council Directive 2002/99/EC (known as Hygiene 4 or H4) laying down the animal health rules governing the production, processing, distribution and introduction of products of animal origin for human consumption. Following consultation it is proposed to introduce the legislation - Meat (Disease Control) Order (NI) 2007.

For further details contact:

kenny.wells@dardni.gov.uk

The proposed Regulations will extend the ban on fishing by suction dredges in Strangford Lough and Dundrum Inner Bay to all Northern Ireland waters and introduce a prohibition on dredging for sea fish and extend the prohibition on the use of seine and trawl nets westward of an imaginary straight line drawn from Carrickfergus Castle in Co Antrim to Grey Point in Co Down.

Following previous consultation on the broad policy of providing paid leave to fathers following the birth or adoption of a child, where the mother returns to work, this consultation focuses on the detail of how Additional Paternity Pay and Leave will be administered.

The purpose is to control meat from animals from premises located near disease outbreak sites and to ensure treatment of this meat before it enters the food chain. This is in order to prevent the spread of animal diseases via products of animal origin such as meat and meat products, in accordance with Council Directive 2002/99/EC of 16 December 2002. The Directive includes European Community measures covering both domestic trade and export. The animal diseases covered by the Directive are Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Classical Swine Fever (CSF), Swine Vesicular Disease (SVD), African Swine Fever, Rinderpest, Newcastle Disease, Avian Influenza and Peste des Petit Ruminants (Sheep and Goat Plague).

August to November 2007

The Code of Practice on Protecting the Confidentiality of Service User Information

For further details contact:

david.reilly@dhsspsni.gov.uk

28 August 2007

Consultation on Stakeholder Forum for Inland Fisheries

For further details contact [liam.](mailto:liam.devlin@dcalni.gov.uk)

devlin@dcalni.gov.uk

Or telephone 028 9025 4257

September 2007

Draft Strategy for Sport and Physical recreation, 2007- 2017

For further details contact [Ciaran.](mailto:Ciaran.mee@dcalni.gov.uk)

mee@dcalni.gov.uk

Or telephone 028 9025 8950

People who use health and social services have a range of rights and those who provide health and social care and services have a range of obligations to service users. Key obligations of all staff are to respect the privacy and confidentiality of service users. The aim of the Code of Practice on Protecting the Confidentiality of Service Users Information is to support all staff in Health and Social Care bodies in making good decisions about the protection, use and disclosure of service user information. The Code of Practice will replace existing guidance to staff.

The Fisheries Conservancy Board (FCB) which is responsible for the conservation and protection of inland fisheries, is to be abolished under RPA and its functions transferred to DCAL. The FCB currently provides a forum for various fishery interests who nominate representatives to sit on its Board. DCAL recognises the importance of such stakeholder involvement and is to consult on how stakeholders can be represented in the future.

DCAL in partnership with Sport Northern Ireland (SNI), has prepared a new draft 10 year Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation in NI. This details the vision and rationale for sport and establishes key targets and actions for its future development. The Strategy will also inform the direction of future investment. It is also intended to reflect Government and Stakeholder priorities.





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Forthcoming Consultations

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Autumn 2007

Consultation with schools on potential changes to the Common Funding Formula

For further details contact: ken.reid@deni.gov.uk
Or telephone 028 91279665

A consultation with schools and educational partners on potential changes to current Common Funding arrangements for grant-aided schools in NI.

Autumn 2007 – Spring 2008 Northern Ireland Network for Youth (NINFY) – Consultancy

For further details contact: info@ycni.org
or go to www.ycni.org
Or Telephone 028 9064 3882

A working group has been set up by the Department of Education, and is chaired by the Youth Council. The working group will oversee the consultation process and in Spring 2008 advise the Department on the options to establish NINFY.

Anticipated October – December 2007

Consultation on the recommendations of the DVLA review of Medical Driver Licensing

For further details contact: tim.ford@dvla.gsi.gov.uk
Or telephone 01792 765 252

The arrangements for addressing health and driving issues through the licensing process have been in place since the early 1970s. These are now facing a number of issues - most significantly: a lack of evidence for any road safety benefit; growing volumes and costs; and, an increasing reliance on the car for mobility. For these reasons an independent review of DVLA's medical driver licensing process was commissioned in January 2005. Following announcement of the results of this in February 2006, a cross departmental initiative - the Health and Driver Licensing Review - was begun by DfT to identify further areas for change to be put to public consultation. These changes are aimed to put in place a system that will deliver on road safety and mobility and provide value for money.

cathy.johnston@doeni.gov.uk
Or telephone 028 9054 1173

Autumn 2007

**The Quality of Bathing Waters
(Northern Ireland) Regulations 2008**

For further details contact:

david.steele@doeni.gov.uk

Autumn 2007

**Draft Accessible Transport Strategy
Action Plan 2007-09**

For further details contact:

alan.preston@drdni.gov.uk

Autumn 2007

**Consultation on the Curriculum
provided by Further Education
Colleges.**

For further detail contact:

daryl.young@delni.gov.uk

marian.cree@delni.gov.uk

September 2007 – November 2007

**DARD Research & Development
Strategy 2007-2015.**

For further details contact: william.webb@dardni.gov.uk

william.webb@dardni.gov.uk

Or telephone 028 9037 8543

**Anticipated: October/November for
twelve weeks.**

**Workplace employment dispute
resolution and tribunal reform**

For further details contact: lynne.taylor@delni.gov.uk

lynne.taylor@delni.gov.uk

The document will consult on proposed Regulations transposing the revised Bathing Waters Directive (2006/7/EC), which aims to protect, preserve and improve the environment, and to protect public health. The proposed Regulations will apply to any identified surface water where a large number of bathers are expected; they will not apply to swimming pools, spa pools or confined waters (as defined). They propose the setting of new requirements for monitoring, assessment and classification of bathing water quality; public information and participation; and site specific integrated management plans.

In developing the Accessible Transport Strategy five main areas were identified as constituting significant barriers for older people and people with disabilities.

The ATS included a two year Action Plan to take forward measures to overcome these barriers.

This Action Plan is due for review and updating and subject to further consultation.

Curriculum policy is a key element in the implementation of the wider "Further Education Means Business" strategy for further education in Northern Ireland . The strategy identifies the main aim for further education as being to strengthen economic and workforce development, to enhance social cohesion and to advance the individual's skills and learning.

The policy being developed will seek to determine the most appropriate curriculum to be provided by FE colleges in order to meet the strategic priorities of the FE sector, and to meet the needs of colleges' main customers, namely individual learners and employers. The policy will also address the issue of increasing learner access to college provision.

The Department is drawing up an R&D Strategy to help identify key knowledge and information required to support the development, implementation and evaluation of DARD policies as well as new products, processes and ideas which will assist the sustainable development of the agri-food industry and wider rural community. The research identified in the Strategy will be commissioned from AFBI and other research providers.

The new Strategy signals a more open and transparent approach to deciding priorities for DARD-funded R&D.

Subject to Ministerial approval, it is intended to conduct public consultation on systems for resolving workplace employment rights disputes. The review will explore the respective roles of workplace procedures, alternative dispute resolution and tribunals in addressing workplace conflict.

Consultation Period – Late October 2007 to early January 2008

The Fifth Review of the Capitation Formula

For further details contact

lynn.campbell@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Consultation Period – Late October 2007 to early January 2008

Allocating Resources to Health and Social Services Boards: Proposed Changes to the Weighted Capitation Formula

For further details contact

lynn.campbell@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Estimated start date: Autumn 2007

The Future of Rural Proofing and the Role of Rural Champion.

For further details contact:

ruralpolicy.branch@dardni.gov.uk

Autumn 2007

Consultation on Plant Health Strategy for Northern Ireland

For further details contact:

peter.toner@dardni.gov.uk

To be issued October/November 2007

Consultation on the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

For further details contact: [kate.](mailto:kate.Davey@dardni.gov.uk)

Davey@dardni.gov.uk

To be issued October/November 2007

Consultation on the introduction of fees for the Scrapie Monitored Flocks Scheme.

For further details contact [kate.Davey](mailto:kate.Davey@dardni.gov.uk)

@dardni.gov.uk

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety allocates funds using a weighted Capitation Formula to determine the target fair share that HSS Boards should receive. This takes account of population sizes, age profiles and additional need.

The formula is made up of nine formulae, one for each of the nine programmes of care. The Fifth Review proposes changes to the way in which funds are allocated in Acute Care and Elderly Services.

Following the publication of a new Rural Strategy, DARD will consult on how to most effectively deliver on its new role as Rural Champion. It will also examine how to further embed rural proofing within the policy making process.

DARD has developed a Plant Health Strategy which sets out the context and vision of how DARD will work to protect plants from the risks that pests and diseases pose to the environment and economy. It draws together DARD's current actions to protect the health status of plants and how it liaises with others to promote this. Particular reference is made to regular liaison with counterparts in RoI to promote an all-island approach. The draft Strategy will be issued for industry information and comment.

The 2007 TSE Regulations will amend the existing 2006 TSE Regulations and implement amendments to EC Regulation 999/2001 laying down rules for the prevention, control and eradication of certain transmissible spongiform encephalopathies.

The Scrapie Monitored Flocks Scheme implements the requirements of Annex VIII of EC 999/2001 for the certification of breeding sheep and goats for intra-Community trade. DFP require the Scrapie Monitored Flocks Scheme to operate on a full cost recovery basis. Fees are not charged at present as there is no legislative basis for charging.

Autumn 2007

Updated draft policy for the protection of Natural Heritage in the development control process.

**Planning Policy Statement 2
(Revised): Natural Heritage
(provisionally renamed)**

For further details contact
valerie.hamilton@doeni.gov.uk

Autumn 2007

Draft policy to assist consideration of planning applications for the development of renewable sources of electricity generation and heat production.

**Planning Policy Statement 18:
Renewable Energy**

For further details contact
stephen.hamilton@doeni.gov.uk

Autumn 2007

The legislation enforces the NCP which introduces new sampling and testing requirements for laying flocks in all member states to ensure that information on salmonella status can be more easily compared across the EU and the aim for a more unified approach to the control of salmonella.

**Consultation on the proposed Control
of Salmonella in Poultry (NI)
Regulations 2007 which enforce a
National Control Programme (NCP) for
laying flocks of domestic fowl that
implements EU Regulations
1168/2006 and 2160/2003.**

For further details contact:
kenny.wells@dardni.gov.uk

Autumn 2007

Following informal discussions with the veterinary associations, and agreement from the Minister, it would be the intention to go to public consultation in July/August 2007 on the recommendations of the report.

**Intended consultation on the
recommendations of the Deloitte
review of bovine Tuberculosis testing
arrangements within Northern
Ireland .**

For further details contact:
gerald.henderson@dardni.gov.uk

Autumn 2007

Changes are required to CPC legislation in order to make the process less difficult for drivers and to improve the operation of the scheme in the UK .

**Consultation on changes to Driver CPC
UK legislation**

For further details contact:
brian.morrison@doeni.gov.uk

Autumn 2007

Consultation on Compulsory Basic Training for Learner Motorcyclists and the introduction of a Motorcycle Instructor Register.

For further details contact:

brian.morrison@doeni.gov.uk

This consultation paper seeks views on plans to introduce Compulsory Basic Training (CBT) in Northern Ireland, for those wishing to ride a motorcycle as a learner rider.

This paper also seeks views on plans to simultaneously introduce a mandatory Motorcycle Instructors' Register (MIR) for those wishing to give instruction in motorcycle riding in Northern Ireland for hire or reward.

Autumn 2007

NI Operational Plan for European Fisheries Fund 2007-2013

For further details contact:

paddy.campbell@dardni.gov.uk

The new European Fisheries Fund will run from 2007-2013. The NI Operational Plan will contribute to the overall UK Operational Plan that will outline funding priorities and objectives. All member state Operational Plans will be subject to EU approval.





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Policy Reviews coming up

Summary

Commenced May 2007

Interim evaluation of the Irish Language Broadcast Fund

For further details contact Alice Forsythe by telephone on 028 9025 4201

External consultants will complete an independent interim evaluation of the Irish Language Broadcast Fund (ILBF) by 31 July 2007. The evaluation will assess performance of the ILBF in terms of effectiveness, efficiency and value for money during the period June 2005 to April 2007.

Commenced June 2007

'Creative Northern Ireland'

For further details contact Hazel Campbell, Arts and Creativity, Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure by telephone on 028 9025 8824 or by email at hazel.campbell@dcalni.gov.uk

DID Business Consulting have been commissioned by the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure to develop a new creativity strategy – 'Creative Northern Ireland'. This refreshed strategy is designed to supplement and build on the work that has already been carried out under the existing strategy – 'Unlocking Creativity'.

July 2007

Review of Support Arrangements for Less Favoured Areas

For further details contact: fiona.browne@dardni.gov.uk

A review to examine the rationale for the provision of support within the Less Favoured Areas and determine whether the current LFA scheme represents value for money.

September 2007

**Review of Department for
Employment and Learning
Postgraduate Policy and Funding**

For further details contact Linda Bradley or
Sean McGarry by email at:

linda.bradley@delni.gov.uk

sean.mcgarry@delni.gov.uk

Due autumn 2007

**Interim Evaluation of Pathways to
Work Programme**

For further details contact

Jim Russell by email at: jim.russell@delni.gov.uk

To review policy and funding in light of current and emerging needs for higher level skills in the labour market and in comparison with provision in the rest of the United Kingdom, Ireland and further a field.

Pathways to Work, a new and innovative approach to helping people with health conditions and disabilities access the labour market, has been operational in Northern Ireland since October 2005. The service is now in operation in 14 areas of Northern Ireland and is available to 40% of annual new and repeat claims to incapacity benefits. A first interim evaluation is now due and findings will help to inform full roll-out of the service.





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