

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NATIONAL INDICATOR SET TECHNICAL HANDBOOK - RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Name and address of responding organisation:

**Devon County Council
Environment Economy and Culture Directorate
AB1 Lucombe House
County Hall
Topsham Road
Exeter
Devon EX2 4QW**

Is this your organisation's official response to the consultation? Yes

Name and phone number of key contact in case of follow-up queries:

**Response drafted by
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National Indicator Number:

NI 48

Please complete a separate form for each indicator on which you wish to respond

Indicator Issue	
1. Is the Technical Definition of this indicator clear?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If NO a. What aspects of the technical definition of the indicator are unclear? Please specify clearly - is it in relation to the measurement method, or - on reporting b. Please suggest how the template can be clarified/improved.	It is unclear how this indicator fits in with the target reductions by 2010. The calculations are clear, but the indicator does not state what targets the Authority is working towards. Is it simply to improve on the previous three year average or to improve enough to reach the annual target as set out in the LTP, keeping the Authority on track for their 2010 reductions?

	<p>A description of what targets are to be set needs to be clarified.</p> <p>Also, clarification is needed on what year is reported when. e.g. will the three year average for 2005, 2006, 2007 be reported in April 2008 or April 2009. The lag period needs to be clarified.</p>
<p>2. Does the Technical Definition for this indicator have any unintended consequences?</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>If YES</p> <p>a. What are the unintended consequences on this national indicator?</p> <p>b. Can the unintended consequence be avoided? If so, how?</p>	<p>Whilst the formula for calculating percentage change on previous year has remained the same (except now for the three year average), the values of "a" and "b" have been reversed from their meanings in BVPI-99, i.e. "a" now represents the previous three years' average and "b" represents the current three years average. Previously an improvement in performance was represented by a negative percentage, whereas with the NI indicators it is represented by a positive percentage. This is going to make comparing old and new indicators very confusing.</p>
<p>3. Will the Technical Definitions for this indicator work in practice?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>If NO</p> <p>a. Why would this technical definition not work in practice?</p>	<p>Authorities need further guidance as to exactly what they should be reporting</p>

	and when.
4. Is this indicator defined at the right spatial level?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
a) If not, what level should it be defined at? (including whether information is already gathered and/or reported at that level and if so where, if not, estimated cost of collecting and reporting it)	
5. Should data for this indicator be provided for any or all of the different equalities strands (please tick the relevant box)?	Ethnicity <input type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Religion <input type="checkbox"/> Age <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual orientation <input type="checkbox"/> Disability <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> (Please specify)
a) For any boxes ticked at 5, is this information already gathered and/or reported and, if so, where? If not, what would be the estimated additional burden of collecting and reporting it?	
6. Further comments on the questions above and /or any other comments that are not covered above questions.	
<p>Given the amount of variation that can arise from working with such small numbers, using a three year average for child KSI's would appear to be beneficial in flattening out the year-on-year fluctuations. A three year average may be useful for NI 47 as well.</p>	
<p>Completed versions can be sent to niconsultation@communities.gsi.gov.uk. Hard copy responses should be returned to Local Government Quality and Performance Division, Zone J2, 4th Floor, Eland House, Bressenden Place, LONDON, SW1E 5DU.</p>	