



Belfast Health and
Social Care Trust

Mr T Losty
Director of North Belfast Community Action Unit
4th Floor Enterprise House
55-59 Adelaide Street
BELFAST
BT2 8FE

20 January 2009

Dear Mr Losty

**DRAFT EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT ON THE CRUMLIN ROAD GAOL /
GIRDWOOD BARRACKS DRAFT MASTERPLAN**

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust welcome the opportunity to respond to the EQIA on the proposal for the Crumlin Road Gaol / Girdwood Barracks.

On a general point of information, since the publication of the draft Masterplan and the EQIA, the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust has consulted upon its "New Directions" document, a document which gave an overview of the future strategic direction for services provided by the Trust. This document included reference to the Trust's proposal to provide a range of acute hospital services and a Regional Ophthalmic Centre on the Mater Hospital site, as part of a larger Ambulatory Unit. In addition, the Trust will be consulting on its plans for the future delivery of adult mental health service. The Trust is committed to modernising its mental health services, which will improve access and develop services in the community, reducing reliance on hospital services. The Trust believes the most effective way of providing the acute psychiatric service that is required in future is on the single site. Options for the location of this new unit will be considered as part of a Business Case process.

With specific reference to the EQIA, the Trust comments as follows:

The EQIA reflects a strong degree of both pre-consultation and consultation in regards to the proposed development of Crumlin Road Gaol / Girdwood Barracks. The Trust welcomes the focus on continuing to promote and forge community relations in the North Belfast area. The Trust regards this EQIA as robust in that its consideration of available data and specific research has been comprehensive and far reaching. The EQIA relies on a good balance of quantitative and qualitative data sources.

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The Trust acknowledges the Department's commitment to put in place a monitoring strategy to monitor the impact of the development and looks forward to publication of the Stage 6 EQIA report.

The Trust would advocate that work continues to focus on the development of strong cross community relations to ensure that the facilities are considered easily accessible and welcoming to all Communities, not solely the two traditional religious groups but also the emergent diverse religious and ethnic communities in Belfast. Much good work has been done by the Trust to promote good relations and strengthen community development and perhaps a cross sectoral working group could be considered to facilitate the sharing of good practice.

Finally, with regard to paragraph 7.14 and the measures that may need to be considered to achieve the objective of developing the site as shared space, the Trust will wish to be involved in any discussions and debate which reconsider the draft Masterplan proposals in relation to the road and traffic flows and indeed any other physical changes to the Masterplan.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss any aspect of this reply.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denise Stockman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Denise Stockman
Director of Planning and Redevelopment