

Policylink Bulletin 22

August 2009

Contents

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

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Introduction

Editorial

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Welcome to the twenty second issue of the policylink bulletin.

In this edition of policylink bulletin, the Centre for Ageing Research and Development (CARDI) have provided a short article entitled "[Research to benefit ageing public policy](#)" – Roger O’Sullivan, Director of the Centre for Ageing Research and Development (CARDI), sets the context for research being funded by their Collaborative Research Grants Programme.

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 the UK Government’s report “Building Britain’s Future” which sets out the actions the Government plans to take to move the UK out of recession and into recovery. The annex to this report also lists a number of publications the Government plans to publish in the next few months indicating its future policy direction on various issues such as the Care and Support, 21st Century Schools, the Ageing Society etc.

In Chapter 5 – new from research institutes and think tanks – we have listed research under a series of topics such as Children and Families, the Economy, Education, Health, Older People, Transport and others.

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

- Conferences and seminars coming up;
- 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
Consultation Guidance	<p>The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform published a new Code of Practice on Consultation (PDF 223KB) in July 2008. It supersedes and replaces previous versions of the Code. The Code sets out the UK Government's general approach when it has been decided to run a formal, written, public consultation exercise. The Code does not have legal force and cannot prevail over statutory or mandatory requirements.</p>
Evaluating Policy	<p>The Government Social Research Unit (part of the Cabinet Office) was set up in October 2002 (as Government Chief Social Researcher's Office) to provide strategic leadership to social research across government. A key element of the GSRU work programme is to encourage excellence in government policy research and evaluation. This area of policy hub provides information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what research and evaluation evidence is and examples of how it can contribute to the policy process • guidance on evaluation methods • professional development opportunities in analytical skills and evidence based policy • projects on policy design, piloting and evaluation, including an employment policy demonstration project and review of government pilots.
Evidence Network	<p>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.</p>
Excellence and Fairness Key questions for policymakers	<p>In the summer of 2008, the Cabinet Office published Excellence and fairness: achieving world class public services setting out the UK 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing new approaches to empowering citizens • Fostering a new professionalism across the whole public service workforce. • Providing stronger strategic leadership from central government.

<p><u>Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS)</u></p>	<p>NINIS provides free access to statistical and locational information relating to small areas across Northern Ireland. Information is available across a range of themes including Population, Social and Welfare, Agriculture, Education and Crime. Users will be able to obtain an area profile based on a postcode or by selecting an area to view.</p>
<p><u>Policy Hub Bulletin</u></p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><u>Policy Toolkit</u></p>	<p>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 <u>Policylink webpages</u>. Amendments and updates to the Toolkit will be undertaken as required.</p>
<p><u>The Participation Network</u></p>	<p>In 2007, the <u>Children and Young People’s Unit</u> 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.</p> <p>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 <u>website</u>.</p>
<p><u>www.C4ni.com</u></p>	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - what is policy? - different levels of government - the role of devolved government - how to make a change - expert advice from four highly respected campaigners on how to influence policy decisions. - the project has potentially a large interested constituency including public, community and voluntary sectors as well as universities, colleges and schools.

New policy relevant publications

	Summary
Theme: Children and Families	
<p>Children's Rights Review</p> <p>Published by the NI Commissioner for Children and Young People</p>	<p>This report provides a comprehensive review of the state of children's rights in Northern Ireland in 2007/08. The remit of the report includes education, health and welfare, civil liberties, protection, juvenile justice, play and leisure, family life and alternative care and implementation of the UNCRC.</p>
<p>Publication of the Continuous Household Survey Bulletin 2008-09</p> <p>Publication date: July 2009</p> <p>For further information contact: edel.birrane@dfpni.gov.uk Telephone: 028 9034 8209</p>	<p>A selection of tables from the 2008-09 Northern Ireland Continuous Household Survey (CHS) and, where appropriate, some indication of the changes that have taken place since the survey began in 1983. Data includes information such as housing characteristics, tenure, consumer durables, environmental issues, internet access, mobile phones, accidents at work, health, and smoking and drinking trends.</p>
Theme: Devolution	
<p>Serving Scotland Better: Scotland and the United Kingdom in the 21st Century (PDF 2.62MB) (June 2009)</p> <p>Report from the Calman Commission</p>	<p>The Calman Commission was set up to review the provisions of the Scotland Act 1998 in the light of experience and to recommend any changes to the present constitutional arrangements that would enable the Scottish Parliament to serve the people of Scotland better, improve the financial accountability of the Scottish Parliament, and continue to secure the position of Scotland within the United Kingdom.</p>
Theme: The Economy	
<p>Building Britain's Future (PDF 811KB) (June 2009)</p>	<p>This paper outlines the action that the UK Government is taking to move the UK from recession to recovery and forge a new model of economic growth; restore trust and accountability to the political system through democratic reform and renewal; and modernise our public services and national infrastructure.</p> <p>Much of the work outlined applies across the UK, in those policy areas where Government responsibilities extend across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.</p>
<p>Building Britain's Future Annex B – Major Forthcoming Publications (PDF 45.7KB) (June 2009)</p>	<p>This annex provides a list of the major planned publications the UK Government is planning to produce over the coming months setting out future policy direction on a range of issues.</p>

<p><u>Addressing the Economic Downturn: the case for increased investment in Social Housing (June 2009)</u></p> <p>(Authors: Mike Smyth and Mark Bailey, School of Economics, University of Ulster)</p>	<p>This report, commissioned by the Department for Social Development (DSD), identifies the economic and social impact of greater investment in social housing, particularly during the current period of recession. Social housing, the report argues, has greater multiplier effects in terms of employment than other construction investment.</p>
<p><u>Digital Britain: The Final Report (June 2009)</u></p>	<p>The Digital Britain Report, published by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, is the Government's strategic vision for ensuring that the UK is at the leading edge of the global digital economy. It introduces policies to maximise the social and economic benefits from digital technologies.</p>
<p><u>The impact of the current economic and financial situation on businesses in the West Midlands Region (PDF 1.53KB)</u></p> <p>Publication Date: 16 July 2009</p> <p>Report from the House of Commons, West Midlands Regional Committee</p>	<p>This report looks at the effect of the financial and economic situation on businesses in the region including the effect on different sectors such as manufacturing, service industries etc. The report says that the evidence suggests that the region has been badly affected by the economic downturn.</p>
<p>Theme: Education</p>	
<p><u>Your child, your schools, our future: building a 21st century schools system (June 2009)</u></p>	<p>The proposals in this White Paper, published by the Department for Children, Schools and Families, are underpinned by the wish for every child to succeed. The document outlines the challenges and changes that schools now face, and describe reforms that have been made to meet these.</p>
<p><u>Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education: Northern Ireland 2007/08</u></p> <p>Expected to be published: August 2009</p> <p>For further information contact: <u>ann.mallon@delni.gov.uk</u></p>	<p>This Statistical Bulletin will be produced by DEL using data collected by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). It will provide details of the destinations of leavers from Higher Education who obtained qualifications in Northern Ireland (NI) Higher Education institutions and NI domiciled leavers obtaining qualifications in UK Higher Education institutions in the academic year 2007/08.</p>
<p>Theme: Environment and Climate Change</p>	

<p>Climate Change Projections (June 2009)</p>	<p>The UK Government has released scientific figures showing how climate change could affect the UK if the world fails to take action on reducing emissions. The UK Climate Projections report sets out how the country can adapt to the problems that could be caused by a warmer climate, such as rising sea levels and increased flooding.</p>
<p>Theme: Employment Issues</p>	
<p>Survey of users of employment-related tribunals in Northern Ireland (June 2009)</p> <p>For further information contact: allan.scott@delni.gov.uk or Telephone: 028 9025 7531</p>	<p>During late 2008 and early 2009 qualitative research has been undertaken on behalf of the Department of Employment and Learning to establish views and experiences of claimants, respondents and representatives who have used the tribunal system in Northern Ireland. The research was part of a wider review of systems for resolving workplace disputes. This paper presents the findings of the research.</p>
<p>Labour Market Bulletin 22 (June 2009)</p> <p>Published by the Department for Employment and Learning</p> <p>For further information contact: Eta Wilson – telephone 028 9025 7609</p>	<p>The 2009 edition of the Labour Market Bulletin addresses many of the labour market issues pertinent to the local economy today, reflecting recent economic changes.</p>
<p>Research into the Northern Ireland Private Recruitment Sector</p> <p>Expected to be published: August 2009</p> <p>For further information contact: andrew.dawson@delni.gov.uk or Telephone: 028 9025 7536</p>	<p>The Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) has commissioned research into the size and nature of the NI private recruitment sector. This will inform future policy and legislation development in this area. The research, which took the form of qualitative and quantitative interviews with sector representatives, business, trade unions, migrant worker support groups and agency workers, is expected to be published in late summer.</p>
<p>Research into the impact on business of an increase in workers' statutory leave entitlement</p> <p>Expected to be published: August 2009</p> <p>For further information contact: stephen.wilson@delni.gov.uk or Telephone: 028 9025 7545</p>	<p>The Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) has commissioned KPMG to undertake research into the impact on business of an increase in workers' statutory leave entitlement. This will inform future policy development in this area. The research, which took the form of in depth interviews with key NI and UK employer and worker representatives and an extensive telephone survey of 600 employers, is expected to be published in August 2009.</p>
<p>Theme: Health</p>	
<p>Shaping the Future of Care Together</p>	<p>This Green Paper sets out the UK Government's</p>

<p>(July 2009)</p> <p>Published by the Department of Health</p>	<p>proposals for ways to reform the care and support system for adults in England.</p> <p>Care and support describes the activities, services and relationships that help people to stay as independent, active, safe and well as possible, and to participate in and contribute to society throughout the different stages of their lives.</p>
<p>Life Sciences Blueprint (July 2009)</p> <p>Published by the Office for Life Science</p>	<p>The Office for Life Sciences has developed a package of actions to transform the UK environment for life sciences companies. These actions have been agreed across Government, and with industry, the Higher Education sector and the NHS.</p> <p>The life sciences industries are comprised of pharmaceuticals, medical biotechnology and medical technology.</p>
<p>DHSSPS Resource Accounts 2008/09</p> <p>Publication Date: September/October 2009</p> <p>For further information contact: Paula Shearer Telephone: 028 9058 9689</p>	<p>Departmental Resource Accounts published on an annual basis.</p>
<p>DHSSPS Reference Costs 2007/08</p> <p>Publication Date: Summer 2009</p> <p>For further information contact: Laura Patterson Telephone: 028 9052 0228</p>	<p>Reference Costs, published by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, report the unit costs of a wide range of acute and community services. They are calculated annually by Health and Social Care Trusts.</p>
<p>Theme: Human Rights</p>	
<p>Our Hidden Borders: The UK Borders Agency's (UKBA) Powers of Detention (PDF 183.09KB)</p> <p>Published by the NI Human Rights Commission</p>	<p><i>Our Hidden Borders: The UKBA's Powers of Detention</i> examines the extent to which human rights are protected in decisions by immigration officials to detain individuals who are not nationals of the UK, and how those detained can have their rights better protected.</p>
<p>Summary – A Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland: Advice to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (PDF 183 KB) (July 2009)</p> <p>Published by the NI Human Rights Commission</p>	<p>Summary version of the advice on a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland presented to Government on 10 December 2008.</p>

<p>NIHRC Review, Issue 8, Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, 2009 (PDF 851 KB)</p>	<p>The magazine of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission</p>
<p>Theme: Migration</p>	
<p>The Experiences of Migrant Workers in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Publication date: September 2009</p> <p>For further information contact: tom.gardiner@delni.gov.uk</p>	<p>This research examines the experiences of migrant workers in NI. The focus of the research was to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect information on workers' personal profiles, migration, education and work history; • Assess their experiences of everyday life in NI; • To gauge their future intentions
<p>The Economic, Labour Market and Skills Impacts of Migrant Workers in Northern Ireland</p> <p>Publication date: September 2009</p> <p>For further information contact: tom.gardiner@delni.gov.uk</p>	<p>The objective of the research was to collect relevant information to permit an assessment of the positive and negative impacts of migrant workers on the NI economy, labour market and skills mix.</p>
<p>Theme: Public Services</p>	
<p>Power in Peoples Hands: Learning from the World's Best Public Services (July 2009)</p> <p>Published by the Cabinet Office</p>	<p>Drawing on more than 30 of the best examples from around the world, this report shows how giving people more control over the services they use and freeing frontline public servants to innovate can deliver better services and greater value for money.</p>
<p>A strategic vision for the future development of Museums in Northern Ireland</p> <p>Publication date: Autumn 2009</p> <p>For further information contact: brian.smart@dcalni.gov.uk or mark.crockard@dcalni.gov.uk Telephone 028 9051 5008</p>	<p>This is being developed in response to the Assembly's Culture, Arts and Leisure Committee's Inquiry into the development of a Museums Policy for Northern Ireland. The department is engaging with other Departments and key stakeholders in the museum sector to help museums reach their full potential in terms of education, tourism and the shared future agenda.</p>
<p>Theme: Transport</p>	
<p>Accessible Transport Strategy Draft Action Plan 2009-2012</p>	<p>The Accessible Transport Strategy Draft Action Plan 2009-2012 was published by the Department for Regional Development on 31 March 2009. This document lists the actions to be undertaken by the Department and others to improve the accessibility of the transport system</p>

	<p>up to the year 2012. The Department undertook a wide-ranging public consultation process on the action plan which included undertaking seven public meetings in major towns and cities in June 2009. The consultation closed on 7 July 2009.</p>
<p>Departmental response to Consultation on Proposals to remove the exemption for operators of transport services</p> <p>Publication date: September 2009</p> <p>For further information contact: sinead.brown@ofmdfmi.gov.uk or telephone 028 9052 3124</p>	<p>The Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister (OFMDFM) is expected to publish its response to the Consultation on the Removal of the exemption for operators of transport services from Part III of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. This removal will enable any person who feels they have been treated differently or less favourably by a transport operator to have a right of challenge against the operator.</p>
<p><u>Sustainable Transport Report (June 2009)</u></p> <p>Published by Northern Ireland Environment Link</p>	<p>This report highlights and analyses the important environmental, social and economic issues that need to be addressed in the upcoming review of Northern Ireland's transport policy. The document brings together articles from a wide range of organisations with an interest in transport issues. It contains specific recommendations on how future transport needs can be delivered in a more sustainable manner.</p>

New from research institutes and think tanks

	Summary
Theme: Children and Families	
<p>Children and Young People's Worlds (July 2009)</p> <p>The Policy Press</p> <p>(Authors: Heather Montgomery and Mary Kellett)</p>	<p>This book sets out a range of perspectives on children's lives in the early 21st century at both national and international levels. Key topics illustrate important global and local issues and show how they impact on policy initiatives and practical interventions in children's lives.</p>
<p>A minimum income standard for Britain in 2009 (July 2009)</p> <p>Joseph Rowntree Foundation</p> <p>(Donald Hirsch, Abigail Davis and Noel Smith)</p>	<p>This study updates research carried out in 2008 based on what members of the public thought people need for an acceptable minimum standard of living. In light of changing economic circumstances the standard has been updated.</p> <p>The research is a contribution to debates about what is happening to living standards and poverty during the recession.</p>
Theme: Community Development	
<p>Citizen involvement in local governance (June 2009)</p> <p>Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF)</p> <p>(Author: Janet Foot)</p>	<p>This publication looks at the involvement and influence of citizens and service users in decision-making and governance in their local area. It outlines the challenges and dilemmas that local partners, central government, councillors, staff and communities must resolve if citizens are to have more power and influence over local services and their neighbourhoods. The paper draws on the findings of JRF's Governance and Public Services research programme and other related JRF work.</p>
<p>Quality of Place Improving the Planning and Design of the Built Environment An analysis of issues and opportunities (PDF 4.78 MB) (June 2009)</p> <p>Cabinet Office Strategy Unit</p>	<p>This Cabinet Office report focuses on the planning, design and physical upkeep of the built environment. The core elements of the report include the range and mix of homes, services and amenities in a community, the design and maintenance of buildings and spaces, the treatment and use made of historic buildings and places and the provision of green space and green infrastructure.</p>
Breakthrough Cities	

<p><u>(June 2009)</u></p> <p>The Young Foundation</p> <p>(Authors: Geoff Mulgan, Charles Leadbeater, et al)</p>	<p>This report considers how cities can mobilise creativity and knowledge to tackle compelling social challenges. Commissioned by the British Council from the Young Foundation the report provides a unique resource for anyone working in the field of urban policy.</p>
<p>Theme: The Economy</p>	
<p><u>Satisfying Employer Demand for Skills (April 2009)</u></p> <p>The Work Foundation</p> <p>(Authors: Susannah Constable and Anna T Touloumakos)</p>	<p>This report published by The Work Foundation indicates that government and its agencies and the small business sector think differently about skills. It states that although the government stresses the benefits of skills development to high performance, Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) rarely view skills in this way, citing more short-term pressures such as customer service issues or labour shortages as a driving factor. In order to make the effort to drive up skills levels succeed, a closer understanding is needed of what drives smaller firms and how skills development can help.</p>
<p><u>Political debate about economic inequality: an information source (June 2009)</u></p> <p>Joseph Rowntree Foundation</p> <p>(Authors: Ruth Sheldon with Reg Platt and Naomi Jones)</p>	<p>This study aims to increase understanding of how politicians think and talk about economic inequality, both in private and public. It compares politicians' attitudes between five major political parties.</p>
<p><u>Building a Better Balanced UK economy: Where will jobs be created in the next economic cycle? (July 2009)</u></p> <p>Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR)</p> <p>(Authors: Jonathan Clifton, Tony Dolphin and Rachel Reeves)</p>	<p>This paper examines the depth and extent of the global financial crisis. Focusing on employment it examines how government can support the transition to a stronger and more balanced labour force. A range of policy measures are recommended that could help return the economy to full employment in a way that is sustainable.</p>
<p><u>How does entry regulation influence entry into self-employment and occupational mobility? (July 2009)</u></p> <p>Institute for Fiscal Studies</p>	<p>The authors of this Institute for Fiscal Studies working paper analyze how an entry regulation that imposes a mandatory educational standard affects entry into self-employment and occupational mobility. They exploit the German reunification as a natural experiment and identify regulatory effects by comparing differences between regulated occupations and unregulated occupations in East Germany with the corresponding differences in West Germany after</p>

<p>(Authors: Susanne Prantl and Alexandra Spitz-Oener)</p>	<p>reunification. Consistent with their expectations, they find that entry regulation reduces entry into self-employment and occupational mobility after reunification more in regulated occupations in East Germany than in West Germany. The authors indicate that their findings are relevant for transition or emerging economies as well as for mature market economies requiring large structural changes after unforeseen economic shocks.</p>
<p><u>Understanding the compliance costs of benefits and tax credits (July 2009)</u></p> <p>Institute for Fiscal Studies</p> <p>(Authors: Fran Bennett, Mike Brewer and Jonathan Shaw)</p>	<p>This Institute for Fiscal Studies report describes a scoping study to understand more about the nature of the 'costs of compliance' that claimants of social security benefits and (personal) tax credits incur, and discusses possible ways of measuring such costs.</p> <p>The report comments that new government impact assessments have been introduced recently, which, in principle, should take into account the monetary value of all the effects of changes, including allocating a value to non-market items such as people's time. It states that this kind of assessment should therefore include analysis of the 'costs of compliance' for benefits and tax credits claimants.</p> <p>This study explores the nature of the costs of compliance for claimants of benefits and tax credits; assesses whether such costs can be measured and, if so, to what extent; and discusses whether impact assessments of policy changes could include such measurements.</p>
<p><u>Recession and Recovery: How UK cities can respond and drive the recovery (July 2009)</u></p> <p>The Work Foundation</p> <p>(Authors: Alexandra Jones, Neil Lee, Katy Morris)</p>	<p>This research indicates that, as in the last recession, low skill cities are struggling the most with unemployment. With a focus on 12 UK cities, the research shows which groups are most affected, explaining why some cities are suffering more and highlighting what could change their future prospects. The 12 cities studied in the UK report are Belfast, Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Chelmsford, Derby, Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Oxford and Swindon.</p>
<p>Theme: Education</p>	
<p><u>Pupil assessment in citizenship education (PDF 212.63 KB) (April 2009)</u></p> <p>National Foundation for Educational Research</p> <p>(Authors: David Kerr, Avril Keating and Eleanor Ireland)</p>	<p>This project focused on pupil assessment in citizenship education. It sought to establish if pupils can be assessed in citizenship education, how it can be done and to identify key issues and challenges. Comparative information was collected across eight countries – England, Hungary, Italy, The Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.</p>
<p><u>Investing in Education:</u></p>	<p>This study shows that education is highly predictive of future</p>

<p><u>Combating Educational Disadvantage (PDF 1.22MB) (May 2009)</u></p> <p>Research Series No 6</p> <p>The Economic & Social Research Institute (ESRI Dublin)</p> <p>(Authors: Emer Smyth and Selina McCoy)</p>	<p>life chances in the Republic of Ireland. Those who leave school before the Leaving Certificate are more likely to be unemployed or lone parents, earn less if they have a job and have poorer health and higher crime levels. Higher rates of early school leaving mean higher future expenditure on welfare, health and prisons and lower tax revenue.</p>
<p><u>The graduate market in 2009 April 2009</u></p> <p>High Fliers Research</p>	<p>The UK Graduate Careers Survey 2009 is one of the largest independent surveys of final year students conducted in the UK. It reveals that the number of 2009 finalists who have secured a definite job offer during the annual 'milkround' recruitment process has dropped by a third this year, compared with figures for 2008.</p> <p>The survey also shows a dramatic fall in applications for graduate jobs in banking, finance and property. Instead, more university-leavers have applied to work in the public sector, teaching, engineering, the voluntary sector and the armed forces.</p>

Current consultations

Department/consultation period	Summary
<p>Department of Agriculture and Rural Development</p>	
<p>Consultation period: 22 June – 15 September 2009</p> <p><u>The Diseases of Animals (Importation of Machinery and Vehicles) Order (Northern Ireland) 2009</u></p> <p>For further information contact: <u>jill.trainor@dardni.gov.uk</u></p>	<p>This consultation, which commenced on 22 June for 12 weeks, seeks views on the introduction of proposed new legislation to replace the 1979 Order and strengthen the controls of the importation of machinery for disease control purposes</p>
<p>Consultation period: July - October 2009</p> <p><u>The Charges for Residues Surveillance Regulations (NI) 2009</u></p> <p>For further information contact: <u>jarlath.finnegan@dardni.gov.uk</u></p>	<p>This consultation is due to commence in July for 12 weeks to seek views on the introduction of EU mandatory requirements to recover residues testing costs in Northern Ireland in connection with the National Residues Control Plan (NRCP).</p>
<p>Consultation period: July - August 2009</p> <p><u>The Eggs and Chicks Regulations (NI) 2009</u></p> <p>For further information contact: <u>graham.spence@dardni.gov.uk</u></p>	<p>This consultation is due to commence in July for 6 weeks to seek views on the introduction of EU mandatory requirements which will expand the scope of current egg marketing rules to include new Salmonella controls.</p>
<p>Department for Employment & Learning</p>	
<p>Consultation period: 28 May – 4 September 2009</p> <p><u>Disputes in the Workplace: a systems review</u></p> <p>For further information contact: <u>alan.scott@delni.gov.uk</u> or Telephone: 028 9025 7531</p>	<p>This consultation is a central element in a fundamental review of systems for resolving workplace disputes in Northern Ireland. It asks wide-ranging questions around improving workplace practice, formal procedures around grievances and disciplinary/dismissal situations, the potential for greater use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), the structure and powers of the tribunal system, and mechanisms for appealing legal decisions.</p>
<p>Consultation period: July – October 2009</p> <p><u>Extending the right to request</u></p>	<p>This consultation deals with a proposal to extend the right to request flexible working to a wider employee group and a proposed new right for employees in Northern Ireland to request time off to</p>

<p>flexible working, introducing a new right to request time to train</p> <p>For further information contact: alan.scott@delni.gov.uk or Telephone: 028 9025 7531</p>	<p>train. A single consultation document covers both issues, given that the underlying right to request is framed, in each case, in very similar terms.</p>
<p>Consultation period: July – October 2009</p> <p>Amendments to the Conduct of Employment Agencies and Employment Businesses Regulations (Northern Ireland)</p> <p>For further information contact: andrew.dawson@delni.gov.uk</p>	<p>The Aim of the Conduct Regulations is to regulate the private Recruitment Industry, ensuring that adequate safeguards are in place for work-seekers and hirers using employment agencies. The main amendments proposed in the consultation seek to further reduce paperwork for agencies and provide additional protections for would-be models and entertainers who pay a fee for work-finding services.</p>
<p>Consultation period July – October 2009</p> <p>Consultation on the proposal to exempt student loans from individual voluntary arrangements</p> <p>For further information contact: angela.mcallister@delni.gov.uk</p>	<p>A consultation exercise is due to commence in July 2009, on proposals by the Department for Employment and Learning to exempt student loans from Individual Voluntary Arrangements (IVAs). The proposals would align treatment of student loans with those which currently apply for bankruptcy. The Department considers it appropriate to legislate to protect the public funds disbursed through student loans from potential write-off or reduction through IVAs.</p>
<p>Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment</p>	
<p>Closing date: 2 October 2009</p> <p>The Tourism (Northern Ireland) Order (Amendment) Bill 2010</p> <p>For further information contact: tourismpolicy@detini.gov.uk</p>	<p>The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) proposes amending the Tourism (Northern Ireland) Order 1992 (the Tourism Order). The Tourism Order is the primary legislation under which the Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) is constituted. NITB's powers to develop, promote and market Northern Ireland tourism are contained in the Tourism Order. DETI, in consultation with the NITB, has identified two areas of the Tourism Order which should be amended. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the frequency whereby NITB is required to conduct statutory inspections of tourist accommodation establishments; and (ii) the mechanism for appointing the Chair of the NITB.
<p>Closing date: 30 September 2009</p> <p>Consultation on New Energy Future for Northern Ireland</p> <p>For further information contact: mary.lavery@detini.gov.uk</p>	<p>The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment is consulting on a Strategic Energy Framework for Northern Ireland 2009. The draft Strategic Energy Framework 2009 sets out the proposed priorities for Northern Ireland's energy future over the next ten years and outlines the key energy goals in terms of competitiveness, security of</p>

	supply, sustainability and infrastructure.
Department of the Environment	
<p>Consultation period: 11 June – 9 September 2009</p> <p>Draft Private Water Supplies Regulations 2009</p> <p>For further information contact: anthony.courtney@doeni.gov.uk</p>	<p>This consultation seeks views on the proposed new Regulations to transpose the Council Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption, in respect of private water supplies.</p> <p>The main aim of the transposition of this Directive by the proposed new Regulations is to protect the health of consumers of private water supplies and consumers of food and drink prepared from private water supplies.</p>
<p>Consultation period: 18 June - 30 September 2009</p> <p>Consultation on the implementing detail of the Graduated Fixed Penalty and Deposit Schemes (PDF 211KB)</p> <p>For further information contact: iain.cleland@doeni.gov.uk Telephone: 028 9054 0608</p>	<p>Under current arrangements for road traffic and roadworthiness offences, penalties are not related to the severity of the offence. Under the new powers of the Graduated Fixed Penalty and Deposit Schemes, 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.</p>
<p>Consultation period: 6 July to 2 October 2009</p> <p>Reform of the Planning System in Northern Ireland: Your chance to influence change</p> <p>and</p> <p>Draft Equality Impact Assessment at a Strategic Level</p> <p>For further information contact: planning.reform@doeni.gov.uk</p>	<p>This consultation paper on the reform of the planning system in Northern Ireland puts forward proposals for 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 management and various support type functions.</p> <p>A Draft Equality Impact Assessment at a Strategic Level accompanies this consultation.</p>
<p>Consultation period: 24 July – 16 October 2009</p> <p>Consultation on the review of Domestic Drivers' Hours Rules</p> <p>For further information contact: iain.cleland@doeni.gov.uk Telephone: 028 9054 0608</p>	<p>The UK domestic drivers' hours rules apply to most commercial driving by vehicles not subject to the separate EU drivers' hours rules. The rules set limits on daily driving and duty time, and in the case of passenger vehicle drivers set minimum requirements on breaks and daily/fortnightly rest periods.</p> <p>The aim of the review is initially to collate and examine evidence as to the effectiveness of the</p>

	<p>current regime in meeting relevant objectives, namely road safety and decent working conditions for drivers; fair competition within the road haulage and passenger transport industries and minimising burdens on operators. This consultation is being carried out on a UK-wide basis by the Department for Transport.</p>
<p>Department of Finance & Personnel</p>	
<p>Consultation period: 27 July to 6 November 2009</p> <p>Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure(PDF 440KB)</p> <p>For further information contact: cathryn.mcburney@dfpni.gov.uk</p>	<p>This consultation details proposals to update the current measures of spatial deprivation in Northern Ireland - the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2005. The current measures, often referred to as the 'Noble measures', are used widely by Government Departments in a variety of spending programmes.</p>
<p>Department for Regional Development</p>	
<p>Consultation period: 10 June – 18 September 2009</p> <p>Draft Rathlin Island Policy</p> <p>For further information contact: rptd@drdni.gov.uk</p>	<p>The draft Rathlin Island Policy is an Executive policy prepared by the Department for Regional Development. It aims to develop a vibrant healthy Rathlin community and increase the involvement of Islanders in the development of policies and projects which improve conditions for all the people of the Island while protecting its environment. Policies developed for this purpose may differ from policies applying elsewhere, in recognition of the unique circumstances of Rathlin Island and the challenges of island life.</p>
<p>Department for Social Development</p>	
<p>Consultation period: 2 July – 9 October 2009</p> <p>Join In, Get Involved: Build a Better Future - A Consultation Paper on a Volunteering Strategy for Northern Ireland</p> <p>For further information contact: volunteering@dsdni.gov.uk</p>	<p>The purpose of this consultation is to seek views on a series of proposals to support and develop volunteering in Northern Ireland. The proposals are in response to Research on volunteering in NI conducted by the Department for Social Development.</p>
<p>Consultation period: 1 July – 22 September 2009</p>	<p>The Department for Social Development is now inviting comments on this draft EQIA. In particular,</p>

<p><u>Equality Impact Assessment on the Welfare Reform Bill 2009</u></p> <p>For further information contact: <u>marian.mckay@dndni.gov.uk</u></p>	<p>the Department would welcome comments on any perceived adverse impacts that the policy proposals may have on any of the Section 75 categories and how they could be implemented more effectively to ensure equality of opportunity.</p>
<p>Consultation period: 28 May – 19 August 2009</p> <p><u>Reforming the Medical Statement</u></p> <p>For further information contact: <u>david.doherty@dndni.gov.uk</u></p>	<p>The purpose of this consultation is to seek views on a revised medical statement, sometimes known as the medical certificate, which is issued by doctors to patients who are not fit to work, to give to their employers or for social security benefit purposes.</p>

Forthcoming consultations

Department/Consultation start date/period	Summary
<p>Department of Agriculture and Rural Development</p>	
<p>Estimated consultation period: August - September 2009</p> <p>The Draft Water Environment (Floods Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009</p> <p>For further information contact: mary.mckeown@dardni.gov.uk or Telephone: 028 9025 3378</p>	<p>This consultation is due to commence in July 2009 on the The Draft Water Environment (Floods Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 which will transpose EU Floods Directive obligations in relation to preliminary flood risk assessment, mapping of areas of significant risk and development of flood risk management plans for those areas.</p>
<p>Estimated consultation period: September/October 2009 – January 2010</p> <p>Draft Bee Health Strategy</p> <p>For further information contact: seamus.hughes@dardni.gov.uk</p>	<p>The Bee Health Strategy will deal with issues including challenges facing honeybee health in NI, Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (DARD) support to the sector, research, and the roles of all stakeholders. The strategy will also likely have a North/South dimension.</p>
<p>Estimated consultation period: September/October 2009 – December 2009/January 2010</p> <p>The Seed Potatoes Regulations (NI) 2010</p> <p>For further information contact: peter.toner@dardni.gov.uk</p>	<p>This consultation is on the proposed consolidation of the existing Regulations and Amendments, together with 3 main new items: the Directive on conservation varieties of seed potatoes, the introduction of a common scab derogation and statutory notification of importations of seed potatoes.</p>
<p>Estimated consultation period: September/October to November/December 2009</p> <p>The Olive Oil (Marketing Standards) Regulations (NI) 2009</p> <p>For further information contact: david.millar@dardni.gov.uk</p>	<p>This consultation is on the proposed legislation revoking and replacing the Olive Oil (Marketing Standards) Regulations (NI) 2008. The draft regulations will set out the offences relating to the packaging, labelling and trade descriptions relating to Olive Oil. The proposed legislation is being introduced on foot of Council Regulation 1234/2007.</p>
<p>Consultation period: 2 November 2009 – 22 January 2010</p> <p>The Control of Salmonella in Poultry Flocks Scheme Order (NI) 2009.</p> <p>For further information contact</p>	<p>This consultation is due to commence in November for 12 weeks to seek views on the introduction of EU mandatory requirements for the monitoring and Control of Salmonella in Poultry Flocks.</p>

<p>barbara.compston@dardni.gov.uk</p>	
<p>Consultation period: 2 November 2009 – 22 January 2010</p> <p>The Zoonoses and Animal By-Products (Fees) Amendment (No.2) Regulations 2009.</p> <p>For further information contact: barbara.compston@dardni.gov.uk</p>	<p>This consultation is due to commence in November for 12 weeks to seek views on the introduction of fees for services supplied by the DARD/Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute in relation to sampling and testing costs in Northern Ireland in connection with the Control of Salmonella in Poultry Flocks.</p>
<p>Department of Education</p>	
<p>Consultation starts in August 2009</p> <p>Every School a Good School: The Way Forward for Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Inclusion</p> <p>For further information contact: seninclusion@deni.gov.uk</p>	<p>A review of Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Inclusion was initiated in April 2006 by the Department of Education (DE).</p> <p>A 12 week consultation exercise on the policy proposals which have emerged from the Review is due to commence in August 2009.</p>
<p>Consultation period: September – November 2009</p> <p>Food in Schools</p> <p>For further information contact: andrew.bell@deni.gov.uk</p>	<p>The principal aim of the policy is to ensure that food in schools is representative of the balance of good health and makes a significant contribution to childhood nutrition and that schools contribute to the development of the knowledge and skills necessary to be able to make healthy food choices.</p>
<p>Consultation period: September – November 2009</p> <p>Community & Diversity Policy</p> <p>For further information contact: andrew.bell@deni.gov.uk</p>	<p>The policy aims to enable children and young people to understand and deal with difference in whatever form – religious, cultural, gender, sexual orientation, disability or political affiliation and is premised on human rights, the UNCRC and equality.</p>
<p>Expected start date: October 2009</p> <p>Defining Exceptional Circumstances – Exceptional Circumstances Regulations</p> <p>For further information contact: alison.thompson@deni.gov.uk</p>	<p>The Post Primary School Admissions Exceptional Circumstances Regulations will allow parents to apply to an Exceptional Circumstances Body with respect to their child's post primary school placement. If the Exceptional Circumstances Body agrees that the child has exceptional reasons for attending one particular post primary school it will direct the school to admit the child. The Department will consult on the definition of Exceptional Circumstances.</p>

<p>Department for Employment and Learning</p>	
<p>Estimated consultation period: August / September 2009</p> <p>Prohibition of Blacklisting Regulations</p> <p>For further information contact: stephen.wilson@delni.gov.uk</p>	<p>Regulations to prohibit the blacklisting of Trade Unionists. Consultation on Regulations likely to take place August / September 2009</p>
<p>Department of the Environment</p>	
<p>Estimated consultation period: July –September 2009</p> <p>Draft Pollution Prevention and Control (Amendment) Regulations 2009</p> <p>For further information contact: beth.hodgett@doeni.gov.uk</p>	<p>The Department is consulting on an amendment to the Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations (NI) 2003. The amendment Regulations will insert a provision clarifying that where the use of the application site for the carrying out of a specified waste management activity requires planning permission granted under the Planning (NI) Order 1991, as amended, a Certificate of Lawful Use or Development is also valid as if it were a grant of planning permission.</p>
<p>Estimated consultation period: July – September 2009</p> <p>Enforcement Guidance on the Paints Directive</p> <p>For further information contact: dan.kennedy@doeni.gov.uk</p>	<p>This will provide district councils with guidance on their responsibilities under 'The Volatile Organic Compounds in Paints, Varnishes and Vehicle Refinishing Products Regulations 2005'.</p>
<p>August - November 2009</p> <p>Consultation on Changes to Health and Driver Licensing Arrangements</p> <p>For further information contact: jan.chandaman@dvla.gsi.gov.uk Telephone: 01792 384593</p> <p>or cathy.johnston@doeni.gov.uk Telephone: (028) 90541173</p>	<p>The arrangements for addressing health and driving issues through the licensing process have been in place for approximately 30 years and 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 announcements of the results of this in February 2006, a cross departmental initiative, the Health and Driver Licensing Review, was begun by the Department of Transport in GB to identify further areas for change to be put to public consultation, and this is</p>

	<p>anticipated to take place in Northern Ireland between May and August 2009, subject to progress in GB.</p>
<p>August – October 2009</p> <p>Consultation on the Definition of Significant Personal Injury under the 5th Motor Insurance Directive</p> <p>For further information contact: emma.rodny@doeni.gov.uk Telephone: 028 9054 0661</p>	<p>The consultation contains details on proposals to introduce a definition of “Significant Personal Injury” with regard to claims for damage to property arising from accidents caused by the driver of an unidentified vehicle. Where compensation has been paid for significant personal injury to any victim of the same accident in which damage to property by an unidentified vehicle was caused, Member States may not, under the 5th Motor Insurance Directive, exclude the payment of compensation for damage to property on the basis that the vehicle is not identified.</p>
<p>Estimated consultation period: September – November 2009</p> <p>NI Consultation on The Local Air Quality Management Policy Guidance</p> <p>For further information contact: stephen.kerr@doeni.gov.uk</p>	<p>The revised guidance will provide 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.</p>
<p>Expected start date: September 2009</p> <p>The revised Waste Framework Directive (WFD)</p> <p>For further information contact: mairead.adams@doeni.gov.uk</p>	<p>The revised Waste Framework Directive must be transposed by December 2010. Certain elements of the revised Directive are new and as such require the development of new implementing policies. This consultation will highlight the new elements and will seek views on how they should be implemented in Northern Ireland. It will be a forerunner to a further consultation on the implementing legislation.</p>
<p>Estimated consultation period: September - November 2009</p> <p>Draft Controlled Waste (Seizure of Property) Regulations 2009</p> <p>For further information contact: ian.troy@doeni.gov.uk</p>	<p>The Department of the Environment (DOE) will carry out a consultation exercise, anticipated to commence in September 2009, on draft Controlled Waste (Seizure of Property) Regulations 2009.</p> <p>The Regulations will strengthen the powers of departmental officers to seize vehicles or other property suspected of being used in illegal waste activity.</p>

<p>Estimated consultation period: September – November 2009</p> <p>Draft Environmental Protection (Controls on Ozone-Depleting Substances)(Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland)2009 and Draft Ozone-Depleting Substances (Qualifications) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009</p> <p>For further information contact: roger.irwin@doeni.gov.uk</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Estimated consultation period: September – November 2009</p> <p>Draft Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 (Amendment) Regulations 2009 and, draft Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme Charging Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009</p> <p>For further information contact: david.latimer@doeni.gov.uk</p>	<p>The Department of the Environment (DOE) will carry out a consultation exercise, expected to commence in September 2009, on the proposed draft amendments to the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 to make provision for the making of a charging scheme for the recovery of costs for regulating the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. The consultation exercise will also include the draft regulations for the making of the charging scheme.</p>
<p>Estimated consultation period: Summer 2009</p> <p>Draft Addendum to Planning Policy Statement 7: Quality Residential Environments</p> <p>For further information contact: philip.mcgowan@doeni.gov.uk</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Estimated consultation period: September 2009</p> <p>Draft Planning Policy Statement 2 (Revised): Natural Heritage (provisional renamed)</p> <p>For further information contact: valerie.hamilton@doeni.gov.uk</p>	<p>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.</p>

<p>Estimated consultation period: September 2009</p> <p>Draft Planning Policy Statement 16: Tourism</p> <p>For further information contact: michael.francey@doeni.gov.uk</p>	<p>Draft planning policy to encourage and facilitate the provision of good quality tourism developments in appropriate locations within the built and natural environment. It will also address the safeguarding of existing tourism assets from inappropriate development.</p>
<p>Estimated consultation period: September – November 2009</p> <p>For further information contact: enda.mccrory@doeni.gov.uk Telephone: 028 9054 0316</p>	<p>A consultation exercise is due to commence in September 2009 to amend legislation to permit the fitting and use of warning signs and lights on schools buses.</p>
<p>Consultation period: September – November 2009</p> <p>Consultation on the 3RD EC Driver licence Directive</p> <p>For further information contact: emma.rodgy@doeni.gov.uk Telephone: 028 9054 0661</p>	<p>The Third Directive includes revised EU rules for obtaining and upgrading riding and driving entitlements plus new standards for driving examiners. In particular, the Directive introduces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new arrangements for how motorcyclists gain entitlement to ride larger machines; • new arrangements for drivers of cars and light vans who wish to tow certain trailers; and • new initial qualification and periodic training requirements for driving examiners authorised to conduct the practical tests to be passed as part of obtaining a driving licence
<p>Expected consultation period: September – December 2009</p> <p>Consultation on Amendments to the Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) Regulations (NI) 1996</p> <p>For further information contact: brian.morrison@doeni.gov.uk</p>	<p>Minimum Test Vehicle standards are set so that vehicles used for practical driving tests have characteristics which are reasonably representative of the vehicles that drivers will drive subsequently, so that the practical test provides a sensible and balanced assessment of a candidate's driving skills.</p> <p>This consultation will seek comments on options for implementing proposed changes to minimum test vehicles for practical tests for learner drivers of lorries and vehicle-trailer combinations.</p>
<p>Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety</p>	

<p>Estimated start date: August 2009</p> <p>Consultation on Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) on Retailer Sanctions</p> <p>For further information contact: Jenny McAlarney Telephone: 028 9052 2216</p>	<p>A consultation exercise is due to commence in August 2009 by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) on proposals to introduce stronger sanctions on retailers who continue to sell tobacco to under eighteen year olds.</p>
<p>Estimated start date: October 2009</p> <p>Consultation on Promoting Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy</p> <p>For further information contact: Gerard Collins Telephone: 028 9052 2216</p>	<p>An engagement exercise involving local community, voluntary and HSC stakeholders was undertaken during July as part of the development of a new mental health and wellbeing strategy. A more formal consultation is planned when the draft strategy is published and will help inform a future action plan.</p>
<p>Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister</p>	
<p>Expected start date: October 2009</p> <p>Policy proposals and Draft Commissioner for Older People Bill</p> <p>For further information contact: olderpeoplescommissioner@ofmdfmi.gov.uk</p>	<p>This consultation will seek comments on the proposals and draft Bill to establish an office of a Commissioner for Older People (OPC), which will have specific powers and duties to advocate and investigate on behalf of older people.</p>
<p>Department for Regional Development</p>	
<p>Expected consultation period: October – December 2009</p> <p>Proposed Rapid Transit Bill</p> <p>For further information contact: lindsay.rainey@drdni.gov.uk</p>	<p>The Rapid Transit Bill will provide the Department for Regional Development with the necessary enabling, contracting, purchasing and enforcement powers for the implementation and operation of the Rapid Transit System in Belfast.</p>

<p>Expected consultation period: November 2009 – January 2010</p> <p>Public Transport Reform Consultation Exercise</p> <p>For further information contact: david.strain@drdni.gov.uk</p>	<p>The Department for Regional Development is proposing to carry out a public consultation exercise on proposals for the reform of the regulatory and organisational arrangements for the planning and delivery of public transport.</p> <p>The aim of the reform is to create an effective, efficient and sustainable public transport service that contributes to the Executive's transportation, environmental, social inclusion and equality objectives, through accessibility and service delivery, while supporting the development of the wider economy.</p>
<p>Department for Social Development</p>	
<p>Proposed start date: Sept 2009</p> <p>Housing Bill</p> <p>For further information contact: stephen.martin@dsdni.gov.uk</p>	<p>The Housing (Amendment) Bill is currently in Committee stage. This consultation document will set out proposals for a further housing bill designed to address a range of housing issues. The main focus of the Bill will be on additional ways of addressing housing need and tackling fuel poverty.</p>

Policy reviews coming up

	Summary
Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	
<p>July 2009</p> <p>Review of the Livestock and Meat Commission (LMC) for Northern Ireland.</p> <p>For further information contact: niall.heaney@dardni.gov.uk</p>	<p>The review will outline the relationship between the Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (DARD) and LMC providing recommendations on LMC's future, taking account of its funding, functions and structural arrangements, including present governance arrangements and current industry and market requirements.</p> <p>The review findings should be reported to DARD and LMC by 31 October 2009.</p>
Department for Employment and Learning	
<p>June – November 2009</p> <p>Scoping Study – “The Protection and Welfare of Children and Vulnerable Adults in Northern Ireland Further Education Sector”</p> <p>For further information contact: yvonne.croskery@delni.gov.uk</p>	<p>The Department for Employment and Learning has commissioned FGS McClure Watters to carry out a scoping study throughout the six regional Further Education Colleges to assess the effectiveness of the FE Sector's policies, procedures and practices relating to the protection of children and vulnerable adults in the College setting.</p> <p>The study will ensure that the Sector is able to meet its obligations under the forthcoming Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (SVG) legislation, due to be implemented in October 2009. It will also ensure that comprehensive pastoral care arrangements and mechanisms are in place in all College campuses.</p>
<p>Start date: August 2009</p> <p>Review of Progress 2 Work Initiative</p> <p>For further information contact: Programme Management & Development Branch stepstowork@delni.gov.uk</p>	<p>The Department for Employment and Learning wishes to conduct a review of the progress2work pilot to examine the effectiveness of the programme and to assess whether it should be brought under the Steps to Work contractual arrangements or remain as a 'stand alone' provision.</p>
<p>Start date: August 2009</p> <p>Review of Enhanced Support</p> <p>For further information contact: Programme Management &</p>	<p>The Department for Employment and Learning wishes to conduct a review of Pre-Employment Enhanced Support to identify strengths and weaknesses within this provision and to suggest improvements for future implementation.</p>

<p>Development Branch @ stepstowork@delni.gov.uk</p>	
<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Review of variable tuition fees and student finance arrangements in Northern Ireland</p> <p>For further information contact: angela.mcallister@delni.gov.uk Telephone: 028 90257685</p>	<p>Variable deferred tuition fees were introduced in higher education in September 2006. Fees were capped at £3,000 rising only with inflation until 2010.</p> <p>The Minister for Employment and Learning (DEL) committed to an independent review of these arrangements, including student finance, to inform future policy for Northern Ireland.</p> <p>An interim report is expected in July 2009</p>
<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Review of Success Through Skills, the Northern Ireland Skills Strategy</p> <p>For further information contact: successthroughskills@delni.gov.uk or telephone 028 9044 1777</p>	<p>The findings of the Forecasting Future Skills Needs in Northern Ireland research report were published in April 2009. This will inform the ongoing review of Success through Skills, and the updated strategy which is expected to be published in Autumn 2009.</p>
<p>Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety</p>	
<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Review of the Tobacco Action Plan 2003 – 2008</p> <p>For further information contact: jenny.mcalarney@dhsspsni.gov.uk Telephone: 028 9052 0773</p>	<p>A Review of the Tobacco Action Plan 2003-2008 is currently being carried out to assess progress towards the actions and targets set out by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) in relation to the use of tobacco products.</p>
<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Review of the Breastfeeding Strategy for Northern Ireland</p> <p>For further information contact: janet.moore@dhsspsni.gov.uk Telephone: 028 9052 0772</p>	<p>A Review of the Breastfeeding Strategy for Northern Ireland is currently underway to assess progress towards the recommendations contained in the Breastfeeding Strategy, and make recommendations on the way forward.</p>
<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Review of Suicide Prevention Strategy</p> <p>For further information contact: gerard.collins@dhsspsni.gov.uk Telephone: 028 90522216</p>	<p>A Review of the Suicide Prevention Strategy is currently being carried out by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) to assess progress towards reducing local suicide rates and to inform a future action plan.</p>
<p>Department for Social</p>	

Development	
<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Review of the 2004 Northern Ireland Fuel Poverty Strategy</p> <p>For further information contact: eilish.oneill@dndni.gov.uk or Telephone 028 9081 9549</p>	<p>This is a review of the 2004 Strategy and will examine the causes of fuel poverty. This high level document will set out a range of actions and delivery mechanisms which will be used to reduce fuel poverty. The review has commenced and the target date for completion is March 2010.</p>

Conferences and seminars coming up

Conference / Seminar	Summary
<p>19 August 2009</p> <p>Conference: Delivering Affordable Housing in Scotland</p> <p>Venue: The Glasshouse, Edinburgh Greenside Place, Edinburgh EH1 3AA Telephone: +44 (0)131 525 325</p>	<p>The Building and Social Housing Foundation (BSHF) is supporting a conference to look at the changing delivery of affordable housing in Scotland. The Conference will examine the implications of the changes for the housing industry and look at how the market can be boosted to enable more affordable housing to be delivered. It will focus on securing funding and models of partnership working to deliver projects on time and on budget.</p>
<p>27-29 August 2009</p> <p>The 4th Living Knowledge Conference - Engaged Communities, Engaged Universities: Developing policy and practice in participatory research</p> <p>Further details are available from the Science Shop at Queens University Belfast</p>	<p>This conference will coordinate the theme Planning for Demographic Change. This international conference aims to influence international research policies and establish priorities for community based research.</p>
<p>1 September 2009</p> <p>Venue: Belfast</p> <p>Launch of NI Human Right Commission (NIHRC) investigation report</p> <p>For further information contact: events@nihrc.org</p>	<p>Launch of "No Home From Home: Homelessness for People with No or Limited Access to Public Funds", a new investigation report by the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (NIHRC).</p>

<p><u>The Future is Older</u></p> <p>8-9 September 2009</p> <p>Venue: Crichton Campus, University of Glasgow, Dumfries</p> <p>For further information contact: <u>c.hill@crichton@gla.ac.uk</u></p> <p>Carol Hill Director, Crichton Centre for Research in Health & Social Issues, University of Glasgow, Crichton University Campus, Dumfries DG1 4ZL</p>	<p>The Crichton Centre for Research in Health & Social Issues will be hosting an international conference “The Future is Older” at the University’s Dumfries Campus on 8-9 September 2009.</p> <p>The Centre is partner in an EU funded project called ‘040: Older for Older’ which is led by the Centre for Rural Health, at UHI Millennium Institute and also involves partners from NI, Finland, Sweden and Greenland.</p>
<p><u>Transforming Public Services</u></p> <p>15 September 2009</p> <p>Venue: Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin</p>	<p>This conference will examine issues surrounding the public service reform process via an expert panel, comprised both of those with responsibility for driving implementation of the major reforms, and people with relevant expertise and experience to share.</p>
<p>23 September 2009</p> <p><u>Northern Ireland Best Practice Scheme</u></p> <p>For further information contact: <u>stephen.girvan@dfpni.gov.uk</u></p>	<p>St Columb’s College will be holding a learning activity as part of the Northern Ireland Best Practice Scheme.</p> <p>The event will be held in Londonderry at no cost to delegates.</p>
<p><u>5th Annual Environment Ireland Conference</u></p> <p>23-24 September 2009</p> <p>Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin</p>	<p>Environment Ireland, now in its fifth year, is Ireland’s largest conference on environmental policy and management. The conference is organised in association with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government.</p>
<p><u>14th Annual Northern Ireland Economic Conference 2009</u></p> <p>30 September 2009</p> <p>Venue: Culloden Hotel</p>	<p>The Executive, in its Programme for Government, has committed to addressing ‘the structural weaknesses in our economy’ with a focus on growing the private sector, increasing productivity and supporting growth in well-paid high-skilled jobs. Although the economic circumstances have changed significantly from when the government set out its spending proposals at the start of 2008, these objectives remain at the top of the Executive’s priorities. This year’s annual Northern Ireland Economic Conference will examine these, and other options for bringing Northern Ireland back to a period of economic growth.</p>

<p><u>6th Population Health Autumn School</u> 1st and 2nd October 2009 Venue: Queen's University, Belfast</p>	<p>When is a simple answer sufficient? Understanding complex interventions – implications for policy and practice in public health.</p> <p>This event builds on the highly successful summer schools previously held in Cork, focuses on complex interventions and their evaluation and is co-hosted by the UKCRC Centre of Excellence for Public Health (NI), the HRB Centre for Diet and Health (University College Cork) and the Institute of Public Health in Ireland (IPH).</p>
<p>Late October/early November 2009 Health Inequalities Conference For further information contact: <u>info@farsetinternational.com</u> or Telephone: 028 9089 9833</p>	<p>This community led conference, organised by the Ann Brown Trust at the Farset International, aims to provide an opportunity for people in communities to meet with policy makers, voluntary and statutory agencies and politicians to debate and increase understanding of the issues and identify how progress might be made to reduce health inequalities.</p>
<p><u>Re-skilling for Recovery in the Regions</u> 15 October 2009 Venue: Cavendish Conference Centre, London</p>	<p>This conference will bring together representatives from across the learning and skills, local authority and regional development sectors to set out how regional partnerships must work together to lift the UK's regions out of recession.</p>
<p><u>Enhancing flexible provision of higher education</u> 22 October 2009 Venue: Barbican Centre, London</p>	<p>This conference will bring together leaders in higher education and organisations to discuss students' experience of, and attitudes towards, part-time study, its costs and student support.</p>
<p><u>Environment 09</u> 9-10 November 2009 Venue: QEII Conference Centre, London</p>	<p>Business leaders, politicians and scientists from the UK and abroad will provide insight into the impact of climate change and the likely legislative and business landscape on key environmental issues.</p>
<p><u>Positive Ageing: Integrating strategies for improving older people's services</u> 11 November 2009 Venue: Cavendish Conference Centre, London</p>	<p>This conference will assemble a panel of leading policy makers, health and social care managers and practitioners and representatives from the voluntary sector to deliver multi-agency working. The discussion will focus on the challenges of delivering the UK Government's Strategy on Ageing.</p>

Enhancing the Student Experience 2009

19 November 2009

Venue: Hilton London Metropole, London

Now in its third year and set in the spotlight of the impending review of variable fees, students demanding value for their increasing investment and the context of the new Department for Business, Innovation and Skills this conference will bring together higher education leaders to examine how to manage and exceed students' expectations.

Summary of key past events

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<p>18 May 2009 Better Regulation Stakeholders Forum</p> <p>For further information contact: martin.graham@detini.gov.uk</p>	<p>A second meeting of the Better Regulation Stakeholders Forum was held in May. This new forum is intended to provide a channel of communication for those concerned with better regulation (legislators and regulators) to engage with representatives of the main NI business organisations on a regular basis.</p> <p>Guest speakers included Richard Ward from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (now Business, Innovation and Skills), and Michael Gibson and Graham Russell from the Local Better Regulation Office.</p>
<p>May 2009</p> <p>Health impact assessment (HIA) contributing to healthy public policy</p> <p>Institute of Public Health in Ireland (IPH)</p>	<p>IPH recently coordinated a mini-symposium and contributed a guest article on Health Impact Assessment for the journal, Public Health. Articles reflected on HIA and its contribution to healthy public policy, human rights and improved decision-making in environmental areas. The mini-symposium evolved from the 8th International HIA conference 'Healthy public policy – is health impact assessment the cornerstone?' hosted by IPH.</p>
<p>3 June 2009</p> <p>NI Vocational Qualifications Reform Programme (VQRP) conference</p> <p>For further information contact: linda.berg@delni.gov.uk</p>	<p>As part of the UK-wide VQRP, a high profile conference was held on 3 June 2009. Over 160 delegates from the full spectrum of stakeholders in NI, including learning providers, employers, awarding bodies, sector skills councils (SSCs), regulators and government heard keynote speeches from John Landeryou, chair of the UK VQRP board, John McNamara, chief executive of the Alliance of SSCs and David Hunter, chair of the NI Alliance of SSCs. Delegates attended workshops dedicated to different aspects of the reform programme and their engagement and feedback throughout the day and subsequently will help to shape the way the programme is implemented over the next 18 months. A report of the conference is being prepared and will be circulated and published.</p>
<p>4 June 2009</p> <p>Review of dispute resolution in Northern Ireland</p> <p>For further information contact: The Labour Relations Agency Email: info@lra.org.uk or Telephone: 028 9032 1442</p>	<p>The Labour Relations Agency held a seminar to present its views and seek the opinions of others on the Department for Employment and Learning's review of dispute resolution in Northern Ireland. Key employer, trade union, voluntary sector and legal interests were represented at the event.</p>

<p>18/19 June 2009</p> <p>Pilot Regulatory Impact Assessment Training Course</p> <p>For further information contact: martin.graham@detini.gov.uk</p>	<p>A pilot Regulatory Impact Assessment Training Course was held in June. When this pilot session has been evaluated, the course will be incorporated into the Centre for Applied Learning prospectus and become available for booking through HR Connect.</p>
<p>30 June 2009</p> <p>Employment Relations in NI – Free seminar in response to the DEL consultation document</p> <p>for further information contact: Legal-Island Telephone: 028 9446 3888</p>	<p>Legal-Island wanted its customers to encourage its membership to take part in the Department for Employment and Learning's consultation on dispute resolution. A free briefing seminar for customers was therefore organised. Those present included representatives from employer organisations and the legal profession.</p>
<p>6 July 2009</p> <p>Seminar on resolving workplace disputes</p> <p>For further information contact: Law Centre (NI) Email: admin.belfast@lawcentreni.org or Telephone: 028 9024 4401</p>	<p>The Law Centre (NI) hosted a gathering of representatives from the voluntary / advisory sector to discuss the Department for Employment and Learning's consultation on dispute resolution.</p>
<p>Seminar on The Future of Ireland's Environment</p> <p>Hosted by the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI), Dublin</p>	<p>The ESRI and Teagasc, funded by the Environmental Protection Agency, have been working to extend the ESRI forecasts of the economy to include emissions and resource use. The national component of this project is now completed, with projections of waste generation, energy use, and emissions to air from 20 sectors for 2009-2025. This seminar presented methods, results and policy implications.</p>
<p>ESRI Policy Conference, 2009: "The Labour Market in Recession"</p> <p>Venue: The ESRI, Whitaker Square, Sir John Rogerson's Quay, Dublin 2</p> <p>Hosted by the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) in April 2009</p>	<p>This conference examined key issues to be addressed in framing an appropriate policy response to the economic crisis. Five papers covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the OECD Report: <i>Activation Policies in Ireland</i>. • What can we apply from lessons learned in the 1990s? • The Finnish Crisis of the 1990s. • What do Migrants do in a Recession? • Profiling the Unemployed in Ireland:

	Predicting Stayers and Leavers.
<p>Devolution in a downturn: divergent approaches to sustainable economic prosperity</p> <p>Hosted by the Institute of Public Policy Research in June 2009 at Queens University, Belfast with support from the Policy Innovation Unit, OFMDFM</p> <p>For further information contact: james.mceldowney@ofmdfmi.gov.uk</p>	<p>This event explored the different policy approaches being taken by the four UK home nations to secure sustainable economic prosperity and address the current economic downturn.</p> <p>The event considered the impact of the downturn across the UK including the response of the devolved administrations. A panel of expert respondents from across the devolved administrations contributed to the discussion. Speakers included Professor David Bell, (Stirling University and Adviser to the Finance Committee, Scottish Parliament); Neil Gibson (Director of Regional Services, Oxford Economics); Gareth Hall (Director of Economy and Transport, Welsh Assembly Government); Professor Ewart Keep (Cardiff University); Professor Jon Shaw (Plymouth University) and John Adams (Independent Policy Researcher).</p> <p>The final event in this seminar series looking at devolution and policy divergence across the UK will consider governance, delivery and democracy and will take place in September 2009.</p>

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