



New
TSN

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Northern Ireland Office Annual Report 2002

Including Action Plan
April 2002 to March 2004

Northern Ireland Office

NEW TSN ANNUAL REPORT 2002

INCLUDING ACTION PLAN
April 2002 to March 2004

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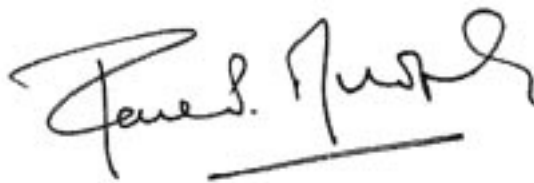
Secretary of State's Foreword

The launch of New TSN in 1999 heralded a new era in Government's approach to social and economic need in Northern Ireland. The Northern Ireland Office itself remains committed to alleviating social need by the practical application of New Targeting Social Need (TSN) policies to those areas within its responsibility. To support this the Department has produced a series of action plans, which are regularly updated to reflect the changing social need within Northern Ireland society.

New TSN addresses the problems of people who are objectively shown to be in greatest social need. Over time it will contribute to the erosion of inequalities within all sections of Northern Ireland society. Equality is a key area of the Belfast Agreement and New TSN policies contribute to the reduction of inequalities among different sections of the community.

This document reports on progress in the Northern Ireland Office during the period April 2001 to March 2002. It also sets out a revised "Action Plan" for the next period up to March 2004.

Like my predecessors, I have taken a close personal interest in the New TSN vision. I shall continue to do so and I look forward to receiving future progress reports.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Murphy', with a horizontal line underneath.

RT HON PAUL MURPHY MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Introduction

The New Targeting Social Need (New TSN) policy was developed from the Partnership for Equality White Paper and is a key factor in support of the Belfast Agreement. New TSN aims to tackle social need and social exclusion by targeting efforts and available resources towards people, groups and areas in greatest social need. It is a policy running through relevant spending programmes within the Northern Ireland Office and all of the Northern Ireland Departments.

The present NIO Action Plan was developed and agreed by the Secretary of State in January 2001. It was also agreed at that time that the Department would review and update its Action Plan each year and that progress would be reported within the New TSN Annual Report.

This document is the second such report from the NIO and combines the New TSN Annual Report for the period April 2001 to March 2002 with the revised New TSN Action Plan for the period April 2002 to March 2004.

New Targeting Social Need (TSN) Policy

New TSN's primary objective is to identify and target, objectively and fairly, the reduction of inequalities among different sections of society by consistently addressing the problems of people who are shown to be in greatest social need regardless of attributes such as gender, religion or race. New TSN therefore does not discriminate against any section of the community but is intended, over time, to contribute to the erosion of inequalities.

It does so by targeting efforts and available resources within Departmental programmes towards people, groups and areas in greatest social need. This means using more resources to benefit the most disadvantaged people, groups and areas. It is also about changing the way things are done so that programmes and services are organised and delivered in ways which are more helpful to those who are disadvantaged.

New TSN comprises three complementary elements – tackling unemployment and increasing employability; addressing inequalities in other key policy areas such as health, education and housing; and Promoting Social Inclusion. The Promoting Social Inclusion element of New TSN involves Departments working together and in partnership with others to identify and address factors, which can contribute to social exclusion. In addition it will undertake initiatives to improve and enhance the life and circumstances of the most deprived and marginalised people in our community.

New TSN applies to the Northern Ireland Office and to all departments within the Northern Ireland Administration and is being implemented through many different areas of work. The NIO's commitments and actions to implement New TSN are detailed in the New TSN Action Plan. The NIO's progress to March 2001 was detailed in **The Northern Ireland Office Annual Report 2001 and Action Plans 2001-2003**.

NIO's New Targeting Social Need Action Plan

The Northern Ireland Office continues to be responsible for non-devolved matters in Northern Ireland. These include: the political process; policing; police reform; security; prison services; the payment of criminal damage and injuries compensation; criminal justice, including juvenile justice centres and after-care; criminal justice reform; probation services; grants to voluntary bodies concerned with the rehabilitation of offenders, crime prevention and victim support; elections; and legal and forensic services. The Office's primary aim is to secure a lasting peace in Northern Ireland, based on the Belfast Agreement, in which the rights and identities of all traditions in Northern Ireland are fully respected and safeguarded and in which a safe, stable, just, open and tolerant society can thrive and prosper.

The nature of the NIO's business means that its contribution to the New TSN initiative focuses on its specific service delivery areas. As the previous Annual Report and Action Plan illustrated, the main opportunities for service delivery lie in the Northern Ireland Prison Service, Non Departmental Public Bodies (NDPB's) and the voluntary organisations that work in partnership with us. In addition, the Police Service of Northern Ireland, which is neither a Next Steps Agency nor an NDPB, is committed fully to contributing to the policy.

Cross-departmental actions

The NIO continues to be an active participant in the interdepartmental Equality and Social Need Steering Group and its Research and Information sub-group. The Northern Ireland Prison Service works with the Department of Social Development's Social Security Agency to ensure maximum uptake of the Assisted Visits Scheme for prisoners' families.

NDPB's

The Probation Board for Northern Ireland approved its New TSN Action Plan in January 2001 and is now working with the NIO's Criminal Justice Directorate on its implementation. In addition, the Policing and Security Directorate carried out some preliminary work with the Police Authority for Northern Ireland prior to the establishment of the Policing Board. The latter is committed to developing a New TSN Action Plan by July 2002. The Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland has also indicated that her office will explore how New TSN might be applied there.

Progress Report to March 2002 and Future Commitments

During the second reporting year of New TSN, the NIO again made significant progress in implementing all of the objectives within its Action Plans. Annex A details the progress made. Annex B contains the revised Action Plan from April 2002. Highlights of both are shown below.

- The Central Services Directorate continued to deliver a programme of equality familiarisation/awareness training, to all new staff. Throughout the reporting period the Directorate also provided in-depth training for key staff.
- The Political Directorate, continued to provide support to the victims of the troubles. The Directorate provided core funding and other grant aid to groups who work with victims. It supported the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund which developed a further three programmes to provide practical assistance to individuals and their families.
- The Criminal Justice Directorate worked with the Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI), with voluntary organisations which it funds and with the Compensation Agency to develop New TSN Action Plans. A PBNI senior manager has been allocated responsibility for implementing their New TSN Action Plan. The Directorate provided the Northern Ireland Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (NIACRO) with funding to develop crime prevention projects and a project working to re-integrate young people into their communities. The Directorate has taken forward a scheme to establish ten pilot capital crime prevention projects in Northern Ireland Housing Executive estates and an evaluation of these schemes is ongoing. The Directorate has also taken account of New TSN in the development of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme. As part of future commitments, work continues on the development of a mapping system to support New TSN policy.

- The Policing and Security Directorate, continued to provide support to the NI Policing Board. As part of their future commitments the Directorate will work with the Police Ombudsman to help develop an Action Plan. Both organisations will produce New TSN Action Plans within their Corporate Plans and have allocated lead responsibility to a senior manager within their organisation.

- The Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS) has included New TSN policies within its Corporate and Business Plan. It has put into operation its Assisted Visits Scheme and implemented its New Deal for Young People. Since the first Report was published, objective NIO 8 (to build New TSN considerations into Prison Service strategic documentation) has been completed. The Prison Service have now developed an additional objective , NIO 11, a Resettlement Strategy and Implementation Plan for offenders.

Section 2

Annex A: The Northern Ireland Office, New TSN Action plan detailing progress on the objectives, targets or actions identified for the period 1 April 2001 to 31 March 2002.

Annex B: The revised and updated Northern Ireland Office, New TSN action plan for the period 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2004.

Annex C: Northern Ireland Office areas of responsibility and further information about New TSN.

PROGRESS REPORT ON TARGETS AND ACTION POINTS FROM 1 APRIL 2001 TO 31 MARCH 2002

ANNEX A

Business Area:	Central Services Directorate
Social need to be tackled:	Disadvantage experienced by people, groups and areas in Northern Ireland
Desired outcome:	Greater understanding and awareness of the priority to be given to New TSN in all key areas of the Department

New TSN objectives	Targets or actions and time-scales	Outcome of target or action
NIO 1 To provide appropriate training and timely information on New TSN to relevant staff across the Northern Ireland Office.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Include New TSN information in equality familiarisation/awareness sessions during 2001-2002. b. Provide in-depth training to identified specialists during 2001-2002. 	<p>Training and Development Branch continued to provide equality training to all staff. New TSN familiarisation and awareness training is now included in the department's Induction Programme.</p> <p>In-depth training was provided at all staff levels, including senior management, throughout the period.</p>

Business Area: Political Directorate

Social need to be tackled: Disadvantage among victims of the troubles

Desired outcome: Reduction of disadvantage among victims of the Troubles

New TSN objectives	Targets or actions and time-scales	Outcome of target or action
<p>NIO 2 To provide support to victims of the Troubles.</p>	<p>a. Distribute funding for groups supporting victims of the Troubles.</p> <p>b. Work with the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund to explore possibility of developing and funding programmes to assist disadvantaged victims of the Troubles.</p>	<p>During the period 1 April 2001 to 31 March 2002 the NIO's Political Directorate continued to provide support to victims of the Troubles. It provided core funding and other grant aid to victims' groups and it remained the main benefactor of the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund, which developed a further three programmes to provide practical assistance to individual victims and their families.</p>

Business Area: Criminal Justice Directorate

Social need to be tackled: Disadvantage among people, groups and areas in Northern Ireland

Desired outcome: New TSN consideration built into the work of the Directorate, the Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI), funded voluntary organisations and the Compensation Agency

New TSN objectives	Targets or actions and time-scales	Outcome of target or action
<p>NIO 3 To encourage relevant Agencies and NDPBs to develop New TSN Action Plans.</p>	<p>a. Work with PBNI to explore the scope for implementing New TSN, including addressing training needs.</p> <p>b. From 1 February 2001, work with PBNI to ensure the implementation of their agreed Action Plan.</p>	<p>a. A New TSN Action Plan was approved in Jan 2001. A Senior PBNI Manager has responsibility to drive forward the New TSN concept.</p> <p>b. The following was achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New community development partnership with NIACRO to cover all Probation area teams. • New referral arrangements agreed. • A pilot scheme in relation to the link between community service and employability. • PBNI work with NIHE and the supporting people initiative is fully aligned to New TSN principles and criteria. PBNI are considering the possibility of reallocating resources to support people during financial year 2002-2003. • Consultations with community groups highlighted the need for increased resources to local community groups to tackle crime at a diversionary level and PBNI allocated £100k for this purpose.

New TSN objectives	Targets or actions and time-scales	Outcome of target or action
<p>NIO 4 To encourage relevant voluntary organisations to take account of New TSN.</p>	<p>Continue to work with the voluntary organisations funded by Criminal Justice Services Division and encourage them to take account of New TSN, where possible.</p>	<p>Evaluated child witness scheme provided by NSPCC in Crown Courts in Belfast and agreed to publicly fund similar scheme across Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Provided funding to Nexus to support victims of sexual crime in order to reduce very lengthy waiting lists in Belfast.</p> <p>Provided NIACRO with funding from the Belfast Regeneration Office (BRO) to develop project working to integrate young people excluded from their communities because of alleged anti-social and criminal behaviour.</p>
<p>NIO 5 To build New TSN considerations into relevant policies.</p>	<p>a. Along with partnership organisations and other Departments, review crime prevention, juvenile justice and victims of crime programmes for New TSN applicability.</p> <p>b. Take account of New TSN in the development of a tariff scheme for the payment of personal injury compensation to victims of crime. The decision to introduce a tariff scheme is the result of Government's deliberations following Sir Kenneth Bloomfield's Report of the Review of Criminal Injuries Compensation in Northern Ireland.</p>	<p>Invited two community/voluntary groups to sit on the Criminal Justice working group on drugs and alcohol in November 2001.</p> <p>Ten pilot capital crime prevention projects in NI Housing Executive estates. An evaluation of the process and outcomes commenced in September 2001.</p> <p>Work on the New Personal Injury Compensation Tariff Scheme is ongoing. The Scheme is scheduled for completion in April/May 2002.</p>

New TSN objectives	Targets or actions and time-scales	Outcome of target or action
<p>NIO 6 To develop an information base so as to inform the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of New TSN by the Department.</p>	<p>a. To develop a system that will examine patterns of crime and the provision of services against population structures, indices of deprivation and geographical location.</p> <p>b. Agree common standards for monitoring by religion within the criminal justice system and further develop monitoring systems over the life of this plan.</p> <p>c. Commission research during 2001-2002 to assess the feasibility of using proxy measures for monitoring by religion within the criminal justice system.</p>	<p>a. By March 2002 a system was developed to facilitate the analysis of crime in terms of its relationship to factors associated with social need, including population structures, indices of deprivation and geographical location. Further data on service provision is currently being developed.</p> <p>b. This work is being progressed by the Research and Statistics Sub-Group of the Criminal Justice Board. Developments within the Causeway programme will contribute significantly to the achievement of this target and the sub-group is actively supporting this.</p> <p>c. This research was commissioned in December 2001 and has been expanded to consider all of the factors associated with the monitoring of religion within the criminal justice system. The findings will be presented to the Criminal Justice Board and a publication date agreed.</p>

Business Area: Policing and Security Directorate – Police Division

Social need to be tackled: Disadvantage among people, groups and areas in Northern Ireland

Desired outcome: New TSN considerations to be built into the work of the Policing Board and the Police Service of Northern Ireland

New TSN objectives	Targets or actions and time-scales	Outcome of target or action
<p>NIO 7 To work with the Policing Board and the police so that they can build New TSN considerations into their work.</p>	<p>Work with the Policing Board and the police to explore the scope for implementing New TSN, including addressing training needs, while recognising the potential impact of the Police Act and the Implementation Plan on both organisations.</p>	<p>In light of the pressures and priorities faced by the Policing Board in its first year of operation, the development of a New TSN Action Plan had to be reprioritised. The Policing Board will now develop an action plan by July 2003.</p>

Business Area:	Northern Ireland Prison Service
Social need to be tackled:	Disadvantage among people, groups and areas in Northern Ireland
Desired outcome:	New TSN considerations built into the work of the Prison Service

New TSN objectives	Targets or actions and time-scales	Outcome of target or action
NIO 8 To build New TSN considerations into Prison Service strategic documentation.	As part of the Quinquennial Review of the Service, consideration will be given to including New TSN in Prison Service objectives.	Achieved. Included in the Corporate Business plan 2001-2004 is the commitment "The Prison Service is committed to the New TSN policy and will take account of this policy in the delivery of programmes and services in each establishment".
NIO 9 To publicise and operate the Assisted Visits Scheme.	<p>a. Continue to operate the Assisted Visits Scheme and ensure that uptake is maximised through the use of targeted publicity.</p> <p>b Expenditure on the Assisted Visits Scheme to be collated and reported on in the Prison Service Annual Report.</p>	<p>Achieved. The Prison Service finances the Scheme administered by the Social Security Agency through its network of local offices.</p> <p>Achieved. In the year up to 31 March 2002 nearly £45,000 was paid to subsidise 674 visits within Northern Ireland and a further 93 visits to Great Britain.</p>
NIO 10 To implement the New Deal for Young People.	Implement the New Deal for Young People and run further courses.	Achieved: Further Welfare to Work courses to be delivered to candidates between February 2003 and January 2004.

New TSN objectives	Targets or actions and time-scales	Outcome of target or action
<p>NIO 11 To develop and publish a Resettlement Strategy and Implementation plan for offenders</p>	<p>Develop and publish a Resettlement Strategy and Implementation plan by September 2003</p>	<p>Included in the Corporate and Business Plan 2002-2005 is the commitment to "work with relevant statutory and voluntary organisations to develop a joint strategy to assist re-integration into the community". The Strategy document will be produced by September 2003.</p>

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE REVISED NEW TSN ACTION PLAN 2002-2004

ANNEX B

Business Area:	Central Services Directorate
Social need to be tackled:	Disadvantage experienced by people, groups and areas in Northern Ireland
Desired outcome:	Greater understanding and awareness of the priority to be given to New TSN in all key areas of the Department

New TSN objectives		Targets or actions and time-scales
NIO 1	To provide appropriate training and timely information on New TSN to relevant staff across the Northern Ireland Office.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Continue to develop New TSN awareness within equality familiarisation and awareness training sessions during 2002-2003 and 2003-2004. b. Continue to provide in-depth training to all staffing levels, including senior management, when requested.

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE REVISED NEW TSN ACTION PLAN

Business Area:	Political Directorate
Social need to be tackled:	Disadvantage among victims of the troubles
Desired outcome:	Reduction of disadvantage among victims of the Troubles

New TSN objectives	Targets or actions and time-scales
NIO 2 To provide support to victims of the Troubles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provide funding for groups supporting victims of the Troubles. b. Work with the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund, helping it to refine its programmes which assist directly individual victims and their families.

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE REVISED NEW TSN ACTION PLAN

Business Area: Criminal Justice Directorate

Social need to be tackled: Disadvantage among people, groups and areas in Northern Ireland

Desired outcome: New TSN consideration built into the work of the Directorate, the Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI), funded voluntary organisations and the Compensation Agency

New TSN objectives

NIO 3 To develop community safety policy and initiatives that include New TSN considerations

Targets or actions and time-scales

- To develop public information campaign by September 2002 to tackle bogus callers targeting older people and to develop this up with a further campaign by October 2003.
- To develop by October 2003, a physical security scheme to enable less well off people to secure their homes from burglary.
- To publish for consultation by June 2003, a draft co-ordinated strategy and action plan to tackle violence against women.
- To make at least four further applications for funding to BRO that will tackle crime problems in socially deprived areas.
- To have in place by June 2003 at least two projects that seek to provide drug offenders with appropriate medical and counselling services.
- In partnership with relevant statutory, voluntary and community groups to produce an Action Plan to tackle safety and fear of crime among older people.
- To continue to participate as a full member of the Creating Common Ground consortium, providing a community safety input into the 40 communities programme which targets disadvantage.

New TSN objectives	Targets or actions and time-scales
<p>NIO 4 To continue to establish baseline information to support the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of New TSN by the Department.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Further develop the crime mapping system, as data becomes available from Census 2001 and from programmes and services within the department to facilitate the analysis of service provision in terms of New TSN upon requests from Divisions by March 2004. b. Work with criminal justice agencies and with Causeway to agree standard definitions and methodologies to facilitate the development of an equity monitoring system to cover a range of indicators, including religion and social class. Definitions and Methodologies to be agreed by March 2004. c. Publish the report on the commissioned research on issues surrounding the monitoring of religion within the criminal justice system by March 2004.

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE REVISED NEW TSN ACTION PLAN

Business Area: Policing and Security Directorate – Police Division

Social need to be tackled: Disadvantage among people, groups and areas in Northern Ireland

Desired outcome: New TSN considerations to be built into the work of the Policing Board, the Police and the Police Ombudsman

New TSN objectives

Targets or actions and time-scales

NIO 5 To work with the Policing Board and the police so that they can build New TSN considerations into their work.

Work with the Policing Board and the police to explore the scope for implementing New TSN, including addressing training needs, while recognising the potential impact of the Police Act and the Implementation Plan on both organisations.

NIO 6 To work with the Police Ombudsman so that they can build New TSN considerations into their work.

Work with the Police Ombudsman to explore the scope for implementing New TSN. The Police Ombudsman intend to develop their New TSN Plan by June 2003.

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE REVISED NEW TSN ACTION PLAN

Business Area: Northern Ireland Prison Service

Social need to be tackled: Disadvantage among people, groups and areas in Northern Ireland

Desired outcome: New TSN considerations built into the work of the Prison Service

New TSN objectives	Targets or actions and time-scales
NIO 7 To publicise and operate the Assisted Visits Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Continue to operate the Assisted Visits Scheme and ensure that uptake is maximised through the use of targeted publicity. b. Expenditure on the Assisted Visits Scheme to be collated and reported on in the Prison Service Annual Report.
NIO 8 To implement the New Deal for Young People.	Implement the New Deal for Young People and run further courses.
NIO 9 To develop and publish a Resettlement Strategy and implementation plan for offenders.	Develop and publish a Resettlement Strategy and implementation plan by September 2003.

Northern Ireland Office Responsibilities

ANNEX C

The Northern Ireland Office is responsible for:

- the political process;
- policing;
- police reform;
- security;
- prison services;
- the payment of criminal damage and injuries compensation;
- criminal justice, including juvenile justice centres and after-care;
- criminal justice reform;
- probation services;
- information services;
- grants to voluntary bodies concerned with the rehabilitation of offenders, crime prevention and victim support;
- elections;
- legal and forensic services;
- European Union Peace and Reconciliation Projects;

The Northern Ireland Office also provides funding for the: Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission; the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland; the Bloody Sunday Inquiry; and central (Northern Ireland Office) administration.

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT NEW TSN

This report can be accessed on the Internet at www.nio.gov.uk. It can also be made available in alternative formats or languages on request from:

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