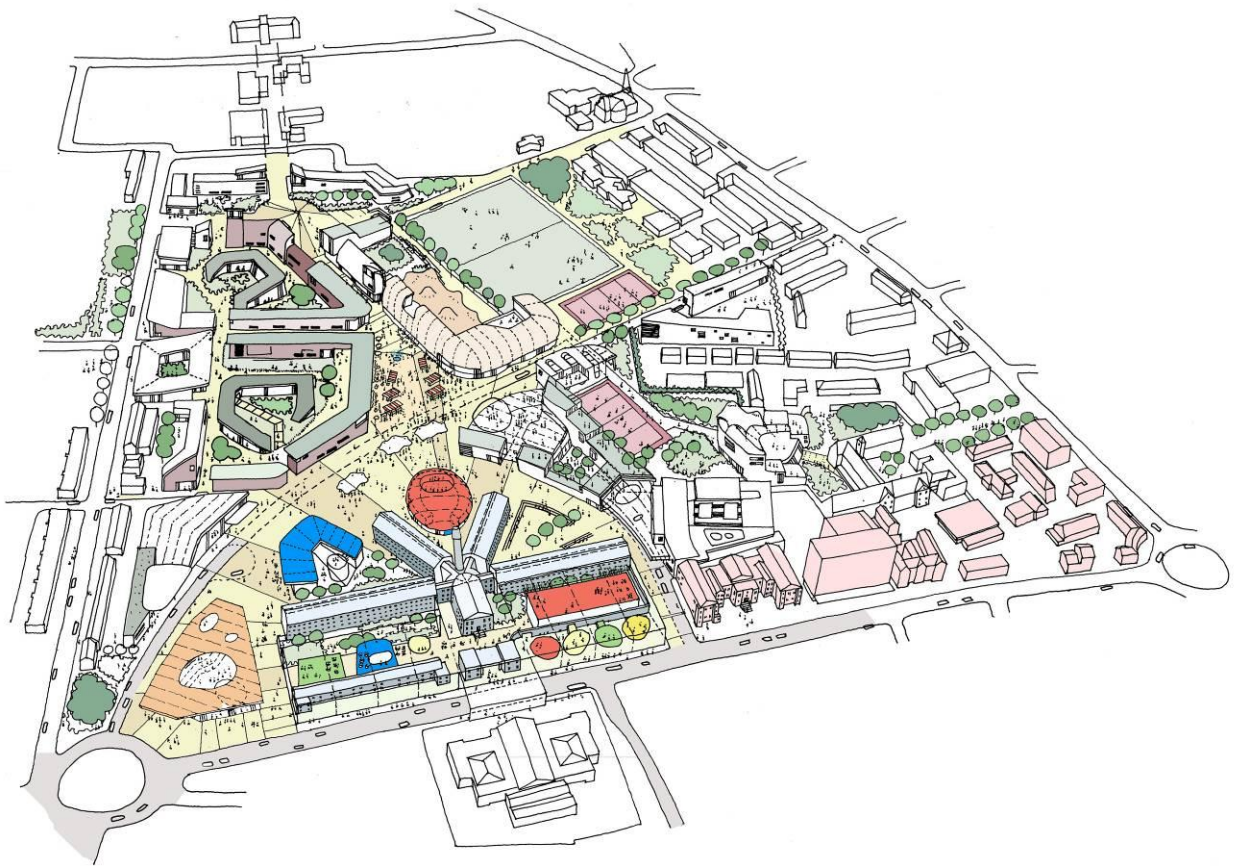


Public Consultation

Draft Equality Impact Assessment

CRUMLIN ROAD GAOL AND GIRDWOOD PARK DRAFT MASTERPLAN



Consultation Period:
29 October 2008 – 20 January 2009

SEEKING YOUR VIEWS

The Department for Social Development (DSD) is carrying out an **Equality Impact Assessment** (EQIA) on the proposals for the redevelopment of the Crumlin Road Gaol/Girdwood Park site as set out in the draft Masterplan. (If you would like to view the draft Masterplan it is available on the internet at http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/nbcau-index/nbcau-publications/nbcau_crg_publications-2.htm or alternatively a hard copy may be obtained by contacting the North Belfast Community Action Unit).

A key part of assessing the impacts is the consideration of evidence and information and the Department would like to invite interested groups to provide their views and comments on the **draft EQIA**.

You are invited to comment on this draft EQIA **by 20 January 2009**. The Department would particularly welcome comments on any perceived adverse impact that this policy may have on a particular group. Comments should be made preferably by using the questionnaire at **Appendix A**. We would also be interested in hearing your views on how you feel the site could be used to provide maximum benefits for all communities now and in the future.

Please note that your response may be made publicly available. If you do not wish to have your response made public, or if you would prefer it to be used anonymously, please indicate this when responding. See **Appendix B**, which details the position in relation to the Freedom of Information Act.

Please send your response to:

**North Belfast Community Action Unit
Crumlin Road Gaol/Girdwood Park Project Team
55 – 59 Adelaide Street
Belfast
BT2 8FE**

**Tel: 028 9072 6134
Fax: 028 9072 6102
Email: Secretariat.office@northbelfastcommunityactionunit.org**

Should you require this document in an alternative format, please contact the above address.

**The closing date for response to the consultation is
Tuesday 20th January 2009.**

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1 INTRODUCTION

Section 75

- 1.1 Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act of 1998 requires the Department for Social Development in carrying out its functions relating to Northern Ireland to **have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity**:
- between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
 - between men and women generally;
 - between persons with a disability and persons without; and
 - between persons with dependants and persons without.
- 1.2 In addition, without prejudice to the above obligations the Department must also, in carrying out its functions relating to Northern Ireland, **have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group**.

Equality Scheme

- 1.3 Schedule 9 of the Act requires the Department to prepare an Equality Scheme, which should state, among other things, arrangements for assessing the likely impact of policies adopted or proposed to be adopted by the Department on the promotion of equality of opportunity. This systematic analysis is designed to determine whether the policy will have an adverse impact on groups or individuals and include consideration of alternative or mitigating measures, where appropriate. The Equality Scheme can be accessed on the DSD website at www.dsdni.gov.uk/dsd_equality_scheme.pdf.

Equality Impact Assessment

- 1.4 The draft Masterplan for the redevelopment of the Crumlin Road Gaol/Girdwood Park site in North Belfast underwent a period of public consultation from 16 October 2007 to 22 January 2008, to which over 900 responses were received. A summary of consultation responses is available at www.dsdni.gov.uk/summary-of-masterplan-consultation-responses.doc. A final Masterplan for the regeneration of the site will be prepared in due course.
- 1.5 In order to comply with Section 75 of the Act, the Department is now carrying out an **Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)** on the proposals within the draft Masterplan. A key part of assessing the impacts is the consideration of evidence and information, and the Department would like to invite interested groups to provide their views and comments on the **draft EQIA**.

The EQIA process

- 1.6 It is essential that the Department is in a position to assess the impact on equality of opportunity of the draft proposals being made for the regeneration of Crumlin Road Gaol/Girdwood Park site.
- 1.7 When undertaking an EQIA, the Department closely followed the Guidance published by the Equality Commission in April 2001 (revised 2005). This recommends that there should be seven steps in the EQIA process:
- Step 1 Defining the aims of the policy.
 - Step 2 Consideration of available data and research.
 - Step 3 Assessment of impacts.
 - Step 4 Consideration of:
 - measures which might mitigate any adverse impact; and
 - alternative policies which might better achieve the promotion of equality of opportunity.
 - Step 5 Formal consultation.
 - Step 6 Decision and publication of the results of the EQIA.
 - Step 7 Monitoring for adverse impact.
- 1.8 This report has been written primarily to provide information to consultees during the formal consultation phase and includes the findings of the first 4 steps of the process. The action to be taken under the remaining 3 steps are also outlined in the report.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Following serious community conflict in 2001 the Government commissioned an independent review on the community problems in North Belfast. The North Belfast Community Action Project was chaired by Rev Dr John Dunlop, with Roy Adams and Monsignor Tom Toner. The Dunlop Report was published in May 2002 and is on the internet at http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/nbcau-index/nbcau-publications/nbcau-ccb_publications.htm. The Review Team conducted a 6-month research and consultation project in North Belfast. The Report highlighted that the area had suffered for many years from conflict and intercommunity tension. The Report revealed that there was a range of social and economic issues and demonstrated that there was a need for concerted action by Government and other interests to tackle the multi-faceted problems of the area.
- 2.2 This report recommended that there was a real need for a large-scale physical regeneration project to be developed in North Belfast. It stated that the project would need to generate investment, increase economic opportunity, improve the environment and lift the spirits of the wider community. It was noted that the Crumlin Road Gaol which had closed in 1996 (and subsequently Girdwood Barracks) had the potential to meet a wide range of needs for the communities of North Belfast.
- 2.3 Crumlin Road Gaol was subsequently transferred to the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister (OFMDFM) in August 2003 under the Reinvestment and Reform Initiative. The Gaol is a Grade 'A' listed building and is considered of international importance in view of its historic and architectural value.
- 2.4 In February 2005, the Government announced its decision to close the adjacent Girdwood Army Barracks. In September 2005 the then Minister, David Hanson, announced that the development of both sites would be taken forward through a Masterplanning process. In early 2006, the site was acquired by the Department for Social Development (DSD) from the Ministry of Defence. Together, the two sites comprise some 27 acres and occupy a strategic location by virtue of their proximity to Belfast City Centre, providing a unique opportunity to regenerate one of the most disadvantaged areas within Northern Ireland.

Consultation

- 2.5 In order to take forward the redevelopment of the combined Crumlin Road Gaol and Girdwood Park site, an overall Masterplan is required in line with the site's zoning under the draft Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan (BMAP) BMAP is available on the internet at www.planningni.gov.uk. In March 2006, the then Minister, David Hanson, established an Advisory Panel which comprised local political (DUP, UUP, SDLP, SF), community and statutory representatives. The Panel was tasked with working with regeneration experts to oversee the production of a Masterplan and making Panel recommendations to the Minister on the agreed plan.

- 2.6 From the beginning it was recognised that the success of this regeneration scheme required the active involvement of the local communities and stakeholders. The establishment of the Advisory Panel ensured that the views and needs of the community were taken into account in the draft Masterplan proposals.
- 2.7 To test whether the needs of local communities were being addressed the Advisory Panel held a series of public consultations. The initial round of public consultations was held in June 2006 at various locations in North Belfast. A second series of public meetings took place in July 2007. At this stage consultants presented their concept plans for the Gaol/Girdwood site and sought feedback from the communities on their proposals. A series of consultations also took place with those who had expressed an interest in the site; St Malachy's College, Northern Ireland Prison Service, Bryson Charitable Group, Museum of Citizenship/De Bono and Belfast City Council.
- 2.8 The Minister for Social Development, Margaret Ritchie, launched the draft Masterplan for a period of public consultation in October 2007. The public consultation exercise involved a further series of public meetings and concluded in January 2008 having generated over 900 written responses. The summary of responses is available on the internet at www.dsdni.gov.uk/summary-of-masterplan-consultation-responses.doc. The consultation which followed the publication of the draft Masterplan for Crumlin Road Gaol/Girdwood Park signalled that broadly there was agreement that the redevelopment of the site offered the opportunity to address the problems of division and social and economic deprivation which have afflicted this area of Belfast for many years.

Scheme Vision

- 2.9 The potential redevelopment of the Crumlin Road Gaol/Girdwood Park site will be a vital component in triggering wider physical, social and economic regeneration in North Belfast. Indeed the mission statement of the Advisory Panel states that the objective is ***“To create a regeneration project of international significance which brings maximum economic, social and environmental benefits to the local and wider community and in doing so creates a vibrant, inclusive and diverse environment which attracts present and future generations of people to live, work and visit”***.

Urban Design Philosophy

- 2.10 Within the draft Masterplan the design consultants have proposed “the creation of a new city quarter, drawing together neighbouring areas and linking seamlessly with them through new pedestrian streets, urban spaces and a mixture of complementary activities. The objective is to create a place to live, to learn, to work, a place for culture, well-being, enjoyment, relaxation and the bringing together of people from every background”. The consultants stated that “in many ways, this is an ideal ‘City Project’, on a site which offers a unique opportunity to provide a focus for community development and an international gateway centred on the re-use of the historic Gaol building”.

- 2.11 The urban design philosophy is focused on the people who will use the new development. It will be shaped around good microclimate for living and enjoying outdoor places. It will be uplifting in character through diversity of use, its human scale, new identity points and places and it will be permeable, offering spaces for public movement and gatherings, as well as small group spaces and areas for the individual. It will encourage social interaction through new streets, squares and lanes, bringing together urban space and landscaped areas to create change of atmosphere and mood.
- 2.12 The draft Masterplan reflects latest best practice in proposing optimum use of the site by means of flexible, modern building floorplates that would allow a wide variety of functions to be accommodated. New development would be progressive and creative in design and be an exemplar for Belfast and Northern Ireland; in particular it would set a benchmark for all new development which would follow. The development of the Gaol building itself would respect its Grade 'A' listed status and follow best practice and exemplars in the adaptation and reuse of historic buildings.
- 2.13 The draft Masterplan also takes account of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board's Strategic Framework for Action, which aims to increase visitor tourism revenue by 9% every year, visitor numbers by 7% and to increase Northern Ireland's share of visitors to the island of Ireland. It also provides the opportunity for a sustainable future for all of Northern Ireland in the context of "meeting present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".¹
- 2.14 The successful development of this site will help address the needs of the communities in North Belfast and attract visitors, investment and jobs to the area.
- 2.15 Finally, the draft Masterplan establishes a framework for the development of this strategically important location, the regeneration of which would mark the first step in the wider regeneration of North Belfast contributing to and complementing the masterplans for the adjoining areas of Lower Shankill and Lower Oldpark.

¹ (Brundtland Report, 1987)

3 AIMS OF THE POLICY

3.1 In March 2006 an Advisory Panel comprising political, community and statutory representatives was established to represent the needs of their communities, oversee the production of a Masterplan and also to make recommendations to the Minister on the agreed plan. The Advisory Panel agreed the following Mission Statement –

“To create a regeneration project of international significance which brings maximum economic, social and environmental benefits to the local and wider community and in doing so creates a vibrant, inclusive and diverse environment which attracts present and future generations of people to live, work and visit.”

3.2 The Advisory Panel agreed a number of development principles for the site and in summary these are:

- Aspiration for a transformational Shared Future Scheme, whilst also addressing pressing needs in the locality and wider area.
- A mixed-used solution, maximising the environmental, social and economic benefits for the area.
- Gaol to be retained as a foundation for tourism.
- Accommodating expansion of the Mater Hospital and St Malachy’s College.
- Provision of job opportunities and support for the development of social economy enterprises.
- Accommodation of a major building investment by an employer or ‘anchor tenant’.
- Learning and skills training should be a priority.
- New leisure facilities to serve the local communities and local schools.
- Involvement of the community in the implementation and operation of the project.

3.3 Site analysis by the draft Masterplan Design Team with input from the Advisory Panel and the process of extensive community consultations, led to the conceptual development framework of activity zones to address the key needs of the communities and to maximise the potential benefits of the site for the region. For the purpose of carrying out the equality impact assessment the policy has been sub-divided into the key themes reflecting the needs of the communities and outlined in the draft Masterplan:

- **Economic Development** (Tourism & Gaol Redevelopment);
- **Leisure**;
- **Mixed-use Development** (offices, residential, workshops, local amenities and shops);
- **Health** (Extension to the Mater Hospital);
- **Education** (St Malachy's College Redevelopment);
- **Public Realm**;
- **Accessibility** (Car Parking and the Arc Route); and
- **Development Sites.**

- 3.4 **Economic Development** – *the need to create jobs and business opportunities.* Crumlin Road Gaol is a Nineteenth century Grade 'A' listed building. The vision proposed for the Gaol is that it would become a destination with an international profile, a landmark attraction that would attract visitors to the city. The draft Masterplan proposes that two of its wings be adapted for use as a museum; among other uses a 'boutique' hotel is also proposed.
- 3.5 **Leisure** – Belfast City Council has expressed an interest in locating a new leisure facility at the Gaol/Girdwood site and has provided an indication of its accommodation requirement, based largely on an assessment of local need.
- 3.6 **Mixed Use Development** – Mixed use development is proposed for the largest part of the site. The uses envisaged are local retail, housing, workshops, training facilities and community services.
- 3.7 **Health** – The draft Masterplan noted the important role which the Mater Hospital plays in the life of North Belfast and proposes a footprint area that would satisfy the hospital's future expansion needs and help improve health provision within North Belfast.
- 3.8 **Education** – The draft Masterplan proposes an expanded centre for learning at St Malachy's College, linked to the original historic school buildings. The new centre will provide specialist services in sport and music to other schools and the wider community in North Belfast.
- 3.9 **Public Realm** – The draft Masterplan proposes high-quality areas of public and private amenity space, generally informal in character, with some of the courtyards in the mixed use zone being developed to create successful and attractive outdoor areas.

3.10 **Accessibility -**

- **Car Parking** – the regeneration of the site will result in an increased need for car parking. Parking spaces provided should meet parking standards and also encourage the use of more sustainable modes of transport.
- **The Arc Route** – a main element of the vehicular strategy is the proposal for a new road, the 'Arc Route', linking the Antrim and Crumlin Roads and giving direct access to the heart of the site.

3.11 **Development Sites** - It is recommended that the remaining development proposals have a lower priority and be developed as determined by market conditions or as required by the new implementation body.

Northern Ireland Census

A census of population is normally taken every ten years and is carried out by the Census Office for Northern Ireland (CONI). The census provides essential statistical information about the population and households for all parts of the country. The most recent results are from the 2001 census returns.

Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency – Equality Research and Information

This website has been designed to collate and disseminate statistics and research relevant to equality of opportunity and its promotion within the Northern Ireland public sector.

Multiple Deprivation Measure 2005

Published by Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA), May 2005, the report identifies small area concentrations of multiple deprivation across Northern Ireland. The report includes a series of maps which set out each domain of deprivation and the overall Multiple Deprivation Measure. Details on the levels of deprivation across the Wards in the North Belfast constituency are also available.

Northern Ireland Housing Executive – Housing Need Assessment 2007-2012

The Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) produced a report on the demand for social housing and the shortage of suitable development sites in North Belfast.

Northern Ireland Housing Executive – Equality Impact Assessment of the housing selection scheme (2007)

The NIHE Equality Impact Assessment on the housing selection scheme in Northern Ireland.

A Shared Future - First Triennial Action Plan 2006 - 2009

Policy and Strategic Framework for Good Relations in Northern Ireland.

Review into Affordable Housing 2007 (The ‘Semple’ Review)

The North Belfast Community Action Project (The Dunlop Report)

The Programme for Government 2008 - 2011 (The Northern Ireland Executive)

Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland

Equality Commission for Northern Ireland – Statement on Key Inequalities in Northern Ireland (2007)

Submission by the Community Relations Council NI

Building a Successful Social Economy 2008

The following documents were submitted by PPR – Participation and the Practice of Rights Project:

- Lower Shankill Community Audit (July 2006);
- Human Rights, Equality and the Draft Masterplan for Crumlin Road Gaol & Girdwood Barracks;
- Changing the Patterns of the Past; Putting People First in the Regeneration of North Belfast - Transcript of the 'Girdwood Residents Jury' (May 2008);
- Regeneration and the Race Equality Duty (England, Scotland and Wales); and
- Information obtained from focus groups facilitated by PPR.

5 NORTH BELFAST SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE

5.1 A number of sources have been used to gather quantitative data about the levels of social and economic deprivation within North Belfast. Statistics have been obtained from NISRA (Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency), Police Service for Northern Ireland (PSNI), Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) and the 2001 census. In 2005, Noble derived a new Multiple Deprivation Measure and this is used in this profile. Shankill Ward is included in the profile as it is on the boundary of the Crumlin Road Gaol/Girdwood Park site.

Table 1: Resident population for the wards in North Belfast including Shankill

Ward	Resident Population 2001
Abbey	2922
Ardoyne	6602
Ballysillan	6020
Bellevue	4942
Castleview	4878
Cavehill	5282
Chichester Park	5109
Cliftonville	5421
Coole	2527
Crumlin	4376
Dunanney	2255
Duncairn	4007
Fortwilliam	4798
Legoniel	5528
New Lodge	5224
Shankill	3784
Valley	3107
Waterworks	6305
Whitehouse	2169
Woodvale	4594
Total	86,066 (89,850 inc Shankill)

Deprivation

5.2 Table 2 below details the deprivation ranking of each Ward in the Belfast North Parliamentary Constituency (where 1 is the most deprived and 582 is the least) Shankill is also included as it borders the Gaol/Girdwood site. The Belfast North Parliamentary Constituency consists of 19 Ward Areas, 13 of which are in the top 20% most deprived.

Table 2: Rank of Multiple Deprivation Measures 2005

Ward	Health Deprivation	Housing and Living Environment Deprivation	Education Deprivation	Employment Deprivation	Multiple Deprivation Ranking
Abbey	208	306	311	384	379
Ardoyne	12	1	7	16	7
Ballysillan	38	273	60	110	92
Bellevue	75	272	254	207	184
Castleview	145	247	199	163	195
Cavehill	254	535	557	511	501
Chichester Park	26	156	453	136	117
Cliftonville	37	121	138	113	79
Coole	25	110	16	50	45
Crumlin	3	5	2	2	4
Dunanney	45	97	6	44	30
Duncairn	7	103	12	13	12
Fortwilliam	46	173	306	292	233
Ligoniel	33	188	55	52	57
New Lodge	5	16	10	8	5
Shankill	1	32	1	3	1
Valley	61	129	72	83	70
Waterworks	6	20	76	21	16
Whitehouse	36	310	65	34	60
Woodvale	10	27	3	23	13

5.3 Statistics on the number of Job Seekers Allowance claimants in the Belfast North constituency plus Shankill at September 2008 are set out in table 3. Table 4 provides details of those in employment in 2005.

Table 3: Number and proportion of claimants for job seekers allowance

Ward	Number of Claimants			% of Working Age		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Abbey	26	6	32	3.2	0.7	2.0
Ardoyne	191	35	226	11.0	1.8	6.1
Ballysillan	115	27	142	6.6	1.5	4.0
Bellevue	90	19	109	6.3	1.3	3.7
Castleview	65	29	94	4.6	2.1	3.4
Cavehill	27	19	46	1.7	1.3	1.5
Chichester Park	122	26	148	7.8	1.7	4.8
Cliftonville	117	24	141	7.4	1.5	4.5
Coole	52	17	69	7.9	2.4	5.0
Crumlin	99	29	128	8.9	2.6	5.7
Dunanney	37	10	47	6.2	1.6	3.8
Duncairn	130	28	158	11.7	2.6	7.2
Fortwilliam	57	24	81	4.2	1.7	3.0
Legoniel	113	41	154	7.2	2.5	4.8
New Lodge	168	33	201	11.3	2.1	6.6
Shankill	118	38	156	11.6	3.6	7.6
Valley	56	18	74	6.4	2.0	4.2
Waterworks	240	45	285	13.6	2.4	7.8
Whitehouse	34	11	45	5.0	1.9	3.6
Woodvale	127	34	161	10.4	2.6	6.3
Total	1984	513	2497	7.8	2.0	4.9

Table 4: Census of Employment for the North Belfast Wards

Ward	Employee Jobs Total (2005)	% Full Time Male Jobs	% Part Time Male Jobs	% Full Time Female Jobs	% Part Time Female Jobs
Abbey	2,091	80.71	19.29	48.27	51.73
Ardoyne	418	64.33	35.67	38.31	61.69
Ballysillan	372	90.48	9.52	46.07	53.93
Bellevue	635	85.52	14.48	50.00	50.00
Castleview	439	57.96	42.04	53.19	46.81
Cavehill	354	70.91	29.09	40.74	59.26
Chichester Park	1,140	83.57	16.43	58.36	41.64
Cliftonville	788	81.49	18.51	56.10	43.90
Coole	378	60.47	39.53	47.76	52.24
Crumlin	1,397	82.05	17.95	46.47	53.53
Dunanney	1,199	98.18	1.82	67.92	32.08
Duncairn	20,797	90.85	9.15	69.14	30.86
Fortwilliam	1,268	76.80	23.20	51.82	48.18
Legoniel	792	81.82	18.18	49.90	50.10
New Lodge	4,340	78.35	21.65	43.83	56.17
Shankill	1,742	91.87	8.13	61.43	38.57
Valley	2,916	74.34	25.66	36.86	63.14
Waterworks	3,068	76.01	23.99	53.85	46.15
Whitehouse	492	67.74	32.26	32.07	67.93
Woodvale	705	83.49	16.51	49.47	50.53

5.4 Fifteen wards including Shankill are among the 50 most deprived in terms of health deprivation. Table 5 sets out the number of GP registrations and hospital inpatient episodes in 2006.

Table 5: GP Registrations and Hospital Inpatient Episodes for 2006

Ward	GP Registrations	Hospital Inpatient Episodes
Abbey	2765	860
Ardoyne	7183	2451
Ballysillan	5826	1775
Bellevue	4750	1910
Castleview	4910	1878
Cavehill	5118	1295
Chichester Park	5810	1520
Cliftonville	5208	1434
Coole	2595	1049
Crumlin	4269	1977
Dunanney	2406	971
Duncairn	3893	1785
Fortwilliam	4779	2339
Legoniel	5610	1763
New Lodge	5965	2285
Shankill	4220	1686
Valley	3133	1160
Waterworks	7174	2415
Whitehouse	2107	1003
Woodvale	4296	1751

Persons of different religious belief

5.5 Data from the Northern Ireland Census 2001 shows that the population in North Belfast from a Catholic community background is 44.9% and 51.9% from a Protestant and other Christian community background. The majority of wards in North Belfast are predominantly from either the Roman Catholic or Protestant background.

Table 6: Community Background

Ward	Community Background			
	Catholic	Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)	Other religions and philosophies	None
Abbey	17.3	77.0	0.5	5.2
Ardoyne	96.4	3.2	0.0	0.4
Ballysillan	4.4	90.7	0.2	4.8
Bellevue	60.7	35.2	0.6	3.5
Castleview	31.2	64.3	0.7	3.8
Cavehill	51.3	45.1	1.1	2.4
Chichester Park	74.9	20.2	1.2	3.7
Cliftonville	68.3	29.2	0.5	2.0
Coole	2.4	93.7	0.2	3.7
Crumlin	3.6	93.9	0.3	2.2
Dunanney	1.6	93.7	0.0	4.8
Duncairn	5.5	90.2	1.3	2.9
Fortwilliam	32.9	64.1	0.3	2.7
Legoniel	37.7	59.2	0.3	2.8
New Lodge	97.3	2.2	0.1	0.4
Shankill	3.2	94.3	0.4	2.1
Valley	51.5	45.2	0.2	3.1
Waterworks	90.7	6.7	0.3	2.3
Whitehouse	5.4	91.2	0.4	3.0
Woodvale	2.6	95.1	0.1	2.2
North Belfast	44.9	51.9	0.3	2.9
Belfast	47.2	48.6	0.8	3.4

Racial Group

5.6 'Racial Group' under Section 75 has the same meaning as in the Race Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 which outlaws discrimination on grounds of colour, race, nationality or ethnic or national origin. The Irish Travellers community is specifically identified in the Order as a racial group against which racial discrimination is unlawful. A race breakdown for North Belfast and Shankill is shown at table 7.

Table 7: Racial Groups

Ward	Persons in white ethnic group (%)	Persons in Irish Traveller group (%)	Persons in other ethnic groups (%)
Abbey	97.78	0.10	2.12
Ardoyne	99.67	0.08	0.26
Ballysillan	99.35	0.00	0.65
Bellevue	99.17	0.00	0.83
Castleview	98.91	0.00	1.09
Cavehill	99.43	0.00	0.57
Chichester Park	98.67	0.00	1.33
Cliftonville	99.35	0.06	0.59
Coole	100.00	0.00	0.00
Crumlin	99.38	0.00	0.62
Dunanney	99.87	0.00	0.13
Duncairn	98.40	0.07	1.52
Fortwilliam	99.31	0.00	0.69
Legoniel	99.28	0.14	0.58
New Lodge	99.67	0.13	0.19
Shankill	99.74	0.00	0.26
Valley	99.45	0.00	0.55
Waterworks	99.03	0.14	0.82
Whitehouse	99.72	0.14	0.14
Woodvale	99.63	0.00	0.37
Belfast	98.60	0.10	1.30

Age Profile

- 5.7 The census data shows that a wide range of ages exist in terms of the population of North Belfast. The young population in the ward areas throughout North Belfast broadly resembles the profile of the Belfast North Parliamentary Constituency. However, the older population is slightly higher in some of the ward areas in the Belfast North Parliamentary Constituency.
- 5.8 There are a number of variations within the wards. Ardoyne, for example has a higher than average under 16 population (31.7%) and a lower than average population of persons aged 60 and over (14.2%). Whitehouse has the highest proportion of older population (33.3%) followed by Crumlin with 31.1% of the population over 60.

Table 8: Age Profile

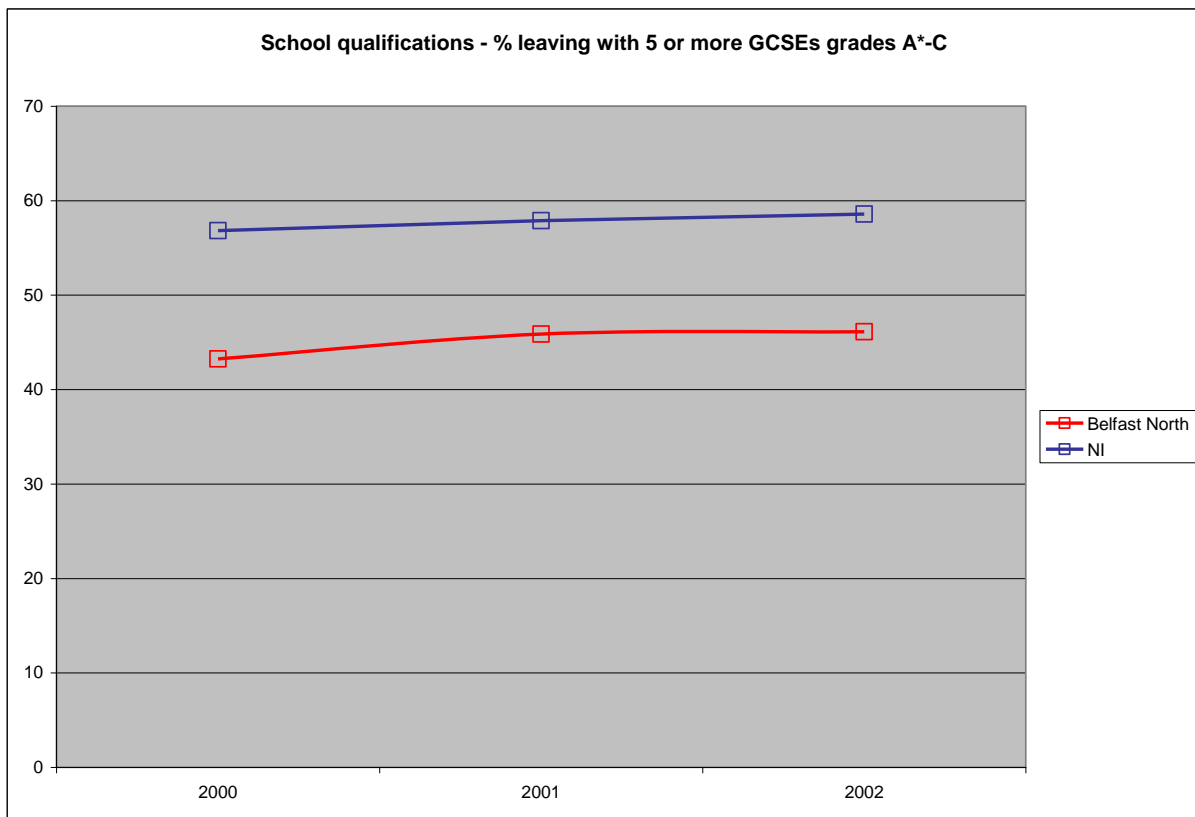
Ward	% persons under 16 years old	% persons aged 60 and over	Average age of population
Abbey	16.8	29.3	42.2
Ardoyne	31.7	14.2	31.4
Ballysillan	23.5	20.0	36.5
Bellevue	24.0	18.8	35.7
Castleview	21.6	23.6	39.5
Cavehill	22.9	20.4	37.5
Chichester Park	23.5	17.4	35.7
Cliftonville	26.9	17.2	34.9
Coole	22.4	25.7	38.8
Crumlin	20.5	31.1	42.6
Dunanney	23.8	23.6	37.9
Duncairn	21.0	27.3	40.8
Fortwilliam	18.9	26.4	41.5
Legoniel	22.7	21.4	37.6
New Lodge	25.7	18.4	35.0
Shankill	24.0	24.2	38.2
Valley	20.0	26.0	40.0
Waterworks	28.3	15.3	32.7
Whitehouse	11.5	33.3	46.0
Woodvale	20.9	26.6	40.2
Belfast	21.7	19.7	36.5

Education

5.9 In 2002 there were 25,004 school leavers, 1,247 of whom came from the Belfast North parliamentary constituency.

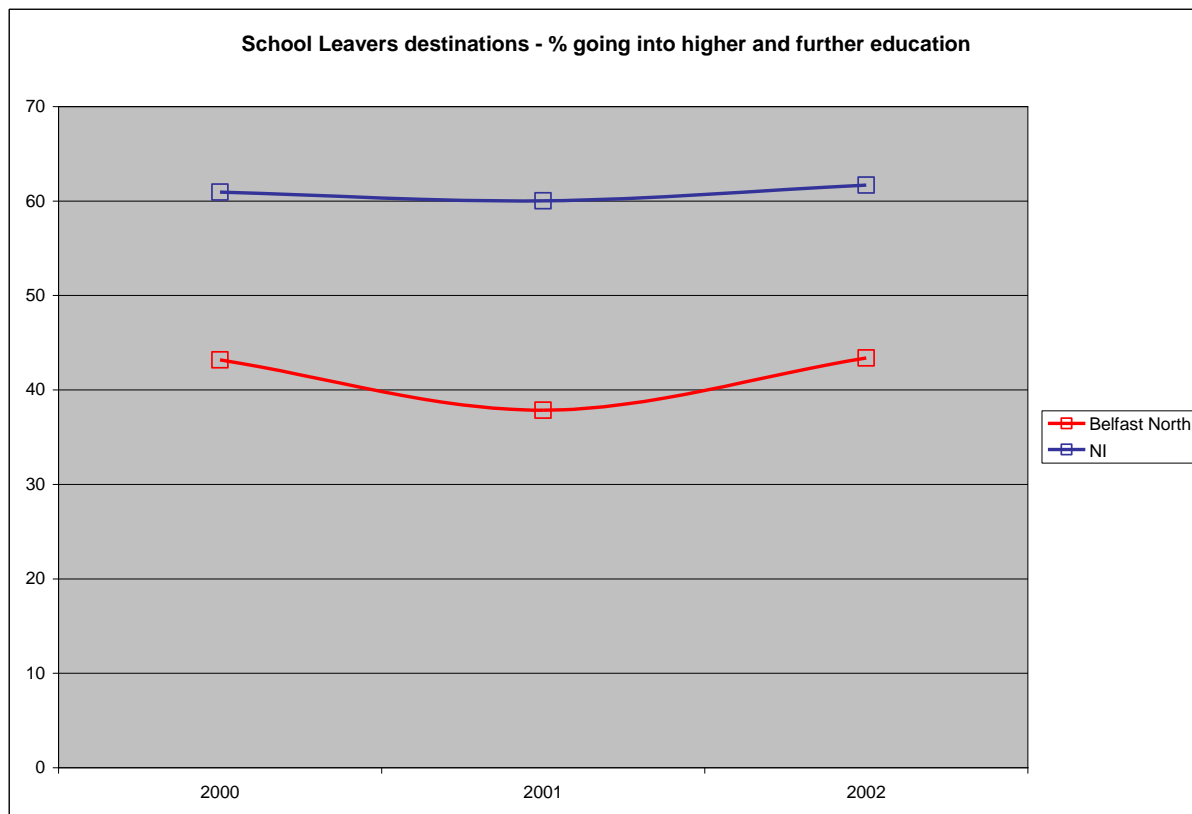
5.10 The graph below shows the GCSE results over 3 years in both Northern Ireland and the Belfast North parliamentary constituency. For example, the percentage of school leavers with 5 or more GCSEs at grades A* - C in the Belfast North parliamentary constituency (46%) is lower than the Northern Ireland average (59%) in 2002.

5.11 Educational attainment has improved in both the Belfast North parliamentary constituency and overall in Northern Ireland between 2000 and 2002.



Source: NI School Leavers' Survey 2000 to 2002, DE

5.12 The following graph shows the destination of school leavers over 3 years in both Northern Ireland and the Belfast North parliamentary constituency. For example, of the 25,004 school leavers in Northern Ireland in 2002, 62% went onto further and higher education. This was much higher than the school leavers in the Belfast North parliamentary constituency (43%).



Source: NI School Leavers' Survey 2000 to 2002, DE

- 5.13 In 2002, four wards in the Belfast North parliamentary constituency have a higher percentage of school leavers obtaining 5+ GCSEs at grades A* - C than the Northern Ireland average (59%). There are similar percentages of Northern Ireland school leavers going into further and higher education over the 3 years and this trend is matched in the Belfast North parliamentary constituency – see table 9.

Table 9: Percentage of school leavers with five or more GCSEs & percentage of pupils going into further and higher education

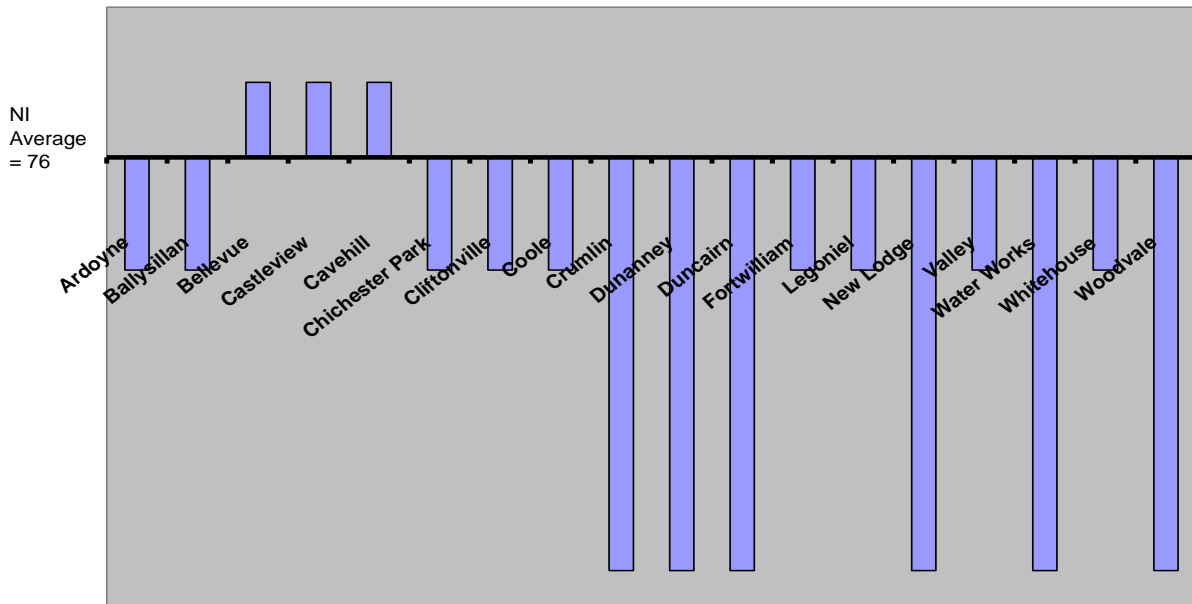
Ward	% School Leavers 5 + GCSEs A*-C 2000	% School Leavers 5 + GCSEs A*-C 2001	% School Leavers 5 + GCSEs A*-C 2002	% Pupils going into FE/HE 2000	% Pupils going into FE/HE 2001	% Pupils going into FE/HE 2002
Ardoyne	33	36	31	27	30	27
Ballysillan	33	45	37	25	31	31
Bellevue	50	58	60	50	50	60
Castleview	39	54	55	52	51	58
Cavehill	80	83	76	83	74	80
Chichester Park	66	73	60	66	65	55
Cliftonville	59	60	49	54	51	42
Coole	28	25	46	28	8	41
Crumlin Belfast	16	12	31	19	19	29
Dunanney	34	33	39	40	22	26
Duncairn	19	25	22	29	25	22
Fortwilliam	73	68	61	75	70	60
Legoniel	40	40	40	28	32	41
New Lodge	31	49	40	30	35	28
Valley	39	31	31	52	29	51
Waterworks	34	49	47	36	32	38
Whitehouse	42	47	45	16	20	55
Woodvale	29	19	25	25	12	25
Belfast North	43	46	46	43	38	43
Northern Ireland	57	58	59	61	60	62

Source: NI School Leavers' Survey 2000 to 2002, DE

Life Expectancy

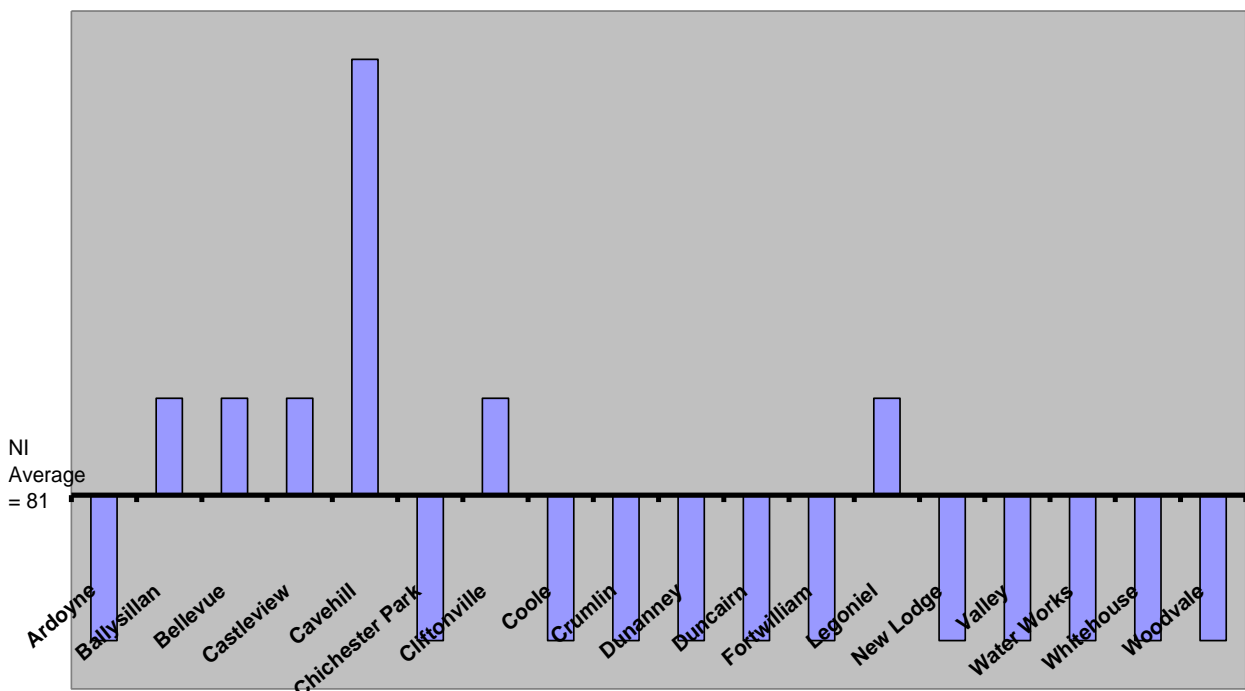
5.14 The average life expectancy in Northern Ireland in 2001 - 2003 was 76 for males and 81 for females, compared with 72 in the Belfast North parliamentary constituency (males) and 79 for females. The charts below show the life expectancy for males and females at electoral ward.

Male life expectancy (2001-2003)



Source: Inequalities Monitoring System, DHSSPS

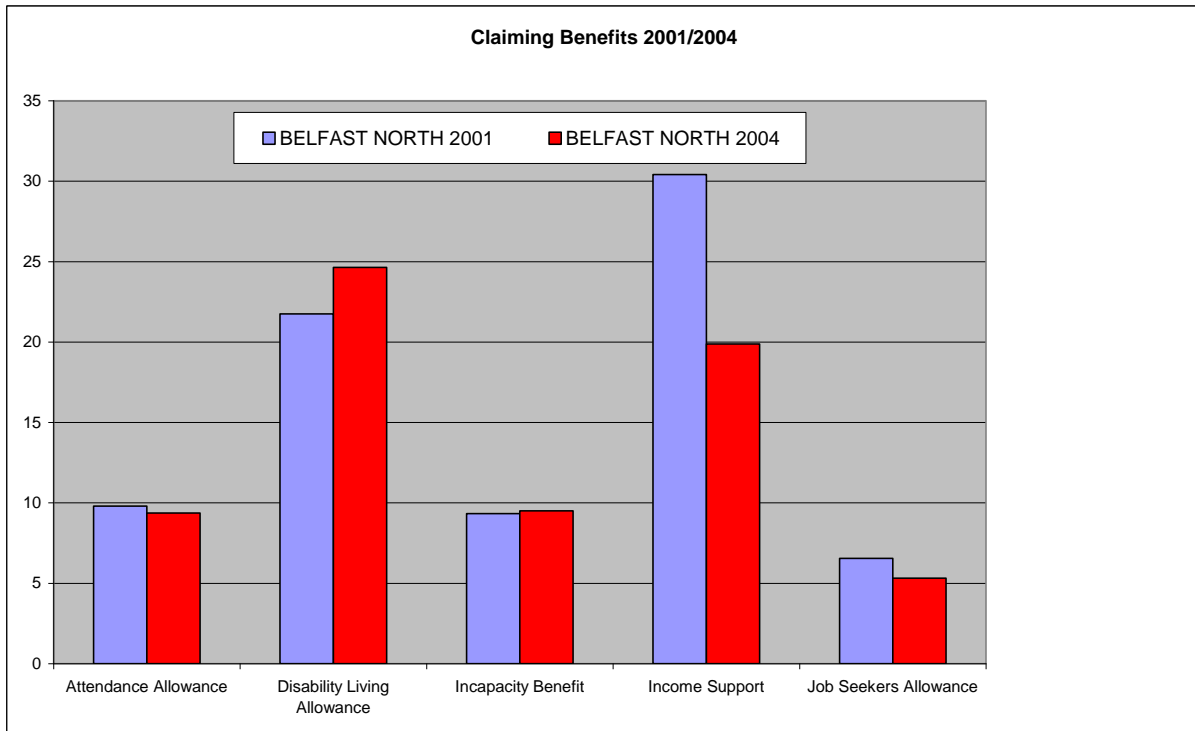
Female life expectancy (2001-2003)



Claiming Benefits

5.15 In 2001, the highest number of benefits claimed in the North Belfast parliamentary constituency was 14,975 for Income Support. However, the highest number of claims in 2004 was for Disability Living Allowance (11,786).

5.16 The graph below shows the percentage of the working age population claiming the various benefits for the Belfast North parliamentary constituency in 2001 and 2004.

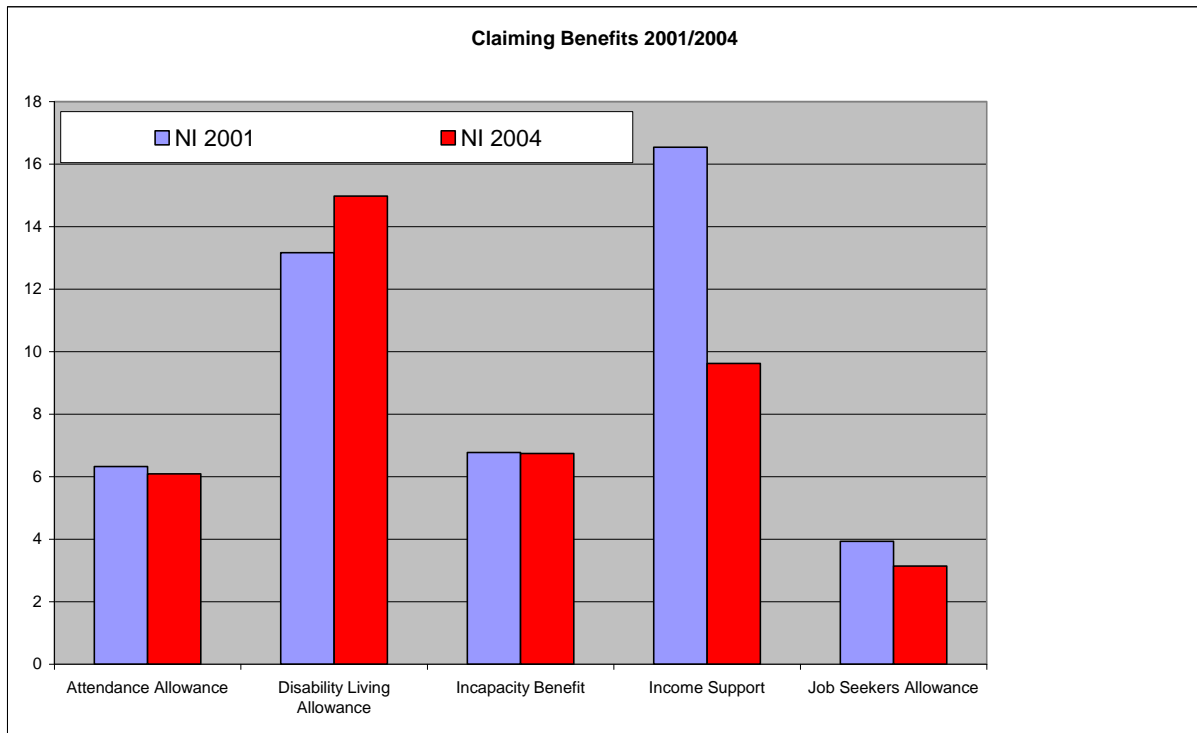


Source: Social Security Benefits, DSD

5.17 There is a reduction of the working age population in the Belfast North parliamentary constituency claiming most benefits and especially Income Support which fell from 30% to 20% between 2001 and 2004.

5.18 The proportion of the working age population in the Belfast North parliamentary constituency claiming Disability Living Allowance rose by 3% over the 3 year period.

5.19 In contrast in Northern Ireland as a whole, there was a large reduction in the number of claimants receiving Income Support over the three year period which fell by 7% to 10% of the Northern Ireland working age population. However, the proportion of the working age population receiving income support in the Belfast North parliamentary constituency (20%) was twice that of the Northern Ireland proportion in 2004 (10%).



[Source: Social Security Benefits, DSD](#)

Crime

5.20 The figures in table 10 below are ward-based figures whereas the figures in table 11 are based on the allocation of a crime to a policing area. Therefore this gives slight differences between the two sets of figures.

Table 10: Recorded Crime with a Sectarian Motivation 2005/06 to 2007/08

Ward	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Ardoyne	40	15	14
Ballysillan	4	2	3
Bellevue	32	27	43
Castleview	1	1	1
Cavehill	3	8	4
Chichester Park	10	10	13
Cliftonville	51	25	24
Crumlin (Belfast)	3	17	22
Duncairn	10	10	17
Fortwilliam	3	4	2
Glencairn	7	6	8
Legoniel	78	29	10
New Lodge	21	14	27
Shankill	19	23	8
Waterworks	23	27	33
Woodvale	16	12	2
Total	321	230	231

Source: Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

Table 11: Incidents and Recorded Crimes with a Sectarian Motivation 2005/06 to 2007/08

North Belfast Area	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Incidents with Sectarian Motivation	316	487	593
Crimes with Sectarian Motivation	324	233	232

Source: Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

Marital Status/Males and Females

5.21 Statistics on the marital status of persons aged 16 and over living in the North Belfast wards and Shankill and the number of men and women in these areas are set out in tables 12 and 13 respectively.

Table 12: Marital Status

Ward	% Persons aged 16 and over					
	Single (never married)	Married	Re-married	Separated (but still legally married)	Divorced	Widowed
Abbey	30.3	44.7	3.3	3.7	5.7	12.2
Ardoyne	44.2	30.2	0.9	10.4	5.4	8.9
Ballysillan	32.3	43.2	3.3	5.5	5.8	10.0
Bellevue	36.4	42.8	2.7	5.5	4.7	8.0
Castlevue	32.2	42.8	2.9	5.5	5.8	10.9
Cavehill	28.2	59.2	2.3	1.9	2.1	6.2
Chichester Park	41.0	39.0	1.8	5.9	4.6	7.8
Cliftonville	34.5	44.3	1.9	5.5	5.0	8.7
Coole	30.9	38.6	3.1	6.3	8.0	13.1
Crumlin	34.5	31.8	2.2	6.7	7.3	17.5
Dunanney	32.7	38.2	3.2	6.0	8.0	11.9
Duncairn	37.2	29.6	2.4	6.8	9.0	15.0
Fortwilliam	33.7	43.8	2.3	3.8	4.6	11.8
Legoniel	33.9	42.3	2.3	5.8	4.7	10.9
New Lodge	48.5	24.9	0.9	10.9	5.1	9.7
Shankill	37.7	26.5	2.5	9.8	9.2	14.2
Valley	37.0	35.7	3.1	5.3	7.2	11.8
Waterworks	47.0	28.0	1.3	8.9	6.0	8.8
Whitehouse	30.8	34.6	3.3	5.9	10.6	14.9
Woodvale	32.7	35.6	3.0	7.3	7.4	14.0
Belfast	41.3	36.9	2.2	5.5	4.9	9.3

Table 13: Males and Females

Ward	% male	% female
Abbey	47.4	52.6
Ardoyne	46.0	54.0
Ballysillan	46.2	53.8
Bellevue	47.4	52.6
Castleview	46.8	53.2
Cavehill	48.1	51.9
Chichester Park	48.4	51.6
Cliftonville	48.1	51.9
Coole	45.1	54.9
Crumlin	45.4	54.6
Dunanney	46.4	53.6
Duncairn	46.5	53.5
Fortwilliam	45.8	54.2
Legoniel	46.6	53.4
New Lodge	46.6	53.4
Shankill	45.9	54.1
Valley	45.6	54.4
Waterworks	47.1	52.9
Whitehouse	47.8	52.2
Woodvale	45.1	54.9
Belfast	46.8	53.2

Political Opinion in North Belfast

5.22 The political opinions for the Belfast North constituency as demonstrated at the Northern Ireland Assembly election on 7 March 2007 are shown at table 14 below.

Table 14: NI Assembly Election 7 March 2007 - Party First Preferences

Party	Votes
DUP	11108
Sinn Féin	9094
UUP	2498
SDLP	4080
Alliance	486
Other	2449
Total	29715

6 ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS

6.1 In the following paragraphs the Department sets out the potential impact of the policy on each of the nine equality categories. The impacts associated with each of the policy areas in relation to the section 75 groups are considered separately. However many of the issues are interconnected; individuals and groups may experience multiple inequalities which cut across the section 75 categories. The section 75 groups are:

- persons of different religious belief, (all religions and none);
- persons of different political opinion, (Unionists, Nationalists and others);
- persons of different racial group, (Chinese, Irish Traveller, Indian, Pakistani, or any other ethnic group);
- persons of different age, (under 18, 18-65, over 65);
- persons of different marital status (married, unmarried, divorced, separated, widowed);
- persons of different sexual orientation, (gay, lesbian, bisexual, heterosexual);
- men and women generally, (men, women, transgender people and transsexual people);
- persons with a disability and persons without, persons with a disability as defined in the disability discrimination act); and
- persons with dependants and persons without (caring for a child, an elderly person or person with a disability).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Crumlin Road Gaol Redevelopment/Tourism)

6.2 Crumlin Road Gaol is a Nineteenth century Grade 'A' listed building. The draft Masterplan proposal for the Gaol is that it would become a tourism destination with an international profile and a landmark attraction that would attract a wide spectrum visitors to the city including the local community and people of Belfast. It would be an important part of the cultural and leisure infrastructure of the city and an 'anchor' that would in turn attract people into North Belfast. It is expected that visitors will bring spending power and stimulate investment in businesses, leading to job creation. To do this regeneration of the site must lead to delivery of sustainable jobs that meet the needs of the local and wider communities in North Belfast.

6.3 The number of visitors staying overnight in Belfast increased by 18 per cent in 2007, according to the latest figures released by the Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau from the tourism monitor conducted by Belfast City Council. The number of 'out of state' overnight visitors has also increased by a healthy 20 per cent to 1.2 million in 2007 when compared to 2006.

6.4 The overall number of visitors coming into the city last year reached an all time high at 6.9 million, bringing an estimated £313.3 million of tourism revenue into the local economy.

- 6.5 A thirteen week Pilot Scheme to allow access to the Crumlin Road Gaol ran from 20 September to 15 December 2007. The objective of the pilot was to test interest in the Gaol as a visitor attraction as well as a forum for staged events. Guided tours provided the visitor with a complete historical and cultural experience. Over the pilot period the tours catered for approximately 5000 visitors. In addition, a number of events were staged at the Gaol including a production of 'Macbeth' as part of the Queens festival and other media entertainment events.
- 6.6 Approximately 700 of the 5,000 visitors to the Gaol completed an evaluation sheet with 95% of visitors who commented stating that the overall experience was either excellent or above average. The potential of the Gaol to become an important visitor attraction has been demonstrated by the success of the pilot schemes.
- 6.7 The Gaol was open to the public again for a fourteen week period from June 2008 until September 2008. During this period approximately 10,000 visitors came to the Gaol for a guided tour. The tours were very well received with many of the visitors advocating for the Gaol to become a more permanent tourist attraction.
- 6.8 In overall terms the redevelopment of the site in itself provides an opportunity for the creation of employment. Focus group participants said that apprenticeships must be provided during the development of the site and an on-site training facility could assist in skills development. Indeed the draft Masterplan proposes this. As the development of the site will take a number of years to roll out, the level of sustained construction activity will create the opportunity for a site based training facility.

Persons of different religious belief

- 6.9 There was a positive attitude from both Protestant and Catholic communities at meetings and focus groups to the Gaol being used as a tourist attraction and an understanding that this had the potential to drive economic development in that part of the city. Both communities viewed tourism developments as having a the potential to have a positive impact, believing that it could contribute to local employment, attract large numbers of visitors into the area and create investor confidence in the area. The Gaol site should serve as a gateway to North Belfast bringing in visitors and investment creating business opportunities and providing a focus for the various tourist amenities in North Belfast.
- 6.10 The Jewish community in Northern Ireland resides mainly in North Belfast where the existing Synagogue is located. In a meeting with a representative of the Jewish community it was noted that there are a number of attractions in North Belfast which would have an appeal for visitors e.g. the birth place of Chaim Herzog, the first President of the state of Israel. Jewish tourists visiting North Belfast would most likely come to stay there due to the location of the Synagogue.

- 6.11 The Department considers that redevelopment of the Gaol with an emphasis on tourism as part of the draft Crumlin Road Gaol/Girdwood Park Masterplan and the associated benefits would not have a differential impact on either of the two main communities in North Belfast, or on any other minority community. Both communities are likely to benefit from the attraction of tourists into North Belfast, helping to promote equality and addressing need through the creation of employment opportunities.
- 6.12 Equality of opportunity through economic development and skills training is applicable to all communities, particularly those neighbouring the site.

Political opinion

- 6.13 The Department considers that people of different political opinion will not be adversely impacted by the redevelopment of Crumlin Road Gaol and the attraction of tourists to the Gaol/Girdwood site.

Race

- 6.14 A question on ethnicity was included in the 2001 Census for the first time. It is not possible to compare similar figures with an earlier timeframe to identify areas of growth. However, since the Census North Belfast has seen the arrival of many migrant workers.
- 6.15 In addition there has been an increase in the numbers of migrant workers particularly from Poland and Lithuania.² Many migrant workers are transient and come to Northern Ireland on short-term (often 6 month) contracts before returning home.
- 6.16 The Department considers that the potential impact of the tourism and redevelopment of the Gaol as part of draft Crumlin Road Gaol/Girdwood Park Masterplan and the associated benefits will not have a differential impact on any racial group.

Age

- 6.17 If Crumlin Road Gaol is redeveloped as a tourist destination it is likely to result in employment opportunities for any person over the age of 16. The Gaol museum may be used by local school children of all ages and indeed children throughout the region as part of their curriculum studies.
- 6.18 A number of local schools had tours of the Gaol and feedback from both children and teachers has been very positive. The Gaol will provide the opportunity for young people from all communities to mix in a shared environment and to use local history as a tool to explore citizenship and good relations, themes which are of particular relevance. Some focus groups were

² Source -NICEM, Black and Minority Ethnic Health and well-being development project for North and West Belfast.

keen that schools should be able to take advantage of the educational potential afforded by the Gaol.

- 6.19 The Department considers that the redevelopment of Crumlin Road Gaol as a tourist attraction will positively impact on all residents of the area, adults and children alike.

Marital status

- 6.20 The Department considers that people of different marital status will not be adversely impacted by the proposals for the redevelopment of Crumlin Road Gaol.

Sexual orientation

- 6.21 The Department considers that people of different sexual orientation will not be adversely impacted by the proposals for the redevelopment of Crumlin Road Gaol.

Men and women generally

- 6.22 Focus groups made the point that any apprenticeships created during the development of the site should be aimed at both men and women. This will be taken into account as site based training is progressed.
- 6.23 The Department considers that men and women generally will not be adversely impacted by the proposals for the redevelopment of Crumlin Road Gaol.

Persons with a disability and persons without

- 6.24 Prior to the public opening of the Gaol an assessment was carried out to ensure that people with disabilities could avail of the public tours. A ramped entrance and toilet facilities for people with disabilities were provided to the rear of the Gaol's C-wing. A ramped entrance was also constructed at the entrance and exit of the newly opened exhibits room in 2008. Any future development at the Gaol will take the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act into account.
- 6.25 Focus groups also said that training leading to employment should be a priority for disabled people. This will also be taken into account as site based training is progressed.
- 6.26 The Department considers that persons with a disability and persons without will not be adversely impacted by the proposal for the redevelopment of Crumlin Road Gaol.

Persons with dependants and those without

- 6.27 The Department considers that people with dependants and those without will not be adversely affected by the proposals for the redevelopment of Crumlin Road Gaol.

LEISURE

- 6.28 Belfast City Council has expressed an interest in locating a new leisure facility at the Gaol/Girdwood site and has provided an indication of its accommodation requirement, based largely on an assessment of local need.
- 6.29 The draft Masterplan proposes the provision of high quality leisure facilities which could serve the local communities and be a regional attraction, drawing visitors into North Belfast from across greater Belfast and further afield. This view was echoed at discussions in the community focus groups. In addition, the provision of leisure facilities provides people from the area with the opportunity to improve their health. The focus groups also indicated that people with disabilities should have easier access to gyms. Access to any new leisure facilities will have regard for the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act.

Persons of different religious belief and political opinion

- 6.30 Belfast City Council manages 11 leisure centres across Belfast. Some leisure centres are identified with a particular section of the community because of their location in the Protestant or Catholic community. Anecdotal evidence from Belfast City Council Leisure Services department indicates that most of the Leisure Centres in Belfast are used in varying degrees by both sections of the community.³
- 6.31 During the consultations on the draft Masterplan, concern was expressed that the proposed location of the leisure facilities could have an adverse impact on community usage because of perceived 'ownership'. This view was expressed again at some of the focus groups. Concern was expressed that unless new housing is shared housing, the leisure facilities would not be shared either.
- 6.32 Belfast City Council adhere to policy and procedures in the provision of leisure services to communities and is committed to promoting equality of opportunity.
- 6.33 Both local communities agree that a new leisure facility should be in public ownership and accessible to the communities adjoining the site. Whilst acknowledging the potential for a differential impact if the leisure facility were to become identified solely with one community or the other, both communities will experience positive impacts through the creation of job opportunities and the potential for peoples well-being to be improved by using the leisure facilities.
- 6.34 The Department will consider incorporating employment targets to assist and encourage people from the local communities to apply for work in the new leisure facility.
- 6.35 If a new leisure centre were to be identified with one community, it is possible that the differential impact could occur (although the evidence of Belfast City

³ Strategic review of Belfast City Council owned leisure facilities, EQIA 2004.

Council Leisure Services does not support this view). Employment opportunities arising from such development would be open to all.

- 6.36 It must also be recognised that all communities should have equality in terms of access to all facilities and services available through leisure provision in the area.
- 6.37 Focus groups mentioned the lack of amenities for young people in the area and that this led to them turning to alcohol and drugs as a pastime. The leisure facilities proposed for the site will provide an amenity which young people can use and which may deter them from abusing alcohol and drugs.
- 6.38 The Department considers that there is no evidence that the provision of a new leisure centre would have an adverse impact:
- between persons of different, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
 - between men and women generally;
 - between persons with a disability and persons without; and
 - between persons with dependants and persons without.

Mixed Use Development

- 6.39 The draft Masterplan envisages mixed use development over the greater part of the Gaol/Girdwood site. Proposed uses are local shops, retail services, offices, housing (including social and affordable housing), workshops, training facilities and community facilities. The consultant's recommendation, based on successful urban regeneration practice in the United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland and elsewhere in Europe, is that mixed tenure housing, particularly when it is part of a mixed use regeneration scheme, is crucial in order to:
- (a) make such sites living, vibrant zones;
 - (b) create the critical mass; and
 - (c) generate the finance required to pay for the costly infrastructure to develop this site.
- 6.40 The Department for Social Development Review into Affordable Housing⁴ also holds this view and notes that 'in regeneration areas in particular, mixed tenure, mixed income developments have the potential to rebuild sustainable and vibrant communities'.
- 6.41 It is envisaged that the construction of new houses will create a range of employment opportunities across the communities, in an area of high

⁴ Review into Affordable Housing Final Report, 2007, produced by DSD

unemployment in Belfast. It is recommended in the draft Masterplan that an on-site training facility be provided. Such a facility could meet the needs of the construction industry and benefit the local communities through on-site and outreach training and provision of construction jobs. Additionally the training facility could help support sustainable employment within the retail, office and tourism developments.

HOUSING NEED IN NORTH BELFAST

- 6.42 Statistical data supplied by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE)⁵ indicates a demand for social housing and that there is a shortage of suitable development sites to meet that demand in North Belfast. The draft Masterplan recommends that the development of mixed type, mixed tenure housing should range from 1 and 2 bed apartments to 2, 3 and 4 bed family housing, with the aim of creating a mixed income and mixed tenure community. The Masterplan also recommends that to make best use of available inner city land and to secure increased housing choice and numbers the residential accommodation be provided at higher densities.
- 6.43 Focus groups made comments on the provision of housing generally and that high rise flats were unsuitable for families and the elderly. The draft Masterplan however proposes some accommodation of 4-7 floors and not high rise buildings. A view was also expressed that the design and layout of housing areas was important so that crime wasn't 'designed in' by the creation of alleyways and blocked off spaces. The draft Masterplan proposes that the housing development for the site would be progressive and creative in design and be an example for Belfast and Northern Ireland. Housing would be mixed tenure and mixed type to reflect the needs of different segments of the community and to build a future, sustainable society.

Persons of different religious belief

- 6.44 The Equality Commission for Northern Ireland notes⁶ that the level of segregation in housing on grounds of community background in Northern Ireland is substantial, with less than 10% of social housing currently integrated. Some 70% of social housing tenants live in communities that are at least 90% Roman Catholic or Protestant. This is confirmed by the Census which shows that the majority of wards in North Belfast consist predominantly of one or other of the main religions.
- 6.45 NIHE state that this has created two different social housing markets. Catholic housing need is characterised by lengthy waiting lists which can only be met through the provision of additional social housing. Protestant housing need is largely being met through the turnover in existing social housing⁷.
- 6.46 The following tables show the housing waiting list for North Belfast up to March 2008.

⁵ Belfast District Housing Plan & local housing strategy, 2008-2009, produced by NIHE

⁶ Statement on Key Inequalities in NI—the Equality Commission for NI

⁷ Northern Ireland Housing Executive 2008.

North Belfast Waiting List Information

Total no of applicants on waiting list	2502
Total no of applicants in stress (i.e. applicants with 30 or more points)	1474

Housing Stress by Household Group

Period	Elderly	Family	Adult	Singles	Total
March 2008	219 (15%)	501 (34%)	70 (5%)	674 (46%)	1474

Housing Stress Breakdown in Perceived Catholic Households

Period	Elderly	Family	Adult	Singles	Total
March 2008	121 (11%)	396 (37%)	55 (6%)	481 (46%)	1053

Housing Stress Breakdown in Perceived Protestant Households

Period	Elderly	Family	Adult	Singles	Total
March 2008	98 (23%)	105 (25%)	25 (6%)	193 (46%)	421

Housing Stress Breakdown by Perceived Catholic Applicant Area

Ward/Area	Elderly	Large Adult	Large Family	Single	Small Adult	Small Family	Total
Ardoyne	15		6	80	5	62	168
Carlisle New Lodge	16	3	4	82	5	62	172
Cavehill	31	5	13	96	8	51	204
Cliftonville	25	2	7	78	3	49	164
Duncairn Gardens	3		2	15	2	7	29
Glandore/Dunmore	1			2	2		5
M/S Flats – Carlisle				17	1	1	19
Newington/Limestone	7			3	1	6	17
Oldpark	4			32	2	31	69
Torrens	5	1	3	11	1	25	46
Unity Flats	3		1	10	2	10	26
Upper Ligoniel	3		3	31	7	23	67
Whitewell/Fairyknowe	8	1	5	24	4	25	67
Totals	121	12	44	481	43	352	1053

Housing Stress Breakdown by Perceived Protestant Applicant Area

Ward/Area	Elderly	Large Adult	Large Family	Single	Small Adult	Small Family	Total
Alliance				5		1	6
Ballysillan	12	1		34	5	16	68
Clifftondene				5		2	7
Fairhill			1	9	2	6	18
Gainsborough	5		3	13	2	10	33
Grove Area	12			8	3	5	28
Lw Ligoniel/ Glenbank	6		2	11	1	3	23
Lower Oldpark			3	10	2	1	16
Mount Vernon Estate	3		1	7		7	18
Ross House Flats/ Mount Vernon Flats				1		1	2
Shore Road	4	1		26	3	7	41
Skegoniel/Ashfield /Fortwilliam	19	1	2	23	3	14	62
Somerton Rd (Sheltered)	30			3	1		34
Sunningdale	1		1	6		6	14
Upper & Lower Duncairn	3		1	16		5	25
Westland				3		1	4
Wheatfield	3			9		3	15
Whitewell/White City			1	4		2	7
Totals	98	3	15	193	22	90	421

Definition of terms used

Elderly	Single 60+ or couple 60+
Small Adult	2 person household 16-59 years
Large Adult	3 or more person household 18-59 years
Small Family	2 adults 1 child/ 2 adults 2 children/1 parent 1 child/1 parent 2 children
Large Family	2 adults 3 or more children/ 1 parent 3 or more children/ 3 adults 2 or more children

NIHE Projected housing need assessment from 2007 to 2012⁸

1) Perceived Catholic North Belfast

Projected number of applicants in Housing Stress	2671
Less projected housing supply (re-lets & voids)	-1306
Less 1 year's average annual re-lets	<u>-242</u>
Projected social housing need	1123
Redevelopment requirements	<u>168</u>
Adjusted projected social housing need	1291

2) Perceived Protestant North Belfast

Projected number of applicants in Housing Stress	1618
Less projected housing supply (re-lets & voids)	-1619
Less 1 year's average annual re-lets	<u>-287</u>
Projected social housing need	Nil
Redevelopment overspill requirements	<u>71</u>
Projected social housing need	71

Planned Social Housing Developments in North Belfast from 2007 to 2012

6.47 The Housing Association Development programme in North Belfast for the five years from 2007 to 2012 contains 25 schemes where housing is either under construction or land has been acquired by the Housing Executive or Housing Associations and are as follows:

Year	No of Units
2007/08	315
2008/09	286
2009/10	40
2010/11	18
2011/12	NIL
Total	659
Projected housing need for 2007/12	1291
New build supply where land has been acquired for 2007/12	<u>659</u>
Shortfall between demand and supply	632

6.48 It should also be noted that the draft Masterplan for the Northside Urban Village proposes the provision of 827 residential units with 20% of these (165) designated for affordable including social housing.

⁸ Information provided by NIHE 2008

Analysis

- 6.49 The work of the Advisory Panel and the responses to the public consultation confirm that the draft Masterplan proposal for housing is a sensitive issue. The preferred option of the Department is shared housing.
- 6.50 The data provided by the NIHE underlines that the level of housing stress in the Catholic community cannot be catered for within current and projected housing provision. New residential developments on the site will not have an adverse impact on the housing requirements of the Protestant community in this area. Housing stress within Protestant areas in North Belfast can be accommodated within existing plans. Provision of housing has created concerns within that community and the Department must take account of the objective of creating a sustainable, vibrant community on the site and in the areas adjoining the site.
- 6.51 The draft Masterplan proposes that a substantial part of the mixed use zone would be developed for residential purposes. However it is not intended that this will be provided for one section of the community only indeed at this stage, it is impossible to predict what the uptake of private housing will be, from either the Protestant or Catholic community background. It has to be borne in mind that the demand for new residential development could come from a variety of sources.

Political opinion

- 6.52 For the purposes of this impact assessment, the Department considers that any differential impacts identified and conclusions made in respect of catholic and protestant religious groups are similar to differential impacts identified for the main political groups i.e. Protestant/Unionist/Loyalist and Catholic /Nationalist/Republican.

Race

- 6.53 The 2001 census was the first occasion that ethnicity was included as part of the Census. However it is known that the Chinese and Indian communities are the two main established migrant communities in Belfast. The Jewish community in Northern Ireland has traditionally had a strong association with North Belfast and the majority of that community still resides in the area. Large sections of the established communities were owner-occupiers, living mainly in South and North Belfast. Research indicates that many of the more recent migrants occupy private rented accommodation, often in houses of multiple occupation.⁹
- 6.54 Local hospitals including the Mater Hospital Trust have specifically targeted migrant workers through recruitment campaigns to fill skills shortages. In addition there has been an increase in the number of migrant workers

⁹ New Migrants and Belfast, 2007- Institute for Conflict Research

particularly from Poland and Lithuania.¹⁰ Many migrant workers come to Northern Ireland on temporary (often 6 month) contracts before returning home.

- 6.55 The Department does not consider that the potential impact of the mixed use development including housing as part of draft Crumlin Road Gaol/Girdwood Park draft Masterplan and the associated benefits will have a differential impact on any of the racial groups.

Age

- 6.56 The census data shows that a wide spectrum of age groups exist within the population of North Belfast. The average percentage of people over 60 years old in Belfast is 19.7%. There are several wards in North Belfast with a higher than average percentage of people aged over 60. The average percentage of people under 16 in Belfast is 21.7%. However, there are several wards in North Belfast with an above average percentage of people under 16.
- 6.57 In two cross community focus groups with elderly North Belfast residents it was suggested that shared living accommodation be provided as part of any new residential accommodation on the site, particularly for those in the older generation.
- 6.58 A cross-community focus group of young people (under 16) expressed the view that residential accommodation was important and that apartments would be preferable to houses. Others felt that the site should be used to provide leisure facilities or theme park type attraction.
- 6.59 The Department considers that people of different age will not be adversely impacted by a mixed use development, including the provision of housing on the Gaol/Girdwood site.

Marital status

- 6.60 The percentage of single people in Belfast aged 16 and over (never married) is 41.3%. Some wards in North Belfast have a slightly higher than average percentage of people who have never married, however the majority of wards fall below the average for Belfast. The percentage of married people aged 16 and over for Belfast is 36.9%. Many wards in North Belfast have a higher than average marriage rate.
- 6.61 The Department does not consider that the potential impact of the mixed use development including housing as part of draft Crumlin Road Gaol/Girdwood Park draft Masterplan and the associated benefits will have a differential impact by reason of an individual's marital status.

¹⁰ Source -NICEM, Black and Minority Ethnic Health and well-being development project for North and West Belfast 2006.

Sexual orientation

- 6.62 There is no official data/information available on this section 75 group; however, anecdotal evidence suggests that the bars and cafes of the nearby Press/Library Quarter, which is situated in Lower North Belfast, are a popular meeting place for the Gay/Lesbian community.
- 6.63 The Department considers that people of different sexual orientation will not be adversely impacted by a mixed use development, including the provision of housing on the Gaol/Girdwood site.

Men and women generally

- 6.64 Data from the 2001 Census shows that 46.6% of the population of North Belfast is male and 53.4% is female. These percentages are almost identical to the figures for Belfast as a whole, 46.8% male and 53.2% female.
- 6.65 The Department does not consider that the proposed mixed use development including housing as part of draft Crumlin Road Gaol/Girdwood Park draft Masterplan and the associated benefits will have a differential impact on account of an individuals gender.

Persons with a disability and persons without

- 6.66 Primary data is not available for the “persons with a disability and persons without” Section 75 category; however, secondary data is available which allude to the prevalence of people with and without disabilities resident in North Belfast. The most relevant data relates to “persons with limiting long-term illness”¹¹ which shows that 27.5% of the resident population in North Belfast have a limiting long term illness. The average for Northern Ireland is 20.4%.
- 6.67 The proposals in the draft Crumlin Road Gaol/Girdwood Park draft Masterplan are not considered to have a differential impact on persons with a disability and persons without. The residential units (including affordable housing) will be built to conform to disability legislation and will be available to all on an equal basis.
- 6.68 Data is unavailable for North Belfast to show the number of persons with dependants and persons without. However data is available for the percentage of lone parents with dependant children in North Belfast. This is 13.3% whereas for Belfast it is 11% and Northern Ireland as a whole 8.1%.
- 6.69 The Department considers that people with dependants and those without will not be adversely impacted by a mixed use development as it is proposed that residential accommodation (including affordable housing) will be available to all on an equal basis.

¹¹ Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS) 2005

HEALTH (Mater Hospital)

- 6.70 The draft Masterplan affirm the important role which the Mater Hospital plays in the life of North Belfast and indicates how the hospital's future expansion needs can be accommodated by extending northwards and becoming the focus of a proposed 'Wellbeing' zone.
- 6.71 The causes of poor health within the communities of North Belfast was discussed at the focus group meetings and the view expressed was that issues of poverty and associated low-self esteem, hopelessness and stress were factors in the high rates of mental health.

Persons of different religious belief

- 6.72 From earlier consultations and during the focus group meetings it was agreed that the proposed extension to the Mater Hospital was a positive step in improving health provision within North Belfast. Some of the focus groups stated that there were serious drug, alcohol and suicide problems within the communities and that the Masterplan should acknowledge the need for a psychiatric/rehabilitation centre. The Mater Hospital has a psychiatric unit which it intends to replace. The expansion of the Mater Hospital has the potential to create more long term job opportunities, which will be available to all people in the surrounding communities regardless of their religious beliefs.
- 6.73 The Department considers that people of different religious beliefs will not be adversely impacted by the proposed expansion of the Mater Hospital onto the Gaol/Girdwood site.

Political opinion

- 6.74 The Department considers that people of different political opinions will not be adversely impacted by the draft Masterplan proposal for expansion of the Mater Hospital.

Race

- 6.75 The 2001 census was the first time that a question on ethnicity was asked as part of the Census, so it is not possible to compare similar figures with an earlier timeframe to identify areas of growth. However, since the 2001 Census North Belfast has been the focus for the arrival of many migrant workers.
- 6.76 The Mater Hospital Trust and also the Royal Hospital specifically targeted migrant workers through recruitment campaigns to fill skills shortages. In addition there has been an increase in the number of migrant workers particularly from Poland and Lithuania.¹² Many migrant workers are transient and come to Northern Ireland on short-term (often 6 month) contracts before returning home.

¹² Source -NICEM, Black and Minority Ethnic Health and well-being development project for North and West Belfast.

6.77 The Department considers that the potential impact of the extension to the Mater Hospital as part of draft Crumlin Road Gaol/Girdwood Park Masterplan and the associated benefits are not considered to have a differential impact on any of the minority ethnic groups living in North Belfast.

6.78 The Department considers that people of different race will not be adversely impacted by the draft Masterplan proposal for expansion of the Mater Hospital.

Age

6.79 Ease of access to the hospital and its services is important, especially for the older population of the area. Youth groups and health service user groups also identified the need to provide mental health services in an area affected by suicides amongst young people. Some focus groups also pointed out that drug and alcohol abuse particularly affected young people.

6.80 The Department considers that there is no evidence of adverse impact by the proposed expansion of the Mater Hospital:

- between persons of different, marital status or sexual orientation;
- between men and women generally;
- between persons with a disability and persons without; and
- between persons with dependants and persons without.

EDUCATION (St Malachy's College)

6.81 St Malachy's College is one of the oldest schools in the area and has served North Belfast well over the years. St Malachy's College, has been identified by the Department of Education, as a specialist school for music and sport. It works on a cross community basis with other schools in the area as well as providing services and amenities to the wider community. The College hopes to develop and enhance these services both for future students and for the wider community in North Belfast. This would require further expansion in the proposed site.

6.82 The draft Masterplan seeks to accommodate plans by St Malachy's College to redevelop the school and to the schools need for additional playing fields and to expand their outreach activities to the wider community. The provision of increased community services and recognising departmental guidance on the needs of schools with this number of students may require an expanded site linked to the original historic school buildings.

6.83 This proposal would allow for a more strategic and comprehensive redevelopment of the site enabling a new access route to be provided as well as accommodating the expansion plans of the Mater Hospital.

- 6.84 Feedback from public meetings and focus groups, in particular those attended by young people, has shown the desirability of giving wider access to the school's education and playing field facilities.
- 6.85 The provision of after schools clubs and early services were highlighted at focus groups as being important to local communities with the inference that there is a lack of such facilities. While it may not be appropriate to address this issue through the redevelopment of the Gaol/Girdwood site, it will be pursued elsewhere by the Department.
- 6.86 The Department considers that there is no evidence of adverse impact by the draft Masterplan's proposal for St Malachy's College:
- between persons of different religious beliefs, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
 - between men and women generally;
 - between persons with a disability and persons without; and
 - between persons with dependants and persons without.

PUBLIC REALM

- 6.87 The draft Masterplan proposes high-quality areas of public and private amenity space, generally informal in character, with some of the courtyards in the mixed use zone being developed to create successful and attractive outdoor areas. A cross community focus group of elderly members of the community stressed the importance for older members of the community of a public realm where they can feel safe and secure. The issue of safety for women, young people and families was also highlighted at a number of meetings.
- 6.88 The Department considers that there is no evidence of adverse impact by the proposed public realm:
- between persons of different religious beliefs, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
 - between men and women generally;
 - between persons with a disability and persons without; and
 - between persons with dependants and persons without.

ACCESSIBILITY – Arc Road

- 6.89 A main element of the vehicular access strategy is the proposal for a new road, the 'Arc Route', linking the Antrim and Crumlin Roads, and giving direct access to the heart of the site. The draft Masterplan proposes that the new road should

be designed to discourage excessive traffic and 'rat-running'; one way that this could be achieved is by allowing one way only access from the Antrim Road at Kinnaird Street and two way access from the new Crumlin Road junction.

Persons of different religious belief and political opinion

- 6.90 During the consultation process and focus group meetings concerns were expressed about the line of the new Arc Road and the potential of the new road to create another interface. It was suggested that the Arc Road should be two-way over its entire length. Others felt community concerns could be addressed by the creation of access routes located so as to ensure access to the facilities within the site, by both communities. St Malachy's College expressed concern about the danger to pupils of crossing this road to access the playing fields.
- 6.91 The Department considers that there is the potential of an adverse impact by the proposed Arc Road to persons of different religious belief and political opinion.
- between persons of different, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
 - between men and women generally;
 - between persons with a disability and persons without; and
 - between persons with dependants and persons without.

ACCESSIBILITY - Car Parking

- 6.92 Whilst the regeneration of the site will result in an increased need for car parking the draft Masterplan parking strategy is set in the context of parking restraint in line with current planning policy and promotes sustainable transport choices. It is anticipated that car parking will comprise both underground and surface level parking, with the greater proportion underground. Such parking provision is costly. Feedback from meetings also recommends the joint development of alternative transportation facilities. Indeed the provision of additional parking as part of the draft proposals for the Gaol/Girdwood site may alleviate on-street parking in the roads and streets surrounding the site.
- 6.93 The Department considers that there is no evidence of adverse impact by the proposed car parking:
- between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
 - between men and women generally;
 - between persons with a disability and persons without; and
 - between persons with dependants and persons without.

DEVELOPMENT SITES

6.94 Various options have been proposed here including a centre for study and citizenship, retail outlets, small business units and buildings to house local community service providers. It is recommended that the proposals for these sites be accorded a lower priority and be developed as determined by market conditions or as required by the new implementation body.

6.95 The Department considers that there is no evidence of adverse impact due to this proposal:

- between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
- between men and women generally;
- between persons with a disability and persons without; and
- between persons with dependants and persons without.

7 CONSIDERATION OF MITIGATING MEASURES/ALTERNATIVE POLICIES

- 7.1 The vision of the draft Masterplan for Crumlin Road Gaol/Girdwood Park is an ***'inclusive and diverse environment which attracts present and future generations of people to live, work and visit'***.

Overview

- 7.2 During the consultation process the Department contacted a wide variety of groups and encouraged individuals to come forward with their views on the development of the site. A number of organisations expressed concerns about the promotion of equality, human rights and good relations. The Department is particularly sensitive to these issues and wishes to achieve an agreement on the maximum use and benefits of the site. Community division is more acute in North Belfast and contributes to other socio-economic problems in the area. The development of this site has the potential to have a major impact on the issues affecting communities today but it must also address the issue of the type of community we want to see here in the future. The site needs to be developed in a way that will attract businesses, investment and visitors into the area to create wealth and jobs.
- 7.3 Recurring issues at both the consultation meetings and focus groups were housing (type, location and allocation) access, leisure facilities (location and type), shared future and community relations. However, there was also cross-community support on many issues such as increased employment, tourism, health provision and the potential for improved educational facilities and accessibility to crèche facilities which were perceived to address community need.

Housing

- 7.4 During the consultation process views on the draft Masterplan proposal to provide housing on the site were highly polarised, reflecting the views of the communities. Housing stress in the area is a particular problem that has to be addressed. The provision of additional housing and particularly social housing will have an impact in addressing the housing need. Community relations, given the levels of residential segregation within North Belfast is also a concern, as equality of opportunity for all communities must ensure accessibility to the site for all communities.
- 7.5 There was opposition to housing from the perceived Protestant community because it was considered that the plan did not adequately explain how the housing could be shared housing. Additional qualitative information from EQIA focus group meetings within the protestant/unionist community highlighted a concern that housing on the site could make it inaccessible to the Protestant/Unionist/Loyalist community.

- 7.6 The Equality Commission noted¹³ that segregation in housing and communities reduces choice, represents inefficient housing allocations and a waste of public resources as it reduces the resources available for affordable housing and, ultimately it adds to polarisation between communities.
- 7.7 Within the owner occupied or private rented sector it is unlikely that a developer would seek to place any restrictions on those buying/ renting properties. Similarly within the social housing sector, properties are allocated according to a system that assesses housing need.
- 7.8 However there were a number of people who believed that integration should be encouraged (e.g. in terms of community background) by promoting the development as ‘shared future’ housing such as at the Carron Crescent scheme in Enniskillen, thus attracting those who would choose to live in an integrated development. It was suggested at a focus group with elderly people, that integrated housing would have a greater possibility of success amongst the elderly population. It was also suggested at one focus group that multiple access routes to the site from both sides of the community may assist in ensuring that the site is open to all regardless of religious belief or political opinion.
- 7.9 Concern was expressed at some focus groups that the positioning of the leisure centre within the site could lead to it being used by one section of the community. More access routes to the leisure facility could assist in making the Leisure Centre accessible to both communities. It is recommended that the body responsible for the proposed leisure facility must ensure that in delivering programmes, policies and projects it seeks to identify opportunities to promote equality of opportunity.

Good Relations

- 7.10 During consultations regarding the draft Masterplan concerns were raised by the Protestant community that if new housing is dominated by one section of the community, this would undermine prospects of the site becoming a shared space where communities could work, live and socialise together. The Advisory Panel were not able to reach agreement on the issue of housing.
- 7.11 That said, this cannot distract from the primary duty to the promotion of equality of opportunity. The Equality Commission states that, “to the extent that public authorities perceive, in particular circumstances, a tension between the two duties, the primary duty of a public authority is its equality duty. The good relation duty cannot be invoked to justify a failure or refusal to comply with the equality duty”.
- 7.12 Nevertheless one cannot ignore the need to promote good relations. North Belfast communities have experienced high levels of sectarian incidents and the area remains a patchwork of different communities with numerous interfaces. A government programme of support has worked with communities

¹³ Statement on Key Inequalities in NI—Equality Commission for NI

over the last five years to develop partnerships within and between the various communities showing that cross-community work is possible and practical. However sectarian incidents and violence at interfaces create instability and make communities feel unsafe. The development of the site should seek to address the concerns and needs of all the communities living in the area. In an attempt to challenge the sectarianism of the past the Department's preference is to provide shared housing and shared space on the site and will work with the community and political leaders to achieve this.

7.13 Cross community dialogue is essential to the development of this site and will ensure that the equality needs of all communities are fully recognised and incorporated in this important regeneration project.

7.14 In order to achieve the objective of developing the site as shared space, the following measures may need to be considered:

1. Locating part or all of the housing accommodation to specific parts of the site.
2. Reconsider the draft Masterplan proposals in relation to the roads and traffic flows and firm up on the detailed design to ensure traffic management measures will be put in place to ensure access for all communities.
3. First phase development could focus on economic development tourism at the Gaol as a means of creating a shared space, job and wealth creation.
4. An employment and skills training outreach programme, encouraging people from the local communities to work on the site.
5. Setting up an implementation body, consisting of a range of stakeholders including the local community to develop the site.
6. Working with local communities and stakeholders to develop a shared housing scheme targeted at perhaps older people and families.
7. Emphasis on safety in the public realm for all sections of the community using and accessing the site with practical measures such as good street lighting and open spaces.
8. Improved public transport into and throughout the site (also providing social economy opportunities) as well as environmentally friendly and sustainable transportation routes.
9. Taking account of the views of young people in designing facilities and services.
10. Incorporating employment targets in the development of the site and provision of services for people who are unemployed.

11. Creating opportunities for social economy projects from both communities and cross community.
12. Creating a focal point for the provision of some community services and organisations required by all in the area.
13. Creating awareness of facilities and opportunities for communities through an education programme with local schools; conference and meeting facilities provided for local organisations.
14. Events provided or requested by organisations to serve the local communities.
15. Development Brief for private housing to stipulate that a percentage are affordable homes mainly targeting 'first time buyers'.
16. Other physical changes to the Masterplan.

8 FORMAL CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The Department for Social Development is committed to consultation which is timely, open and inclusive, and is conducted in accordance with the Equality Commission's Guiding Principles and the Department for Social Development Equality Scheme.
- 8.2 In carrying out this Draft Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA), in addition to research reports, a range of data sources relating to Section 75 groups have been considered. Some are outlined below. In addition focus groups were held with a cross-section of equality groups to obtain qualitative information to supplement the quantitative data. Primary data was unavailable in respect of the sexual orientation and persons with a disability and without a disability.

Focus Groups

- Upper North Belfast Community Empowerment Partnership
- North Belfast Senior Citizens Forum (cross-community)
- Vine Centre Senior Citizens Group
- Scout link (cross-community)
- Ballysillan Community Empowerment Partnership
- Lower Shankill Community Association
- Greencastle and Rathcoole Community Empowerment Partnerships (cross-community)
- PPR (Participation and the Practice of Rights Project) also facilitated a number of focus group meetings.

Meetings

- Equality Commission for Northern Ireland
- Bryson Charitable Group
- Sinn Fein
- Democratic Unionist Party
- Social Democratic and Labour Party
- Ulster Unionist Party
- North Belfast Partnership Board
- Jewish Community Representative
- Community Relations Council
- Belfast City Council, Good Relations Unit
- Museum of Citizenship/City Bridges
- North Belfast Church Leaders
- Ullans Academy
- North West City Centre Regeneration Committee
- Greater Shankill Community Council
- Lower Shankill Community Association
- Youthnet
- Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities
- North City Training
- North Belfast businesses
- North City Business Centre

- Children's Commissioner
- The Committee for the Administration of Justice
- Participation and the Practice of Rights Project
- Coiste
- Ex-Prisoners' Interpretive Centre (EPIC)

8.3 This draft Equality Impact Assessment is subject to formal consultation over a 12 week period from 29 October 2008 until 20 January 2009. Consultations will take place with the nine equality categories as defined in Section 75 of the Act:

- religious belief;
- political opinion;
- racial group;
- age;
- marital status;
- sexual orientation;
- gender;
- disability; and
- dependency.

9 DECISION AND PUBLICATION OF REPORT

- 9.1 The final EQIA document will be prepared following consideration of the comments received during the consultation process.
- 9.2 Copies of the final assessment will be sent to all consultees who participated in the consultation process. It will also be made available on the internet and made available to the general public in hard copy, on request.

10 MONITORING

- 10.1 Monitoring arrangements will be put in place to assess the impact of the policy when it is being implemented. The effect of the policy on Section 75 groups will also be monitored over the life of the policy programmes.
- 10.2 The Department recognises that the equality appraisal process is an iterative process. Therefore, the final Masterplan will be screened for equality impact assessment. Furthermore, the constituent elements of the Masterplan will be screened for EQIA as they are subsequently developed.
- 10.3 The Department has regard for and will continue to have regard for the guidance set out in 'Equality of Opportunity and Sustainable Development in Public Sector Procurement'.

**QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE CRUMLIN ROAD GAOL/GIRDWOOD PARK,
EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

1. Do you consider that any of the policy impacts adversely on any of the Section 75 groups?

Section 75 Groups are:

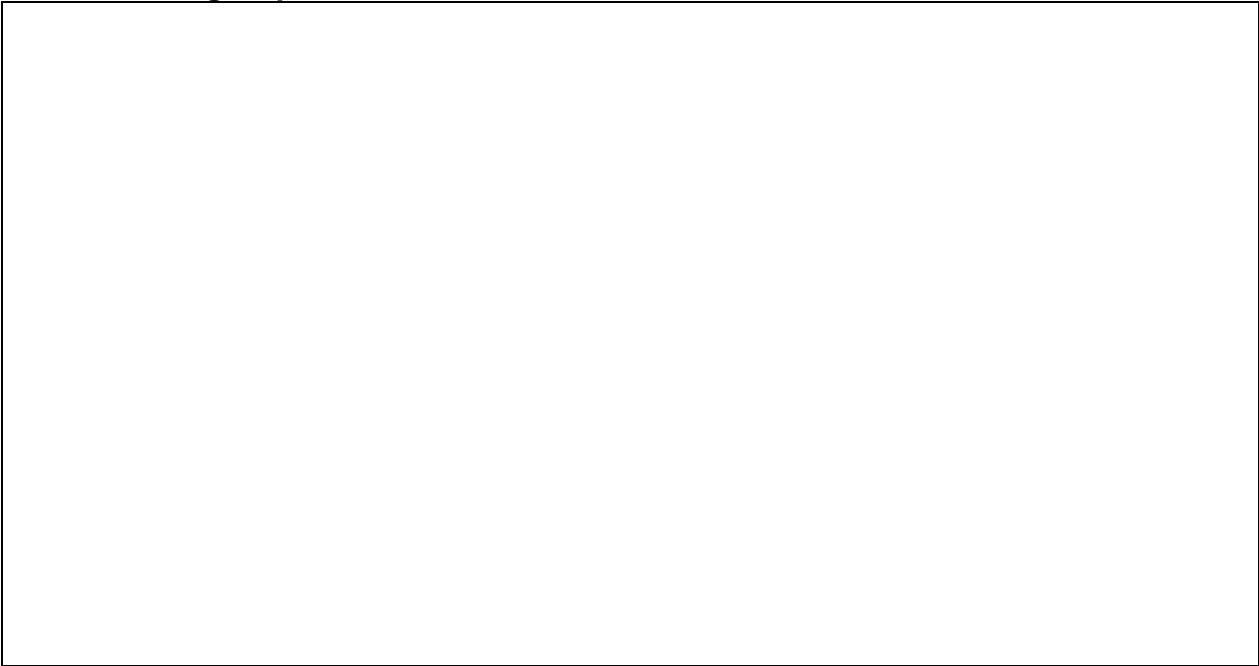
persons of different religious belief;
political opinion;
racial group;
age;
marital status;
sexual orientation;
men and women generally;
persons with a disability and persons without; and
persons with dependants and persons without.

YES/NO (please delete as appropriate)

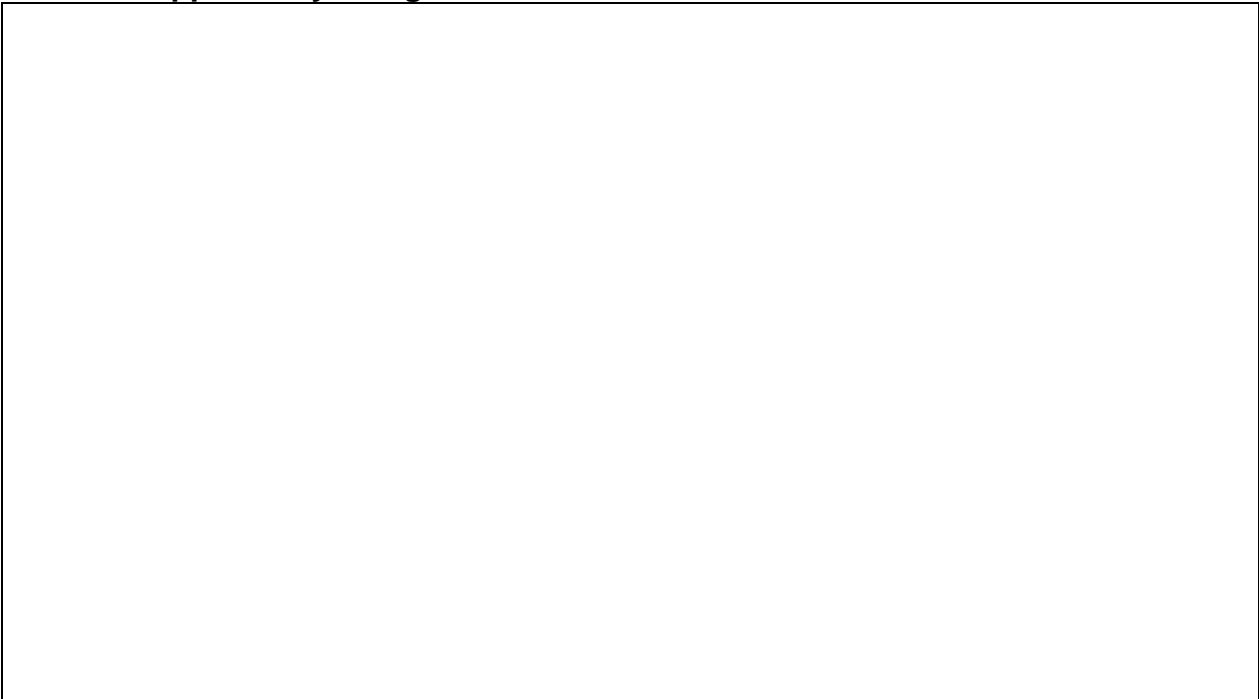
2. If the answer to question 1 is “Yes”, please tell us:

- **Which groups do you think the policy affects? and**
- **How do you think these groups would be adversely affected?**

3. What alternative action might mitigate or lessen any adverse impact on these groups?



4. What changes to the policy might better achieve the promotion of equality of opportunity and good relations?



5. Do you agree or disagree with the overall conclusions in the Equality Impact Assessment?

Agree/Disagree (If you disagree, please say why)

SIGNED:

ORGANISATION:

DATE:

Please return to the address on page 2 no later than 20 January 2009

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Confidentiality of Consultations

The Department will publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. Your response, and all other responses to the consultation, may be disclosed on request. The Department can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. **Before** you submit your response, please read the paragraphs below on the confidentiality of consultations and they will give you guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this consultation.

The Freedom of Information Act gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely, the Department in this case. This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. The Department cannot automatically consider as confidential information supplied to it in response to a consultation. However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity, should be made public or treated as confidential.

This means that information provided by you in response to the consultation is unlikely to be treated as confidential, except in very particular circumstances. The Lord Chancellor's Code of Practice on the Freedom of Information Act provides that:

- The Department should only accept information from third parties in confidence if it is necessary to obtain that information in connection with the exercise of any of the Department's functions and it would not otherwise be provided.
- The Department should not agree to hold information received from third parties 'in confidence' which is not confidential in nature.
- Acceptance by the Department of confidentiality provisions must be for good reasons, capable of being justified to the Information Commissioner.

For further information about confidentiality of responses please contact the Information Commissioner's Office or see website at:
[http:// www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk).