

The Northern Ireland Cycling Initiative

www.nici.org.uk

Caroline Scott
Belfast Healthy Cities
22-24 Lombard Street
Belfast

Dear Madam
Belfast Active Living Week

I am writing to you on behalf of the Northern Ireland Cycling Initiative.

The NICI is a local voluntary organisation funded by its own members and is affiliated to the Irish Cycling Campaign Network, the Cycling Campaign Network of Great Britain and the European Cycling Federation.

We campaign for:

- Improved infrastructure to provide safe convenient cycling for people of all ages and abilities,
- Linking homes to school, work, shops, public transport and amenities.
- Cycling as a cheaper, healthier, cleaner alternative to the car.
- In Northern Ireland 65% of all journeys are less than 5 miles. Such journeys are healthier by bicycle than car and in congested urban areas many would be faster by bicycle.
- Cycling and walking are sustainable, socially inclusive, neighbourly ways to travel and easily integrate exercise into the daily routine on a cost neutral, non-interventionist basis.

We are concerned that the summary of both the walking and cycling weeks from 2005 showed lower numbers of participants than the swimming and dancing weeks.

We believe that you have inadvertently ignored cyclists and pedestrians going about their normal daily activity that seamlessly gives daily-integrated physical activity.

Why are the people who walk or cycle to work excluded? This exclusion skews the figures and makes swimming and dancing look much more popular.

Have you any thoughts on recording the people who already have physical activity in their lives through their choice of transport mode.

Yours Faithfully

Steve Shore