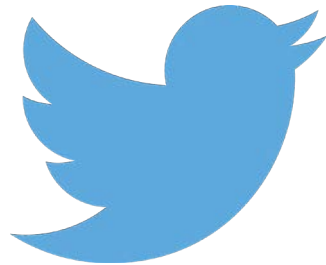




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The impact of COVID-19 and opportunities for a green recovery

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Lessons from COVID-19

- The infection rate in the **10% most deprived areas** (3,052 cases per 100,000 population) was almost **two-thirds higher** than the rate in the **10% least deprived areas** (1,859 cases per 100,000 population) and more than one and a half times the NI average (1,972 cases per 100,000 population).
- The infection rate among those aged **over 65** was **four-fifths higher in the 10% most deprived areas** (3,187 cases per 100,000 population) than in the 10% least deprived (1,773 cases per 100,000 population) and almost **double the NI average** (1,643 cases per 100,000 population).
- The rate in **urban areas** was **over a third higher** than the rate seen in rural areas, however the rate was highest in mixed urban/rural areas (3,677 cases per 100,000 population).

Hospitalisations

- The admission rate for COVID-19 (confirmed cases) in the **10% most deprived areas** (275 admissions per 100,000 population) was more than **double the rate** in the **10% least deprived areas** (126 admissions per 100,000 population).
- **The admission rate for under 75s** in the most deprived decile (167 admissions per 100,000 population) was approximately **three times that in the least deprived decile** (55 admissions per 100,000 population)
- While deprivation was found to be an important factor of the likelihood of admissions, **age was found to have a greater impact**. The standardised rate for the population aged 75 and over (890 admissions per 100,000 population) was over **9 times** that for the under 75 population (97 admissions per 100,000 population).

Mortality

- The COVID-19 death rate in the **10% most deprived areas (77 deaths per 100,000 population)** was almost two-fifths higher than the rate in the **10% least deprived areas (56 deaths per 100,000 population)** and almost one and a half times the NI average (53 deaths per 100,000 population).
- The rate among **males** (67 deaths per 100,000 population) was **one and a half times the rate for females** (44 deaths per 100,000 population).
- Similar to mixed urban/rural areas, the death rate in **urban areas** (63 deaths per 100,000 population) was **double the rate seen in rural areas (32 deaths per 100,000 population)**.
- The standardised COVID-19 death rate for the population aged 75 and over (477 deaths per 100,000 population) was 9 times that for all ages (53 deaths per 100,000 population).

Jobs

- At its peak the Furlough scheme supported a quarter of a million people in Northern Ireland
- 31% take up of the scheme in NI comparable to Wales, Scotland and England (slightly higher overall)
- The **Mid Ulster** constituency has the highest take-up rate in Northern Ireland with 38% of eligible employments furloughed for at least one period, amounting to 16,800 employees
- Butemployers in Northern Ireland proposed making 10,000 people redundant in 2020.
- Employers have struggled to meet the costs of pensions, National Insurance, business overheads like premises
- Impact greatest on lower paid insecure employment – hospitality and younger people

Furlough by sector and age

- Northern Ireland **71%** of eligible employments in Construction have been furloughed (about 10% higher than England)
- **19%** furlough rate in agriculture, forestry and fishing
- **75%** of employments in Accommodation and food services have been furloughed through CJRS for at least one period
- **65%** of 17 years olds furloughed
- 22 years old – more male than females likely to be furloughed (impact of employment in social care, health and education
- Age over 60s – more likely to be furloughed than the 40-50s age groups

Wellbeing Issues

- Department of Health (NI) - spending on mental health care in Northern Ireland remains the lowest in the UK "estimated to be around 7% of the total healthcare budget".
- This is 27% less than the mental health budget in England
- There were 470 referrals to CAMHS in April 2020 and 618 in May 2020, for instance, compared to 1,474 in February 2020 and 1,636 in January 2020.
- The well-being value associated with the frequent use of local parks and green spaces is worth £920* million per year to the Northern Ireland adult population.
- And £3m per year based solely on a reduction in GP visits*.
- Quality of some homes
- Access to green spaces

* Cited by Cllr Brian Smyth (Belfast City Council)

APSE member council responses during the pandemic

- Refuse and recycling
- Bereavement services
- Keeping communities safe
- Food distribution centres
- Child poverty – value of school food
- Centres / facilities for vaccine roll-outs, testing



Deploying staff

- Home working
- Secondments
- Support to Business

A greener recovery?

- Social and environmental considerations on infections, hospitalisations and mortality
- Impact in urban areas – access to green space
- Quality of housing and local environment?
- Mental health support
- Obesity – importance of leisure and unique offering of the public sector leisure centres – especially swimming
- Isolation and loneliness
- Jobs – replacing the lost jobs with green industry
- Support to older people

Investing in the future?

- Decarbonising / greening leisure assets
- Green fleet (maintenance)
- Waste and resources
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Urban green space and parks
- Support industry wide changes

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