

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:

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

We believe the policy affects the older age group adversely

There does not seem to be a lot of attention given to the needs of older people re transport through the site. Also there does not seem to be reference to older peoples housing issues

We also believe the policy may adversely affect persons with disability in that there is no planned provision for extension of convalescence facilities provided by the Mater Hospital or of car parking for the hospital within walking distance for older and disabled people

- o Children's Commissioner
- o The Committee for the Administration of Justice
- o Participation and the Practice of Rights Project
- o Coiste
- o 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:

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

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

Car parking for Mater Hospital brought closer to the facility perhaps in the grounds of the gaol.

A thorough transport policy ensuring that all areas of the site are linked to main bus routes.

Provision of specialised housing for elderly and disabled people however not used as a buffer zone between warring factions.

A rethink of the size of site given to St. Malachys College would allow more space for housing, leisure etc.

Provision of a theatre for the area.

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

The policy seems reasonably balanced with regard to 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)

We believe there is not enough information within the Masterplan to allow us to conclude one way or another on the EQIA. For example information on housing provision or allocation is lacking as is information on transport or the possible extension of the Mater Hospital.

SIGNED:

ORGANISATION: NORTH BELFAST SENIOR CITIZENS FORUM

DATE:

15/01/09

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).