

# Allocating Money to Health and Social Services Boards

## PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE WEIGHTED CAPITATION FORMULA

### Consultation Response Form

You can use this form to book a place at a public meeting and/or to submit a written view.

**The closing date for this consultation is midnight 30<sup>th</sup> November 2004, but if you want to attend a public meeting, we need to know by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2004.**

Please read the important information on the next page regarding the Freedom of Information Act.

## **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 be treated as confidential.

This means that information provided by you in response to this 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; and
- 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/>).

For further information about this particular consultation, please refer to the contact point at the end of this document.

<b>Section 1      About You/Your Organisation</b>
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Name of organisation (if applicable):

Name of person responding (on behalf of organisation):

Who your organisation represents (if applicable):

Whom (if anyone) you have consulted before drawing up your response:

Signed:

Date:

Please submit any written comments on this form to:

The Capitation Formula Consultation  
Room D3.15  
Castle Buildings  
Stormont  
BELFAST  
BT4 3SQ

<b>Section 2</b>	<b>Comments on the Formula</b>
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- 1 Do you agree or disagree in principle with the continued use of a Weighted Capitation Formula for allocating resources?
- 2 Do you agree or disagree that the Formula adequately takes account of population issues?
- 3 Do you agree or disagree that the Formula adequately takes account of variations in the age/gender structure of Health and Social Services Boards' populations?





## **Section 3            Equality Issues**

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 requires public authorities 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;
- Men and women generally;
- Persons with a disability and persons without; and
- Persons with dependants and persons without.

The above nine groups are known as Section 75 Groups.

Government policies or proposals should not have any adverse impact (ie less favourable or negative effect) on any Section 75 Group. This means that in terms of the Weighted Capitation Formula, there should not be any adverse effects on any groups over and above what they are entitled to because of their health needs.

- 10a Having read the Capitation Formula Summary/Main Report, and bearing in mind the Section 75 responsibilities, have the different needs of different groups been adequately addressed?
- 10b Are you aware of any evidence that the proposals for the Formula may have an adverse impact on equality of opportunity or on good relations?
- 11 Could the proposals for the Formula better promote equality of opportunity or good relations? If so, how?

12 Do you agree or disagree with the assessment of equality implications contained in paragraphs 6.12 to 6.15 of the Summary Report (also mentioned in chapter 23 of the Full Report)?

13 Do you feel that overall the new formula will provide a fairer allocation of resources to the various equality groups?

14 Are there any other issues which the Capitation Formula Review Group should be researching in the future?

15 While the information in the formula is updated each year, for example population numbers, have you any views as to how often the formula itself should be re-estimated to take account of changing circumstances?

16 Are there any other comments you wish to make about any other factors explored in the Summary Report or Full Report, or equality issues, or any other aspects of the Weighted Capitation Formula?  
Are there issues which we should be exploring, but have not?

<b>Section 4</b>	<b>Public Meetings</b>
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As part of the consultation process, we would like to provide an opportunity to explain in more detail how the Formula works and to discuss any questions you may have about its use. To this end, we are planning a short series of public meetings in October. We would very much appreciate your participation at a public meeting.

In order that we can schedule meetings at suitable times and locations, please indicate your first and second choice of meetings you would like to attend on the enclosed confirmation slip. Please ensure all details are complete and return it to the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety **by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2004.**

In order to make the best use of time and resources, the Department's preferred option is to gauge the need for public meetings through this confirmation slip. Arrangements confirming the number, location and time of these meetings will be determined by indication of uptake.

Although it may not be possible to accommodate everyone in terms of their preferred location and time, the Department will endeavour to be flexible in making suitable alternative arrangements.

<b>Section 5                      Confirmation Slip</b>
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If you wish to attend a public meeting, please complete this confirmation slip and return it to the address below. We will contact you with the date, time, and venue of the meeting when we have made all of the necessary arrangements.

The Capitation Formula Consultation  
Room D3.15  
Castle Buildings  
Stormont  
BELFAST  
BT4 3SQ

Name:

Organisation (if applicable)

Address:

Telephone No:

Fax No:

E-mail Address:

Please indicate your 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> choice of meetings you would like to attend by entering a 1 and a 2 in the grid below.

	Antrim	Armagh	Ballymena	Belfast	L'derry	Omagh
Afternoon						
Evening						

If none of the above times or locations are suitable, please suggest an

alternative: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate if you require any facility to enable you to engage fully in the meeting (for example an interpreter, a signer, etc).

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