

MOVING ON – AGAIN?

**A SURVEY OF GYPSIES/TRAVELLERS' VIEWS IN THE
NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND**

**Ian Taggart LLM
University of Aberdeen**

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Summary

1. This report was prepared as part of the research being undertaken by the author to complete a PhD thesis examining areas of Gypsy/Traveller law in Scotland, particularly human rights and discrimination law. It was recognised that this project offered an opportunity to revisit previous research on Gypsies/Travellers' lifestyles¹ in addition to examining the particular areas of law relevant to the author's thesis. Several public authorities including Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray Councils, Grampian Police and NHS Grampian contributed funding towards the costs of the research.

2. The current research sought Gypsies/Travellers' views on official sites, unauthorised sites and the provision of facilities to both; access to other services including accommodation and advice and information; changing patterns in their lifestyles, including travelling, work and experience of prejudice and harassment.

3. This research, with the permission of the Scottish Executive, utilised the questionnaire used in the original research in 1999. Whilst the original research interviewed Gypsies/Travellers throughout Scotland and the current research focused on the North East of Scotland, it was considered relevant to compare the results of both projects given the mobility of Gypsies/Travellers throughout Scotland.

¹ Lomax, D., Lancaster S. and Gray P., *Moving On: A survey of Travellers' views*. (The Scottish Executive Central Research Unit 2000).

4. The strategy adopted regarding sampling excluded permanently settled Gypsies/Travellers although it is acknowledged that there is a need for research in this area. Difficulties remain in identification of these members of the community as the term Gypsy/Traveller does not appear on the current census; there is still reluctance by many settled Gypsies/Travellers to disclose their identity as such for fear of discrimination or harassment. Whilst not impossible to undertake this research it was outwith the resources available to the author.

5. A total of 82 interviews were undertaken; 16 on two local authority sites, 11 on two privately owned sites and 55 on seventeen unauthorised sites. The author has considerable experience of the Gypsy/Traveller community locally and experience of focus groups involving this community. It was decided at an early stage, based on previous experience, that focus groups were of limited use in engaging with the Gypsy/Traveller community and this form of contact was not undertaken. It was also decided, given the main interest of the author on discrimination and human rights issues, that as many Gypsies/Travellers as possible would be engaged rather than adopting a strategy of selecting fixed numbers at each site.

Gypsies/Travellers' views on official and private sites

6. Data regarding sites, facilities, services and concerns about sites was received from 27 Gypsies/Travellers on official and private sites.

Site Manager

7. Both local authority sites and one private site had either full-time or part-time managers. All interviewees stated they found these managers very helpful and flexible in their dealings with residents. The private site located in Aberdeen City is owned and operated by the Gypsy/Traveller occupants who stated they did not require a manager. This site was well managed and operating well.

Site Barrier

8. Only one local authority site, located in Aberdeenshire, had an operating barrier. The private site in Aberdeenshire and local authority site in Aberdeen City had non-functioning barriers that were permanently open. Residents in the Aberdeen City Council site preferred an operational barrier. Those interviewees in the local authority sites all considered barriers as a means of ensuring security of the sites, preventing undesirable people entering. All the interviewees on the private sites did not wish a barrier as it was perceived as an obstacle to accessing the sites.

Site Regulations

9. Only one site, the private site located in Aberdeen City, did not have site regulations. Several interviewees were unaware of site regulations or aware of only a few of the regulations. Positive and negative issues were raised regarding these regulations. The speed restrictions and control of dogs on sites were considered useful. The negative regulations related to, the method of renting pitches on the Aberdeenshire Council official site based on the

number of caravans as opposed to pitch occupied, the 3-week residency period on private sites in Aberdeenshire and restriction of access to commercial vehicles on private sites.

10. Interviewees were generally long term residents on local authority sites that did not travel or travelled for short periods of time. They did not raise any tenancy issues regarding absences from their respective pitches.

On-site services

11. The issues raised regarding the provision of on-site services by interviewees related mainly to improvement of pitches ranging from fencing, landscaping and chalet fitments in the case of Aberdeen City Council site to provision of electrical points in the Aberdeenshire Council site. All mentioned the need for safe and secure children's play areas on these sites and the Aberdeenshire private site.

12. Provision of transport for Gypsy/Traveller children to attend school was provided on an as required basis, except in the case of the Aberdeen City private site, where children attended a school in Aberdeenshire.

Aberdeenshire Council were unable to provide transport from another Council area and residents elected to provide their own transport from this site.

Interviewees with school age children were all positive regarding the provision of educational services.

13. Health visitors had visited all the sites except the Aberdeen City private site. Several interviewees commented on the very good standard of service provided by a Health Visitor in Aberdeen City and the majority of interviewees similarly commented on the service provided by the Bucksburn Practice.

14. Support and outreach work to these sites was mainly provided by the Gypsy/Traveller Education and Information Project (North East) (G/TEIP), who had attended all the sites involving children in education and play schemes. Assistance was also provided with housing applications to local Councils, assistance with accessing other Council services and the provision of information to support Gypsies/Travellers when required. All Gypsies/Travellers who had engaged with this organisation appreciated these services.

Health and safety issues

15. The main, and most disturbing, issue raised by interviewees was the long-term infestation of rats at the Aberdeen Council site that has apparently existed for many months. All interviewees on that site raised serious concerns regarding this issue. Other issues raised regarding this site was the sewerage systems to chalets that appeared in a few areas to be defective. Issues raised at the Aberdeenshire Council site related to fumes from an adjacent factory unit and proximity of the sea to the site regarding children's safety. Similar concerns were raised regarding the proximity to a river at the Aberdeenshire private site and children's safety.

Gypsies/Travellers' views on unauthorised sites

16. Data regarding unauthorised sites, facilities, services and concerns about these sites was received from 55 Gypsies/Travellers on unauthorised sites.

Length of stay

17. The length of stay on unauthorised encampments, by the majority of interviewees (45), was less than one month. Only 4 interviewees resided on an encampment for more than 6 months, with 3 of the interviewees resident for more than a year in the Moray Council area.

Site Management

18. All local authorities and Grampian Police have designated officials dealing with the management of these sites both at strategic and operational levels. Management policies are in accordance with Scottish Executive guidance on the subject.

Site facilities

19. Management policies of all local authorities provide for the provision of rubbish receptacles and portable toilets to unauthorised encampments. A total of 12 of the 17 unauthorised encampments (70%) visited during this research had been provided with these services; including one encampment where only a rubbish receptacle had been provided.

Access to other facilities and services

20. Some difficulties were raised by a number of interviewees in the Aberdeen City area where they were refused water at local garages even when offering to pay. Otherwise the provision of cleansing facilities minimised the environmental impact of encampments, however the quantity of 'green waste' created problems on 3 encampments in the Aberdeen area. There is a need to examine management/recycling of this waste.

21. Interviewees, primarily due to the research being undertaken during the school holidays, generally did not raise issues regarding access to education locally. Two interviewees did however state that home tutoring would be beneficial in Aberdeenshire and Moray Council areas.

22. Interviewees generally were able to access health services throughout the area. Outwith Aberdeen City interviewees encountered little difficulty in accessing health care although one incident in Moray was of concern. All interviewees in Aberdeen City reported respect for the service received from the Bucksburn Practice and the health professionals there. It was of concern that a few interviewees were apparently unable to temporarily register in some other practices in the city.

Support workers

23. The main voluntary organisation G/TEIP enjoys a high degree of confidence within the Gypsy/Traveller community. During this research period

they had visited 14 of the 17 unauthorised encampments visited (82%), offering a similar service to that provided to official sites.

Health and safety

24. The main concerns regarding health and safety raised by interviewees related to proximity of water (11) and vehicles (8). The condition of one long-term site, located in the disused former official site in the Moray Council area, was of great concern regarding vermin infestation and suspected asbestos on the site.

Gypsies/Travellers' views on Housing

25. A total of 35 (43%) interviewees currently had a house; of these twenty-five were residing on unauthorised sites, seven on official sites and three on private sites. A further 34 (41%) interviewees had lived in housing in the past. The length of time these interviewees had resided in housing varied from a few weeks to 40 years. Twelve of these interviewees (35%), who had lived in housing in the past, stated they would not want to reside in housing again.

26. Housing was used for a variety of reasons, ranging from lack of official sites, the systematic blocking off of traditional stopping places, health and age related issues. Seasonal Gypsies/Travellers utilised their house as a winter base.

27. Of the 34 Gypsies/Travellers who had lived in housing in the past, 19 (56%) had suffered problems. The majority (9) suffered from psychological issues related to depression and stress. A combination of other factors were stated, the majority of which were related to neighbour disputes (8) and damage to property (3).

28. A total of 13 (16%) interviewees had never lived in housing and of these interviewees 7 (54%) stated they would never want to.

29. Whether in settled housing or sites, 76 (93%) interviewees stated it was their intention or wish to continue travelling for part of the year

Gypsies/Travellers' patterns of travelling

30. Gypsies/Travellers are spending more time travelling for longer periods of time compared with the original research despite the lack of official accommodation. Only 9 (11%) interviewees had not travelled in the previous 12 months.

Reasons for travelling

31. The main reasons given by the interviewees for travelling were that travelling was part of Gypsies/Travellers' way of life (38) or work related issues (24), with often a combination of both these factors. Several interviewees (9) gave the reason for movement as attendance at Light and Life Missions around the country.

Experience of travelling

32. The majority of sites used by those interviewees who had travelled in the last 12 months were unauthorised sites. It was apparent that those interviewed on unauthorised sites resorted to other unauthorised sites though a substantial number of these interviewees also used local authority and private sites.

33. The majority of interviewees who had travelled in the last 12 months had been forced off sites 47 (57%). The most common method adopted was civil eviction, reported by 21 interviewees. A total of 13 interviewees stated they had been moved on by the police, 6 interviewees stating this occurred in England and Wales, using the powers contained in the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994. Three interviewees stated they had been moved on by Tayside Police, however were unable to specify the legislative powers used. No interviewees reported being moved on by Grampian Police.

34. Disturbingly, 8 interviewees stated they had been forced off sites as a result of threats and harassment ranging from verbal threats to spreading silage on their caravans. None of these incidents occurred in the North East of Scotland.

35. Only 51 (62%) interviewees considered that their method of travelling had not changed in the last 5 – 10 years. Of the 31 (38%) who considered it had changed the majority (19) considered that a lack of available accommodation was the main reason.

36. The aspirations of the interviewees reflected the original research in that 50 interviewees wanted more freedom to travel, identifying the need for more halting sites and accommodation as being essential to achieve this.

Gypsies/Travellers' work/employment

37. The employment activities of the interviewees displayed a degree of versatility with some interviewees undertaking varied work. The main activities were gardening/landscaping work with 59 interviewees identifying this as an economic activity and building work, including PVC work, roofing and driveways, identified by 21 interviewees.

Advice and information

38. Only 37 (40%) interviewees had contacted outside bodies for information and advice. The majority of these interviewees (26) were female members of the community. The majority of contacts related to health (20) housing queries (15) followed by G/TEIP (10).

39. The preferred mode of contact when receiving information was face to face, with 71 interviewees preferring this method. There was a general resistance by interviewees to obtaining information at Council Offices.

40. There was a total mistrust of Social Workers with no contact initiated by interviewees in the preceding 12 months. Similarly there was no contact to

obtain information or advice per se with the Police Service, though several interviewees had reported incidents to the Police.

41. Past points of contact used by interviewees were primarily Health Centres (73) and G/TEIP (60). The latter was frequently used to facilitate services between public authorities and the interviewees concerned.

42. The main source of information and advice utilised by 80 interviewees was the pool of general knowledge and from networking within the Gypsy/Traveller community.

Gypsies/Travellers' experiences of prejudice and harassment

43. A total of 65 (79%) interviewees reported having been subjected to prejudice and harassment in the previous 12 months from local communities and other sources. Several interviewees reported instances of prejudice and harassment from a combination of sources. The majority of the remaining interviewees had suffered similar treatment outwith this timescale. This represents a very disturbing increase from the original research of 17%.

44. The majority of incidents originating in local communities (63) related to racial abuse, with 24 interviewees reporting racially motivated attacks in the form of stone throwing at their caravans.

45. A total of 20 interviewees reported experiencing prejudice and harassment from the Police. Three instances occurred in the North East of Scotland, (9) in other areas of Scotland, with the remainder occurring in England (8).

46. A number of interviewees (13) encountered prejudice and harassment from Council and other officials, the majority outwith the North East of Scotland. These related to the general attitude of these officials to the interviewee and a general lack of awareness of Gypsy/Traveller culture, particularly travelling. Four of these interviewees encountered difficulties in obtaining health care.

47. The anti-Traveller campaign adopted by a section of the local press focused on the Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire areas appears to have resulted in increased prejudice and harassment towards Gypsies/Travellers with a number of interviewees reporting an increase in, racial abuse and racially motivated attacks, during intense coverage.

48. The most common response to low-level prejudice and harassment, i.e. verbal abuse and minor damage, is to ignore it or to deal with the issues themselves. Several interviewees (22) had made formal complaints to various organisations, 14 to the Police, 7 to the CRE and 1 to the local Council. A total of 16 interviewees stated they would not report any incidents, as they had no confidence in any complaint being progressed because they were Gypsies/Travellers.

49. A total of 24 (29%) interviewees experienced harassment from other Gypsies/Travellers. Interviewees were unwilling to discuss these incidents in detail.

Conclusions

50. Similar to the original research it was evident that Gypsies/Travellers are not a homogenous community.

51. It appears from this research that Gypsies/Travellers throughout the North East of Scotland are accessing health services well, particularly in the Aberdeen City area.

52. Whilst Education services for children are being accessed by Gypsies/Travellers, with this exception, there remains a lack of confidence in all Councils in the North East of Scotland. All Councils should consider how better to engage with, and gain the confidence of, Gypsies/Travellers in their areas of responsibility.

53. The majority of interviewees commented very positively on the methods adopted by the Scottish Police Service when dealing with Gypsies/Travellers compared with other areas of the United Kingdom and historically in Scotland. Despite these very positive comments there remains a resistance to engagement with this public body. There is a need to examine further methods of engagement and build on this improving relationship.

54. The G/TEIP voluntary organisation is respected by the Gypsy/Traveller community and currently facilitates and assists Gypsies/Travellers to access public services. This project is a resource that could be considered, by local Councils in the North East of Scotland, as an alternative means to engage with, and overcome the current lack of confidence, evident in the Gypsy/Traveller community towards Councils.

55. Given the number of unauthorised encampments in the North East of Scotland, and their relatively short duration, there is a need for a network of halting/transit sites for Gypsies/Travellers in all Council areas. All Council's should however also assess the need for increased permanent site provision, as undoubtedly some residents on unauthorised sites would become resident for longer periods of time, rather than the frequent movement that is currently being undertaken due to the lack of appropriate accommodation.

56. The large increase in prejudice and harassment (17%) towards Gypsies/Travellers since the original research is of great concern, particularly as it generally manifests itself in the form of racial abuse and racially motivated attacks.

57. The lack of available suitable accommodation has resulted in a considerable increase in unauthorised encampment, compared with the original research, with environmental issues resulting from a few of these encampments. In tandem with the systematic blocking off of sites used as unauthorised encampments and use of alternative unauthorised sites,

frequently in higher profile areas, has impacted negatively on community tensions. The local press coverage of these issues, particularly in the Aberdeen/Aberdeenshire areas, appears to have further impacted negatively on community tensions.

58. It is concluded this combination of issues represent a major factor in the increased prejudice and harassment towards Gypsies/Travellers in the North East of Scotland.

1. Introduction

The primary research contained in this report was undertaken over a four-month period during the summer months of 2007.

This project was undertaken as part of the research being undertaken by the author to complete a PhD degree critically examining areas of Gypsy/Traveller law in Scotland. Whilst designed primarily to examine the degree of prejudice and discrimination suffered by the Gypsy/Traveller community it also offered an opportunity to revisit the original *Moving On* research undertaken in 1998/99² and obtain a snapshot of Gypsies/Travellers views, primarily in the North East of Scotland, enabling an identification of any changes that have occurred since the original research.

a) Scope and Aims

The original *Moving On* research was undertaken in 1999, which coincided with important developments in human rights and race relations legislation in the United Kingdom. The Human Rights Act 1998 and the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 came into force in Scotland in 1999 and 2001 respectively. The original research effectively provides 'base line' data on Gypsy/Traveller lifestyles prior to this legislation becoming effective.

² Lomax, D., Lancaster S. and Gray P., *Moving On: A survey of Travellers' views*. (The Scottish Executive Central Research Unit 2000).

Additionally the Equal Opportunities Committee of the Scottish Parliament held an inquiry regarding Gypsy Travellers and Public Sector Policies³ that resulted in a raft of recommendations designed to improve Gypsy/Traveller living conditions. Additionally, the Commission for Racial Equality in Scotland also implemented a Gypsy/Traveller strategy in 2004 to counter harassment and discrimination against this community.

Given these legislative provisions, policies and strategies, there is an expectation there should have been measurable improvements in Gypsies/Travellers lifestyles, including a decrease in prejudice and harassment towards this community. The author considered that by replicating the research survey from the original *Moving On* report, positive changes in lifestyles should be apparent. Whilst the original research was undertaken throughout Scotland and the proposed research focused on the North East of Scotland, given the mobility of Gypsies/Travellers, the data was considered suitable for comparison with the original research. Following the completion of the project, the information received included references to issues applicable to the United Kingdom and Ireland as a whole that is attributable to the mobility of Gypsies/Travellers.

The author also recognised that the information made available would also be of value to public authorities in the North East of Scotland, providing important data to assist policy creation towards this community and indeed informing

³ The Scottish Parliament Equal Opportunities Committee. *1st Report 2001 – Inquiry into Gypsy Travellers and Public Sector Policies Vol. 1 and 2.* (Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh. 2001).

human rights and equality impact assessments regarding their functions and policies.

A request was made, to the Scottish Executive Equalities Research Team, to utilise the original questionnaire used in the original *Moving On* report, as a means of measuring change in the interim period, which was granted.

The author also approached Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray Councils, Grampian Police and NHS Grampian with a research proposal seeking funding for this research and received funding assistance from each. This assistance was sufficient to fund the majority of the author's travelling expenses with the remainder being self-funded.

The author is a retired Police Officer who has developed police management techniques regarding Gypsy/Traveller issues in the Grampian Police area and was involved in the development of national policies by the Association of Chief Police Officers for Scotland on this subject. He is also the author of a Home Office sponsored research report on the subject.⁴

The author has completed an LLM degree by research focused on Gypsies/Travellers accommodation and rights relevant to this community.⁵

⁴ Taggart, I., *Gypsy Travellers – A Policing Strategy*: “Why don't you just move them on?”. (Home Office 2003).

⁵ Taggart, I. *Accommodating Gypsy Travellers – Rights, Obligations and Duties*. LLM thesis, Aberdeen University (2005)

Additionally, the author is a member of the Gypsy/Traveller Education and Information Project (North East) (G/TEIP), a voluntary organisation involved in outreach work with the Gypsy/Traveller community.

This aforementioned experience has equipped him to engage with many members of the Gypsy/Traveller community locally.

b) Research Approach

As detailed above, to enable comparisons with the previous research, a decision was made to utilise the original questionnaire.

The author undertook negotiation regarding access to Gypsies/Travellers. Contact was made with the Light and Life Mission, a Traveller based Christian movement, whom the author had previous experience of and to whom a public presentation was provided regarding the research. Utilising this method effectively ensured that a large number of Gypsies/Travellers were aware of the research by word of mouth. Utilising the outreach workers of the Gypsy/Traveller Education and Information Project (North East) G/TEIP, awareness was also raised at official sites and unauthorised encampments in the area being examined.

The author embarked on the research unsure of the response that would be made but was surprised by the openness and the number of Gypsies/Travellers prepared to be interviewed. This contributed to the short

timescale of the research and a decision was made to stop interviewing when a similar number of Gypsies/Travellers, to that in the original research, had been interviewed.

The majority of interviews were undertaken following 'cold calling' by the author at the various sites. It was decided at an early stage, given the author's focus on prejudice and harassment, that as many Gypsies/Travellers who were prepared to be interviewed would be, rather than attempting to undertake a sampling strategy on each site. The problems of a strategy of selective sampling are commented on in the original research.⁶

Interviews were undertaken at 2 Official sites, 2 Private sites and 17 unauthorised encampments. The location of unauthorised encampments was identified by liaison with local authorities, Grampian Police and G/TEIP.

c) Characteristics of Survey Interviewees

Eighty-two interviews were undertaken in the three local authority areas in the North East of Scotland, none of whom were settled Gypsies/Travellers.

⁶ Lomax, D., Lancaster S. and Gray P., *Moving On: A survey of Travellers' views*. (The Scottish Executive Central Research Unit 2000). 75-77.

Table 1.1 Number and location of interviewees

Number of interviewees	Number and type of site on which interviewed
16	2 Local Authority Gypsy/Traveller Sites
11	2 Private sites (1 solely Gypsy/Traveller Site)
55	17 Unauthorised encampments
Total: 82	21 locations

i) Gender of Interviewees

The gender of interviewees was 38 males (46.3%) and 44 females (53.7%).

Examining the original research it is highlighted there was a degree of reluctance in male Gypsies/Travellers to be interviewed. This was not apparent in this research.

ii) Age of Interviewees**Table 1.2 Age of survey interviewees by type of site**

Age Band	Total Number	Total %	Number on LA Site	Number on Private Site	Number on Unauthorised Site
Under 16 years	1	1%	0	0	1
16-21 years	15 (8)	18% (10%)	2 (4)	4 (1)	9 (3)
22-34 years	23 (25)	28% (31%)	4 (11)	2 (8)	17 (6)
35-54 years	31 (34)	38% (41%)	6 (15)	5 (7)	20 (12)
55-74 years	12 (15)	15% (18%)	4 (11)	0 (2)	8 (2)
Total	82 (82)	100% (100%)	16 (41)	11 (18)	55 (23)

NB Original research figures indicated in (red).

Examining these statistics and comparing the results with the earlier survey reveals the following major differences:

- There is generally a small reduction in the number of interviewees in all age groups except those under 22 years of age that has almost doubled, compared with the original research.
- There is a substantial increase in interviewees in all age groups on unauthorised encampments, indicating a threefold increase with the exception of the 35 – 54 years age group.
- The increase in unauthorised encampments reflects the lack of provision of official sites in the area.

iii) Marital Status of Interviewees

The majority of interviewees (72%) described themselves as married or living together, while those interviewed who were single totalled 12%. Single parent households represented 5% while 2% were widowed and a further 9% separated or divorced. (See Table 1.3).

Table 1.3 Marital Status of Interviewees

Marital Status	Total Number	Total %	LA Site	Private Site	Unauthorised Site
Single	10 (10)	12% (12%)	3 (4)	2 (2)	5 (4)
Single Parent	4 (4)	5% (5%)	0 (1)	0 (2)	4 (1)
Married or living together	59 (53)	72% (65%)	12 (28)	9 (10)	38 (15)
Separated or divorced	7 (5)	9% (6%)	1 (3)	0 (2)	6 (0)
Widowed	2 (9)	2% (11%)	0 (5)	0 (2)	2 (2)
Total	82 (82)	100% (99%) (Due to rounding)	16 (41)	11 (18)	55 (22)

NB Original research figures indicated in (red).

Comparison with the original research reveals that interviewees marital status is generally similar except those widowed, with the differences in type of site attributable to a lack of official accommodation in the area.

- Whilst there were few single parents interviewed it was a comparable figure to the previous research. Disturbingly, all were staying on unauthorised sites, many with young families, in one case (Moray) with 4 young children.
- There is a complete reversal , from the original research, in the living accommodation of those married or living together with a substantial number residing on unauthorised sites.

iv) Number of children and household composition

The majority of interviewees (67) had children, with just over half (42) having 3-5 and almost a fifth (17) with 1-2 children. A further 8 interviewees had over 5 children (See table 1. 4).

Table 1.4 Number of Children and Household Composition

Number of Children	Total Number	Total %	LA Site	Private Site	Unauthorised Site
None	15 (11)	18% (14%)	6 (6)	3 (1)	6 (4)
1-2	17 (18)	21% (22%)	4 (12)	1 (4)	12 (2)
3-5	42 (41)	51% (51%)	6 (16)	7 (13)	29 (12)
More than 5	8 (11)	10% (14%)	0 (6)	0 (0)	8 (5)
Total	82 (81)	100% (101%) (Due to rounding)	16 (40)	11 (18)	55 (23)

NB Original research figures indicated in (red).

Examination of these statistics reveals little change in the number of children in each household. Whilst the data refers to all age ranges resulting in some adult children being included there are a considerable number of school age children located on unauthorised sites, which causes concern:

- In the North East of Scotland there appears to be a complete reversal from the earlier research regarding the location of these children with an increase of over 50% of households with children located on unauthorised sites.
- Substantial numbers of these households with children, 33 (49%), raised health and safety concerns regarding their location, which will be examined later.

v) Identity of Interviewees

The majority of interviewees identified themselves as Scottish Travellers (67%). Whilst there was some mixed lineage in a small number of cases the data shown represents the initial response to the question. Some interviewees did also provide a secondary identity of Gypsy/Traveller and Other. This data is not represented in the table below (See table 1.5).

Table 1.5 Gypsy/Traveller identity as described by interviewees

Traveller identity	Total Number	Total %
Romany	4	5% (8%)
Scottish Traveller	55	67% (49%)
Irish	7	9% (5%)
English	2	2% (0%)
Welsh	1	1% (0%)
Gypsy/Traveller	5	6% (15%)
Other	8	10% (23%)
Total	82	100% (100%)

NB Original research figures indicated in (red).

Those interviewees classified as Other all identified themselves as Traveller.

The original report identified, at a macro level, that interviewees regarded themselves as a Traveller, which was confirmed in this research.

Differences between the original report and current research were apparent at a micro level. There was a strong identification between nationalities. Scottish Travellers additionally identified themselves very much between family groups, with obvious sub-divisions, that in some cases prevented mixing between groups.

At a micro level there was a considerable difference between interviewees regarding their personal status. Whilst all identified themselves as members of the Travelling community there was a considerable difference in their economic status ranging from relatively wealthy businessmen who are owner-occupiers of their homes to those living in the depths of poverty. This is a neglected research area that warrants investigation.

d) Structure of Report

As is apparent to those familiar with the original report, a similar style of report has been adopted, primarily to create easier comparison between both pieces of research.

This report will however differ regarding policy and legislative considerations, incorporating some Council of Europe and domestic policies and legislative developments since the original research.

This report will, similarly to the original report, provide the main findings regarding the North East of Scotland covering:

- Authorised sites and unauthorised sites.
- Housing, travelling and work.
- Advice and information; and
- Prejudice, harassment and other issues.

2. Gypsies/Travellers in Scotland

The definition of Gypsies/Travellers for the purposes of this research is that adopted in the authors LLM thesis⁷ and current PhD research.

a) Definition

Part Extracts:

In the United Kingdom there are generally held to be five main groupings of Travellers:

- i) Gypsies/Travellers whose membership is dictated by birth and occasionally marriage. This ethnic minority group has strong cultural ties, extended families and clans and consists of sub-groups of English, Welsh, Irish and Scottish Travellers.
- ii) Roma (Gypsies) who originate from Europe.
- iii) Show and Fairground Travellers sometimes referred to as Occupational Travellers, who consider themselves a business community. Membership of this group can be by birth however it is possible for newcomers to become part of this group. Fairground Travellers consider themselves a commercial/business group rather than an ethnic group.

⁷ Taggart, I. *Accommodating Gypsy Travellers – Rights, Obligations and Duties*. LLM thesis, Aberdeen University (2005)

- iv) Bargees and other groups living in boats.
- v) New Age Travellers who are a diverse grouping with varying beliefs and backgrounds who live a nomadic existence.

The sub-groups of Gypsies/Travellers can be classified as follows:

- i) English Travellers:

*'The Romanies or 'Romany Chals' of England and South Wales.... numbering over 50,000 – including house-dwelling families. They previously spoke a dialect of Romani but now speak a variety of English.'*⁸

- ii) Welsh Travellers:

*'Some 300 persons who are descendents of the Woods and other families who migrated from the South-west of England to Wales in the 17th and 18th centuries.'*⁹

- iii) Irish Travellers:

*'...a nomadic group from Ireland... The first reliable report of their presence in England dates from 1850.'*¹⁰

- iv) Scottish Travellers:

*'...a nomadic group formed in Scotland in the period 1500-1800 from intermarriage and social integration between local nomadic craftsmen and immigrant Gypsies, from France and Spain in particular.'*¹¹

⁸ Kenrick and Bakewell. *On the Verge: The Gypsies of England*. (University of Hertfordshire Press, 1990). 7

⁹ Ibid 7.

¹⁰ Ibid 7.

¹¹ Ibid 8.

There are Gypsies/Travellers who are members of more than one of the above sub-groups through intermarriage, which can further obscure and complicate any clear definition of each grouping.

The pattern of travelling within the Traveller community also varies from:

- i) Maintaining an entirely nomadic lifestyle.
- ii) Residing in settled housing for part of the year.
- iii) Residing in authorised local authority campsites.
- iv) Residing in private campsites.
- v) Residing in unauthorised campsites.
- vi) Maintaining an entirely settled lifestyle but retaining the identity of Traveller.

From this brief insight into the groupings and pattern of travelling it can be seen that there is a wide spectrum of Travellers and lifestyles, making it difficult to give a precise definition applicable to the Traveller community. In this report the term Gypsy/Traveller has been adopted to encompass all Travellers from the community who satisfy or very

probably will satisfy the legal definition of an ethnic minority under current race relations legislation i.e. Gypsies/Travellers and Roma (Gypsies) as detailed above.

The Council of Europe definition of the term Gypsy is found in the Parliamentary Assembly Document 6733 on Gypsies in Europe¹² where, in the explanatory memorandum attached to the document it defines Gypsies as:

*'For the purposes of this report the term "Gypsy" is used for all people and groups of people who are by dominant society called "Gypsies", "travellers", "Zigeuner", "Gitanes", "Tsiganes", "Gitanos", or other similar terms. The term is also used here for other people who experience similar treatment as "Gypsies" because of their real or alleged itinerant existence or the supposed itinerant existence of their ancestors, and because of their lifestyle, including people and groups of people who call themselves Roma, Sinti, Kale or suchlike.'*¹³

Following this document the Council of Europe has created numerous recommendations, opinions and documents that identify the term Gypsy as including all Gypsies/Travellers.

b) Gypsy/Traveller numbers

As detailed in the original report there was a lack of accurate data regarding actual numbers of Gypsies/Travellers in Scotland. This lack of data remains, with evidence of non-disclosure of their status as Gypsies/Travellers evident

¹² CoE, Parliamentary Assembly Document 6733. 11 January 1993.

¹³ Ibid II Explanatory memorandum, Para. 4.

in some cases. Several interviewees, who also had settled accommodation, did not disclose their status when resident in their settled accommodation.

Reliance on the twice-yearly count is similarly inaccurate representing a snapshot of the community. Comparison of the twice-yearly counts undertaken by the Scottish Executive during the original and current research provides details of pitch provision, however does not provide accurate information regarding the actual numbers of Gypsies/Travellers in Scotland.

All local authorities in the North East of Scotland are developing better management techniques that more readily identify unauthorised encampments in their respective areas of responsibility. However accurate numbers of Gypsies/Travellers remains elusive.

Examining the current available Gypsy/Traveller specific pitch provision available in the North East of Scotland at the time of this research it is apparent there is a considerable reduction in availability since the original research (See table 2.1).

Table 2.1 Comparison of available pitches

LA Area	Available pitches 2007	Available pitches 1998	Difference %
Aberdeen City	8	20	-60%
Aberdeenshire (seasonal)	20	20	0%
Moray	0	20	-100%
Total	28	60	-53%

Examination of these figures reveals a substantial reduction in availability of official pitches that is further aggravated by evidence of very limited access to private caravan sites available to Gypsies/Travellers in the North East of Scotland. Inevitably this is a contributory factor in the large number of unauthorised encampments in the area.

c) Attitudes

The relationship between Gypsies/Travellers and the settled community in the North East of Scotland reflects the relationship that exists in the rest of the United Kingdom. Gypsies/Travellers remain one of the most socially excluded communities, which the settled community are prepared to engage with regarding work related issues however resistant to permanent residency in proximity of settled communities.

In the North East of Scotland the reduction in official accommodation provision and subsequent availability of this accommodation, lack of availability of private sites and systematic blocking off of traditional sites has resulted in increased unauthorised encampments. A minority of these encampments have suffered from a negative environmental impact due to the behaviour of the occupants that the settled community, and the majority of the Gypsy/Traveller community interviewed, have condemned.

In the North East of Scotland a contributory factor in this stigmatisation has been a long protracted anti-Traveller campaign by a section of the local press

that has increased negative stereotyping of Gypsies/Travellers in the area. Despite concerns raised by the Equal Opportunities Committee of the Scottish Parliament¹⁴ (EOC) and significant correspondence between the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) and the newspaper concerned, including a complaint to the Press Complaints Commission, this campaign persists.

The aforementioned issues have combined to increase inter-community tensions and have contributed considerably to the negative stereotyping of the whole Gypsy/Traveller community.

During the course of this research these stereotypes of the Gypsy/Traveller community were not apparent in reality, with the majority of Gypsies/Travellers contacted being welcoming and willing to be interviewed.

The most recent efforts in Scotland to develop appropriate and meaningful public services and overcome the social exclusion and stereotyping of Gypsies/Travellers were undertaken by the EOC¹⁵ which made a substantial number of recommendations designed to improve the living conditions and lifestyles of Gypsies/Travellers in Scotland. The EOC however undertook a further examination regarding the implementation of the original recommendations and identified that few had been implemented.¹⁶

¹⁴ The Equal Opportunities Committee Report, *5th Report 2005, (Session 2)*. SP Paper 432, EO/S2/05/R5. (Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh. 2005).

¹⁵ The Scottish Parliament Equal Opportunities Committee. *1st Report 2001 – Inquiry into Gypsy Travellers and Public Sector Policies Vol.1 and 2*. (Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh 2001).

¹⁶ The Equal Opportunities Committee Report, *5th Report 2005, (Session 2)*. SP Paper 432, EO/S2/05/R5. (Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh. 2005).

At the time of writing this report the outcome of the EOC examination, and any further recommendations, are awaited.

The statement contained in the original research report is still accurate despite the various policy and legislative measures adopted in the interim:

*'...The law today still adversely affects Travellers' ability to maintain a mobile life-style. Institutional racism and discrimination, however, presents the greatest challenge to their freedoms and rights to enjoy full citizenship on a par with members of the settled majority.'*¹⁷

d) Legislative and Policy context

The legislative and policy issues identified in the original research have altered considerably. Legislative provisions include the Human Rights Act 1998 (HRA), Race Relations Act 1976 as amended by the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 (RRAA) represent the major legislative provisions that should have impacted on Gypsy/Traveller lifestyles.

The duty placed on public authorities by the HRA not to act in a way that is incompatible with European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) should have impacted on the lifestyles of the Gypsy/Traveller community, particularly with regard to European Court of Human Rights jurisprudence regarding Gypsy/Traveller rights¹⁸ relative to accommodation issues. There is however

¹⁷ Lomax, D., Lancaster S. and Gray P., *Moving On: A survey of Travellers' views*. (The Scottish Executive Central Research Unit 2000). Para 2.11.

¹⁸ See *Buckley v United Kingdom*. Application No. 20348/92, (1997) 23 E.H.R.R., *Chapman v United Kingdom*. Application No. 27238/95, *Connors v. UK*. Application No. 66746/01.

little evidence of public authorities taking cognisance of this legislation/case law regarding Gypsy/Traveller policies.

The RRAA created a General Duty on public authorities to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination and to promote equality of opportunity and good relations between people from different racial groups.¹⁹ In tandem with a requirement to undertake impact assessment of policies and functions within public authorities, since enactment of this legislation, and associated race relations legislation there should similarly have been a positive impact on Gypsies/Travellers' lifestyles. Again there is little evidence of meaningful impact assessment not only in race relations issues but also human rights issues in public authorities.

Impact assessment of Housing, Homelessness and Planning Policies would undoubtedly identify inequalities in accommodation provision relative to the Gypsy/Traveller community.

Definition of Gypsies/Travellers as a racial group for the purposes of the RRAA has not occurred in Scotland, for various reasons outwith the scope of this research.

The EOC recommendations offered an opportunity to progress Gypsies/Travellers lifestyles and well being however, with few exceptions, have not been implemented uniformly throughout Scotland.

¹⁹ RRAA Section 71(1).

Positively, local public authority policies are progressing in various areas including health and education. Of particular importance are those on unauthorised encampment by Gypsies/Travellers that reflect the non-harassment policy referred to in the original research, reinforced by the Crown Office presumption of non-prosecution regarding trespassory offences. These policies are essential considering the lack of official accommodation for Gypsies/Travellers.

The aforementioned legislative and policy provisions are not exhaustive, however a full in depth examination of these provisions is outwith the scope of this research.

3. Gypsies/Travellers' views on authorised Sites

This chapter relates to the views of Gypsies/Travellers living on official and private sites in the North East of Scotland.

A total of 82 interviews were undertaken over the duration of the research between May and August 2007. The interviews were undertaken between the following types of site:

- 16 on local authority sites.
- 11 on private sites.
- 55 on unauthorised sites.

As stated in the original research these interviews were not designed to analyse the different types of site but rather the views of the individuals living on each site.

a) Length of stay

The main difference between this research and the original research is that no winter analysis was undertaken due to limited resources. In the North East of Scotland there is a general fall in the number of Gypsies/Travellers in the area

that in any case would have provided a limited number of interviewees.²⁰

Given the limited provision of local authority sites this fall off is to be expected.

The Aberdeen City Council local authority site is open all year and had 8 available pitches at the time of this research.²¹

The Aberdeenshire Council local authority site is a seasonal site open for 6 months between late March and September each year. It is unique in that the site is used by the same extended family each year that effectively results in 100% occupancy when open.

Moray Council has no local authority site.

Many interviewees stated that it was extremely difficult to obtain accommodation on ordinary caravan sites where refusal was the norm if Gypsies/Travellers applied for a pitch, with the main reason being Gypsies/Travellers use of commercial vehicles. The majority of Gypsies/Travellers perceived these refusals as occurring because they were Gypsies/Travellers however; the private site licences, examined locally, prevent residents using commercial vehicles on sites. A few private sites in Aberdeenshire did however permit Gypsies/Travellers to obtain pitches, permitting commercial vehicles to park off site, however the site licences prevented stays of longer than 3 weeks resulting in the Gypsies/Traveller

²⁰ Source Grampian Police Force Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer.

²¹ Refurbishment was planned to increase this capacity and the provision of temporary halting sites, however these developments would only result in an increased capacity effectively for the seasonal increase in Gypsies/Travellers from autumn/winter 2007 onwards, at the earliest.

concerned having to leave to reside on unauthorised encampments and return for a further 3 week stay.

A privately owned site in Aberdeen City that Gypsies/Travellers have developed and occupy themselves exists and is fully occupied by the owners.

A few interviewees, during this research, indicated a wish to purchase sites to reside on however had little knowledge of the procedures necessary to do so.

On official and private sites a total of 27 interviews were undertaken. Of those interviewed 11 (41%) had a base elsewhere. A total of 11(41%) interviewees had resided in their current location for more than 1 year. Of these interviewees the majority resided at the local authority site (8) with the remainder on a private site (3).

The majority of interviewees in Aberdeen City sites considered these sites as their permanent homes with one extended family on the council site residing there for a period of over 7 years.

Table 3.1 Length of stay

Length of stay	Local Authority site	Private site	Total (%)
Up to 1 month	2	4	6 (22%)
1 – 3 months	2	1	3 (11%)
4 – 6 months	4	3	7 (26%)
7 – 12 months	0	0	0 (0%)
More than a year	8	3	11 (41%)
Total	16	11	27 (100%)

Examination of these statistics reveals that there is a substantial proportion of Gypsies/Travellers on official or private sites who have resided there for extended periods of time. These extended lengths of residence further reduce the availability of accommodation in the North East of Scotland for visiting Gypsies/Travellers.

b) Site management

Similarly to the original research this section considers the day-to-day management of local authority and private sites examining the current residents' views on the role of site manager or warden, use of barriers if available and the regulations governing the site.

i) Site manager or Warden

Site management differed in each of the two local authority official sites.

Aberdeen City Council had a full time Site Manager who also undertook the role of Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Officer, managing unauthorised encampments. This dual role inevitably resulted in frequent absence from the local authority site.

The private site located in Aberdeen owned and occupied by Gypsies/Travellers had no management regime.

Aberdeenshire Council had a part time Site Manager available at the site for a few hours a day on site.

The private site located in Aberdeenshire had a similar management regime.

In response to the question on the usefulness of the site manager, the response was positive by all interviewees on local authority sites and the private site with a manager. This represents a considerable difference from the original research where a quarter of the interviewees did not find the site manager useful. Many interviewees however did comment on historical difficulties with site managers outwith the North East of Scotland.

ii) Barriers

For the purposes of this research whether a barrier was present is restricted to an operational barrier.

The sites visited during this research all had barriers of sorts with the exclusion of the private site in Aberdeen City that was owned and operated by Gypsies/Travellers. However only one site, the local authority site located in Aberdeenshire, operated a barrier at the time of this research.

The mixed views apparent in the original research were similarly encountered in the current research.

The occupants residing on the private site in Aberdeen City did not consider a barrier necessary. This was contrasted by the responses of the residents of the local authority site in Aberdeen City who all wished an operational barrier, as it would prevent unauthorised entry to the site by the *'wrong people'*. At the time of this research the local authority was proposing to refurbish this site, including proposed installation of a barrier that could be accessed by residents either using keys or by a security code.

The residents of the private site located in Aberdeenshire did not want a barrier at the site, as it would impede access to the site. This again was contrasted by the local authority site residents in Aberdeenshire who had a functioning barrier with all residents able to access the site when the part time manager was not present. All residents wanted a barrier stating it *'prevented unwanted people getting into the site'*.

The use of barriers on sites remains contentious with half of the interviewees in favour of a barrier. The main issues raised by those interviewees who did not want barriers were the difficulty of free access outwith normal hours, whilst the main issues raised by those interviewees who did want barriers was the prevention of access by Gypsies/Travellers considered trouble makers.

No interviewee on the private site in Aberdeen City, owned and operated by Gypsies/Travellers, wanted a barrier or saw the need for one.

No issues were raised regarding emergency service access primarily because of lack of operational barriers and, in the case of the site with an operational barrier all residents had access to keys for the barrier.

Whilst considered a complex issue in the original research, accessible barriers controlled by keys or protected by security codes, that can be altered periodically, offer an obvious solution to access.

iii) Site regulations

Similarly to the original research undertaken copies of individual site regulations were not obtained, other than where particular issues were raised that may have originated in these regulations. Rather the research is designed to establish the impact of these regulations on the resident's lives.

Only one site did not have site regulations, the private site located in Aberdeen City. This lack of regulation appeared to cause no difficulty on the site, which was well organised and managed.

Residents in the Aberdeen City local authority site raised no difficulties regarding the site regulations, however some (3) were unaware of any regulations. A number of residents found the 5 mph speed limit (3) and the control of dogs (2) particularly helpful. No issues were raised regarding permitted absence from pitches primarily due to those interviewees being generally long stay residents.

The Aberdeenshire local authority site is unique, as previously stated, in that it is seasonal and used by the same extended family and associates each year, who rarely travel to other sites, if at all. The main negative impact of site regulations raised on this particular site, raised by half the interviewees, was that rents applied to individual caravans as opposed to individual pitches. Interviewees considered this system unfair.

Additionally there was a general concern about the method of booking pitches for the next season. This caused considerable concern to one very elderly Gypsy/Traveller who was obviously worrying about the next season. The remainder of the interviewees raised no concerns regarding the site regulations at this site.

The residents on the private caravan site in Aberdeenshire were generally unaware of the site regulations and made no complaints regarding the management of the site, indeed were complimentary regarding management, or implementation of the site regulations, where aware of them. During interviews it became apparent that residency was only being permitted for 3 week durations, resulting in the Gypsies/Travellers having to leave the site, frequently to take up residence on an unauthorised site or another private caravan site before returning for further 3 week stays. Whilst the Gypsies/Travellers concerned did not complain regarding this regulation, they did find it inconvenient and it represented a contributory factor in the number of unauthorised encampments in the area.

During the course of this research many interviewees commented on the difficulty of gaining access to private caravan sites when attempting to do so with a commercial vehicle. On the Aberdeenshire private caravan site commercial vehicles were permitted to park on a hard standing at the entrance to the site, which was greatly appreciated by all the interviewees.

Given that a great number of Gypsies/Travellers use commercial vehicles to tow their caravans this regulation again appears to be a contributory factor in the number of unauthorised encampments in the area.

The interviewees generally accepted the need for site regulations with the exception of the Aberdeen City private site.

The site regulations considered helpful were:

- The 5 mph speed limit in the Aberdeen City local authority site.
- The control of dogs on the same site.
- Whilst not a regulation as such, the permission to park commercial vehicles adjacent to the entrance of the Aberdeenshire private caravan site was very much appreciated by the Gypsies/Travellers concerned.
- The barrier restrictions at the Aberdeenshire local authority site restricting access to residents.

The site regulations considered unhelpful were:

- The Aberdeenshire local authority site rent system charging for each trailer rather than each pitch.
- The 3-week residency regulation on the Aberdeenshire private caravan site, and applicable on other private and local authority sites. This regulation was a contributory factor on the number of

unauthorised encampments and resulted in frequent movement of the Gypsies/Travellers concerned.

- The restriction on access to private caravan sites by commercial vehicles is a further contributory factor on the number of unauthorised encampments.

c) Site facilities

Authorised sites visited ranged from local authority sites to a privately owned caravan site and a private site owned and occupied solely by Gypsies/Travellers. All had variable facilities.

i) Pitches

All of the local authority sites had individual pitch based chalets.

The chalets located on the local authority site located in Aberdeen City were equipped with basic facilities in varying operational condition, particularly kitchen areas. The site was in the process of being refurbished at the time of this research, however it had been in this condition for an extended period of time.

Not surprisingly several interviewees identified the need for improvements to the chalets particularly the shower facilities. Several

residents also suggested improvements to individual pitches in the form of landscaping and fencing.

The chalets located on the local authority site located in Aberdeenshire were similarly equipped with basic facilities. Those interviewed were generally satisfied with the site raising a few improvements that would help, including play areas for children, more electric points in the case of 1 interviewee and difficulties regarding water pressure to laundry equipment by another interviewee.

The Aberdeen City private site is unique and one of the newest sites developed in Scotland. There were no chalets with services provided to each pitch. The most obvious difference between this site and all others was the size of pitches occupied by each resident. The pitches were considerably larger with space for several vehicles or caravans in each one. Postal service delivery was provided directly to each pitch.

The Aberdeenshire private site was a holiday caravan park with no individual chalets. The interviewees were very satisfied with the facilities and appreciative of the management with the only negative comments regarding the restricted length of stay previously discussed.

There were minimal communal facilities on the Aberdeen City official site consisting of a meeting room with post received via the site manager's office.

There were no communal facilities at the Aberdeenshire Council official site, with post delivered at individual pitches or via the Site Manager's office.

The Aberdeenshire private caravan site did have communal services similar to most holiday caravan sites i.e. toilet/shower block and laundry facilities. It additionally permitted commercial vehicle parking adjacent to the site.

Provision of public telephones was not an issue with any interviewees, with the majority having access to mobile phones.

d) Access to other facilities and services

The information provided regarding onsite services provided on each site was positive in the majority of interviews.

All the interviewees in the Aberdeenshire local authority site and the Aberdeen City private site were aware of officials visiting the sites. With regard to the Aberdeen City local authority site 40% (4) of those interviewed were unaware of any officials visiting the site other than site management. Only 1 interviewee on the Aberdeenshire private caravan site was aware of an official visiting the site. However, given the relatively short stay at any one visit to the site, this is not unexpected.

i) Cleansing

All sites received attention from cleansing services. A rubbish collection was provided to all sites, but several interviewees raised concerns regarding the general cleanliness of the Aberdeen City official site.

ii) Education and play

The interviewees with children generally undertook transport of their children to school themselves with limited use of school transport. Due to the special educational needs of one family, necessitating a long journey, transport was provided for that child by the particular local authority. An interviewee located in the Aberdeen City private site commented that the provision of transport would have been useful, however these families exercised their parental choice on education, in line with national policy, and elected to have their children educated at a school in Aberdeenshire that has particular experience of the educational needs of Gypsy/Traveller children. There was also a wish for their children to be educated with other Gypsy/Traveller children at this school and the particular families concerned provided their own transport. The cross boundary transport of these children prevented provision of transport by the relevant local authorities.

There were no reports of the provision of on site education of children by any interviewees and none of the interviewees raised any concerns regarding lack of this service.

Several interviewees in both local authority sites raised the lack of provision of play areas for children on these sites. There were no designated play areas in either local authority sites or the Aberdeen City private site, however the Aberdeenshire private caravan site had these facilities.

The Gypsy/Traveller Education and Information Project (North East) provided a number of play schemes for all sites, occasionally taking Gypsy/Traveller children off sites for this purpose.

iii) Health services

Health visitors had visited all of the sites except the private caravan site located in Aberdeenshire, again considered attributable to the short stays at the site. Those interviewed on that site did however readily access local surgeries without any difficulties.

With regard to the Aberdeen City local authority site, 3 interviewees made reference to the local Health Visitor stating she was particularly appreciated and helpful when visiting the site.

All interviewees on local authority sites were appreciative of the services provided by health professionals.

The vast majority of Gypsies/Travellers interviewed in the Aberdeen City area were patients at the Bucksburn Practice, which has a history

of treating Gypsy/Traveller patients locally. All Gypsies/Travellers that were patients of that practice spoke very highly of the medical professionals there and their methods of interacting with Gypsies/Travellers.

It is perhaps appropriate to consider examining these methods further as good practice, with potentially informative health data on Gypsies/Travellers locally worthy of further research.

iv) Support Workers

The main voluntary organisation undertaking outreach work in the area was the Gypsy/Traveller Education and Information Project (North East) (G/TEIP). It should however be mentioned that a number of Scottish Traveller interviewees were members of or had connections with the Light and Life Mission that is a Christian movement comprising of mainly Gypsy/Traveller members. The influence of this organisation on the community was impressive, impacting on the daily lives of those who were members. It however mainly addressed spiritual issues within the community as opposed to the interaction between public authorities and Gypsies/Travellers facilitated by G/TEIP.

G/TEIP had attended all of the sites visited and engaged many Gypsy/Traveller children in play schemes. Additionally the outreach workers assisted individual Gypsies/Travellers with housing

applications and other issues necessitating interaction between themselves and public authorities.

v) Off Site Services and Facilities

The interviewees were asked how far from their particular site shops, health centre, post office and schools were located. As in the original research not all interviewees were able to answer each question, however the majority did, regarding shops, health centre and post office, with those unable to answer the question regarding schools generally those without school age children. The data is detailed in table 3.2 below.

Table 3.2 Distances of facilities from authorised sites sampled.

Distance (miles)	Shops	Health Centre	Post Office	School
< ½ mile	5	0	0	0
½-1 mile	12	5	15	0
1-2 miles	10	12	10	9
3-4 miles	0	10	0	6
>10 miles	0	0	0	3

Generally, services within 1 mile of the site were accessed by walking, with those further away accessed by motor vehicle. None of the interviewees considered these distances problematical, with the majority using motor vehicles as opposed to public transport.

One interviewee at the Aberdeen City Council site was critical of the Park and Ride system available by this local authority as it apparently

required 2 day's notice to book a journey from the Council site making it effectively unworkable as public transport for that particular site.

e) Health and Safety

Over half the occupants of authorised sites 15 (55.6%) raised concerns regarding the health and safety of the site they were resident on at the time.

The majority of these related to the Aberdeen City local authority site where 10 interviewees raised concerns. All raised concerns regarding an infestation by rats on the site, over a protracted period of time, as a major health and safety issue. Several interviewees also raised concerns regarding the cleanliness of the site, with one commenting on defective drainage.

Concerns raised by residents in the private sites relate solely to the proximity to a river in the Aberdeenshire site, where 2 interviewees with young children raised concerns.

Two interviewees on the Aberdeenshire local authority site also raised health and safety issues. One related to proximity to the water and beach and the other related to fumes from an adjacent industrial unit that is being investigated by the local authority concerned. Table 3.3 provides details of the Interviewees concerned regarding Health and Safety/Local Authority area.

Table 3.3 Interviewees concerned regarding Health and Safety/Local Authority area

Local Authority	Local Authority Site interviewees	Private Site interviewees
Aberdeen City	10	0
Aberdeenshire	2	3
Moray	0	0
Total	12	3

Despite the proposals to refurbish the official site located in Aberdeen City Council's area the environmental issues applicable to that site continue to give concern to the residents.

4. Gypsies/Travellers' views on unauthorised sites

Given the proportionally larger number of unauthorised sites in the North East of Scotland, compared with the initial research, this section will examine the views of Gypsies/Travellers on these sites.

A total of 55 interviews were undertaken on unauthorised sites as indicated in table 4.1.

Table 4.1 Number of interviews on unauthorised sites/Local Authority area

Local Authority Area	Number of interviews (%)
Aberdeen City	32 (58%)
Aberdeenshire	8 (15%)
Moray	15 (27%)
Total	55 (100%)

The interviews were undertaken during visits to the particular local authority areas concerned. A substantial number of interviews were undertaken in Aberdeen City, however there are several reasons for this apparent imbalance that were outwith the control of the author. A large number of Gypsies/Travellers attended a religious celebration that was scheduled to take place in Aberdeenshire but it was cancelled at very short notice. Many of these Gypsies/Travellers moved into Aberdeen City onto unauthorised sites. Several of these Gypsies/Travellers had resided on encampments in Aberdeenshire and Moray immediately prior to the cancelled event. On several occasions the researcher attended the locations of unauthorised sites

in the Moray area to discover the occupants had left without notice, literally a few hours earlier.

Irrespective of these factors, the majority of Gypsies/Travellers interviewed on unauthorised encampments had occupied similar encampments in all local authority areas in the North East of Scotland. It is therefore considered that their views are relevant to all local authorities in the North East of Scotland.

a) Length of stay

The length of stay on unauthorised encampments throughout the North East of Scotland is low, with 82% (45) interviewees being onsite for less than 1 month.

Table 4.2 Length of stay on unauthorised encampments

Length of stay	Aberdeen City	Aberdeenshire	Moray	Total (%)
Up to 1 month	31 (97%)	7 (88%)	7 (47%)	45 (82%)
1 – 3 months	1 (3%)	1 (12%)	4 (27%)	6 (11%)
4 – 6 months	0	0	0	0
7 – 12 months	0	0	1 (7%)	1 (2%)
More than a year	0	0	3 (20%)	3 (5%)
Total	32 (100%)	8 (100%)	15 (101%) (Due to rounding)	55 (100%)

It is apparent, in these statistics, that Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Council's have relatively short stay unauthorised encampments. Moray however, has over 50% (8) interviewees residing on an unauthorised encampment for more than 1 month. In Moray, 20% (3) interviewees were

resident on the same unauthorised encampment for more than a year. The absence of any official site in Moray is undoubtedly a factor in these statistics.

b) Site management

All local authorities operate broadly similar policies on the management of unauthorised encampments that adopt a policy of non-harassment, in line with Scottish Executive guidance. Additionally, Grampian Police adhere to the current Association of Chief Police Officers for Scotland guidance on the management of unauthorised encampment by Gypsies/Travellers that similarly adopts a non-harassment philosophy.

Whilst the policies are similar, the operational personnel managing unauthorised encampment in each local authority are different. Aberdeen City Council utilise the official site manager and other personnel as required, Aberdeenshire and Moray Council's have identified members of staff from internal Departments in this role and both have established service level agreements with G/TEIP to assist in liaison with Gypsies/Travellers in their respective areas.

Grampian Police have a strategic liaison officer and identified operational liaison officers in each Division of the Force.

All the aforementioned public authorities are members of multi agency management groups designed to progress policies, with additionally

Aberdeen City Council holding weekly case conferences regarding operational Gypsy/Traveller issues.

At the time of this research Aberdeen City Council had introduced a Good Neighbour Code applicable to Gypsies/Travellers on unauthorised encampments that detailed acceptable behaviour and the size and duration of encampments. This Code limits the size of an encampment to 6 caravans and associated vehicles. Given the extended families common in the Gypsy/Traveller community it is difficult for Gypsies/Travellers to adhere to these restrictions, which may be a factor further impacting on the number and frequency of unauthorised encampments in this local authority area.

c) Site facilities

All local authorities in the North East of Scotland have the provision of portable toilets and rubbish receptacles as a consideration in their respective policies. These provisions are in accordance with Scottish Executive guidance on unauthorised encampment and designed to minimise the environmental impact of encampments.

During the course of this research the majority (70%) of unauthorised encampments were supplied with portable toilets and rubbish receptacles.

Table 4.3 details the provision of these services.

Table 4.3 Provision of services to unauthorised sites

Local Authority	Number of Sites provided with services	Number of Sites provided with partial services	Number of Sites not provided with services	Total
Aberdeen City	6	1	2	9
Aberdeenshire	3	0	1	4
Moray	2	0	2	4
Total	11	1	5	17

It was occasionally reported by interviewees that, following installation of equipment, it was either not maintained fully i.e. emptied or, if an encampment increased, no additional equipment installed.

In all unauthorised sites where these services were provided, even if only partial provision, the occupants reported their appreciation of these services.

d) Access to other facilities and services

During the course of this research, 70% (12) of the unauthorised encampments visited had some form of minimal service provision in the form of portable toilets and/or waste receptacles.

Access to toilets and waste disposal on unauthorised encampments that do not have these services, is achieved via local shops/garages.

Several interviewees in the Aberdeen City area commented that they were increasingly refused water at local garages, even when they were prepared to pay for this service.

i) Cleansing

The provision of minimal services to the majority of unauthorised encampments assisted in minimising the environmental impact of domestic waste. Unfortunately, there were 3 unauthorised encampments in the Aberdeen City area where 'green waste' created a large environmental impact. Given that the majority of Gypsies/Travellers are engaged in gardening work there is a developing need to examine better management of this issue including recycling methods and/or provision of skips.

ii) Education and play

Education issues on unauthorised encampments were not an issue primarily due to the research being largely undertaken during the school holiday period. Two interviewees during this research considered the provision of home tutoring would benefit resident children on the particular sites that were located in Aberdeenshire and Moray respectively.

The ability of Gypsy/Traveller children to play on unauthorised encampments was limited in the majority of cases due to the proximity of roads or other health and safety issues. It was however apparent to

this researcher that the parents of these children supervised them very closely for this reason.

The Gypsy/Traveller Education and Information Project (North East) did operate play schemes that enabled children to leave some encampments occasionally.

iii) Health services

During the course of this research, few interviewees commented on health workers visiting unauthorised encampments.

All references to health workers related to Health Visitors, with particular reference to the provision of services to infants on sites. Health visitors had visited 2 unauthorised encampments in Moray, one visit in response to a request by G/TEIP following a young Gypsy/Traveller not receiving treatment following attendance at a local hospital for an obvious eye infection.

No interviewees commented on health service provision to Aberdeenshire unauthorised encampments.

In Aberdeen, the previously reported very good relationship between the Gypsy/Traveller community and the Bucksburn Practice in Aberdeen, regarding health issues, is undoubtedly a factor regarding the lack of site visits by health workers. The majority of interviewees in

that area were aware of the health centre and attended there as and when necessary. None the less, visits by a Health Visitor to encampments were considered beneficial by 2 interviewees in the Aberdeen area in 2 separate encampments.

On one unauthorised encampment in Aberdeen the occupants had encountered difficulties registering with local practices. They had been informed that they could only register if they had a permanent address and, as a result, travelled to the central belt for treatment from the practice they were registered in there. These interviewees were aware of the Bucksburn Practice, but at that time this Practice was apparently unable to accept further patients.

Additionally, one interviewee in Aberdeen encountered difficulties in obtaining an appointment regarding her pregnancy in a local practice only being offered an appointment 3 months later. This interviewee subsequently attended the Bucksburn Practice and received an appointment a few days later.

The majority of interviewees in the Aberdeen area were aware of the relationship between Gypsies/Travellers and the Bucksburn Practice in Aberdeen, and commented very positively on the service provided.

iv) Support Workers

In the North East of Scotland the G/TEIP is the main voluntary organisation undertaking outreach work with Gypsies/Travellers. Their work is recognised within the Gypsy/Traveller community, where a high degree of confidence exists regarding the project.

During this research G/TEIP had visited 82% (14) of the encampments researched offering access to play schemes, support in housing applications and various other support services.

Similarly to the data on authorised sites, not all Gypsies/Travellers answered or were aware of the distances to facilities, particularly where they did not perceive a need for these services, for example when no school age children were in the household. Table 4.4 shows the distance to facilities reported by interviewees on unauthorised sites.

Table 4.4 Distances of facilities reported by interviewees from unauthorised sites.

Distance (miles)	Shops	Health Centre	Post Office	School
< ½ mile	21	7	17	2
½-1 mile	19	5	19	4
1-2 miles	12	19	12	7
3-4 miles	3	4	3	3
5-10 miles	0	4	0	1
>10 miles	0	4	0	0

As can be seen from this data the majority of interviewees resided within 2 miles of these facilities. Those indicating over 5 miles were utilising these facilities where they had a house. The lack of interviewees regarding the location of schools reflects that the research was undertaken during the school holidays.

d) Health and Safety

Significantly, proportionately fewer interviewees on unauthorised sites (49%) had health and safety concerns regarding their site than on authorised sites (56%).

The main concerns of the interviewees were proximity to water in nearby rivers/burns (11) followed by the danger of vehicles on roads adjacent to sites (8). Table 4.5 details health and safety concerns of interviewees.

Table 4.5 Health and Safety concerns of interviewees

Concerns	Aberdeen	Aberdeenshire	Moray	Total
Water	5	1	5	11
Vehicles	2	1	5	8
Verbal abuse or damage to property	0	4	0	4
Vermin	0	0	4	4
Poor site conditions	0	0	4	4
Fly tipping by locals	1	0	2	3
Other	0	0	2	2
Total	8	6	22	36

The main concerns regarding health and safety reflect the findings of the original research that Gypsies/Travellers main concerns are proximity to water and vehicles. It is evident in the data that more concerns were raised regarding health and safety in Moray than all other areas despite this being the smallest number of interviewees. These statistics reflect the location and condition of the unauthorised sites used in this area during this research.

Of great concern was the condition of one long-term unauthorised site in Moray located in the previously closed and derelict Council Gypsy/Traveller site. The interviewees there raised significant health and safety concerns, including infestation by vermin, suspected asbestos on site and generally extremely poor site conditions. This site had several young children resident on it when visited.

This site was the worst unauthorised encampment the author visited during this research.

5. Gypsy/Travellers' views on Housing, Travelling and Work

As in the original research, this chapter examines three topics that can be inter-related. Housing is a form of accommodation used by Gypsies/Travellers, many of whom use settled accommodation as a winter base.

a) Housing

During this research many reasons were given for Gypsies/Travellers using housing, ranging from lack of official sites, the systematic blocking off of traditional stopping sites, health and age related issues. Seasonal Gypsies/Travellers utilised their house as a winter base.

Of those interviewed 69 (84%) had lived in housing at some time, either now 35 (43%) or in the past 34 (41%), whilst a total of 13 (16%) interviewees had never lived in housing.

Of those who had never lived in housing, 7 (54%) stated they would never want to.

The majority of interviewees stated they had no desire to live in inner city areas rather in rural settings, or on the fringes of large towns or cities.

The one lasting memory of this researcher during this research was that, irrespective of the factors that impacted on them to return to housing, 76

(93%) interviewees stated it was their intention or wish to travel at some stage of the year whether they had a house or were on a site.

i) Current Housing Experience

A total of 35 (43%) interviewees stated they had houses at the time of being interviewed. These interviewees consisted of 25 on unauthorised sites, 7 on official sites and 3 on private sites.

This accommodation consisted of 22 local authority/housing associations, 8 privately rented and 5 owner-occupied houses.

Six (17%) of these interviewees stated they had experienced problems where they lived. The most common problem was neighbour trouble or from other locals when their Gypsy/Traveller identity was known (5) and one other being unable to settle due to depression and stress when living in a house. One of those interviewees suffering neighbour problems also suffered damage to his property.

ii) Past Housing Experience

A total of 34 (41%) interviewees stated they had lived in housing in the past, whilst a 13 (16%) had never lived in housing.

The analysis of those interviewees who had lived in housing in the past indicated that:

- 10 (63%) interviewees on local authority sites;

- 7 (64%) interviewees on private sites, and
- 17 (31%) interviewees on unauthorised sites had previously resided in housing.

The length of time these interviewees had lived on housing ranged from a few weeks to 40 years.

- 11 (32%) interviewees had resided in housing for less than a year, several only for a few weeks;
- 8 (23%) between 1 and 3 years;
- 4 (12%) between 3 and 5 years, and
- 11 (32%) over 5 years.

A total of 19 (56%) of these interviewees stated they had experienced problems living in settled housing, some a combination of difficulties. Those with the shortest stays generally stated they '*had trouble settling*' or suffered from psychological problems such as depression and stress. A total of 9 interviewees identified psychological problems encountered in settled housing. Other problems encountered included neighbour disputes (8), damage to property (3) and bullying of children (3). Proportionately, this data indicates a substantial increase in

difficulties encountered in settled housing compared with the original research where a third of those interviewed encountered difficulties. When these interviewees were asked if they would consider residing in housing again 12 (35%) stated they would not, providing similar data to the original research.

The preferred types of housing by the majority of these interviewees was accommodation set in a rural setting or in the outskirts of larger towns or cities. Given the issues surrounding accommodation in the North East of Scotland at present the issue of group housing was not discussed, as there is very little likelihood of such accommodation being provided.

The main reasons for considering housing ranged from health related matters in elderly Gypsies/Travellers to educational considerations of children. Several Gypsies/Travellers also commented that the disappearance of stopping places and availability of sites were also factors considered.

b) Travelling

Details of Gypsies/Travellers' recent experiences of travelling are included in this section, including time spent travelling, distance travelled, types of site visited and the ease or difficulty in accessing these sites. Additionally

interviewees were asked how patterns of movement and lifestyles had changed and how they would prefer to travel in the future.

i) Time spent travelling

The main differences between the original and the current research is that Gypsies/Travellers appear to be spending considerably more time travelling. See table 5.1 Time spent travelling in past 12 months.

Table 5.1 Time spent travelling in past 12 months

Time scale	Did not travel	Up to 3 months	Up to 6 months	6 – 10 months	All year	Total
Local Authority sites	5 (15)	6 (15)	4 (6)	1 (3)	0 (1)	16 (40)
Private sites	3 (6)	5 (3)	2 (4)	0 (2)	1 (3)	11 (18)
Unauthorised sites	1 (2)	17 (5)	7 (3)	16 (5)	14 (8)	55 (23)
Total	9 (23)	28 (23)	13 (13)	17 (10)	15 (12)	82 (81)*

NB Original research data indicated in (red). (*There appears to be one less response in the original data)

Examining this data reveals that there is a considerable increase in time spent travelling in the North East of Scotland compared with the original data. The original research indicated that 23 (28%) interviewees did not travel with the current data indicating that only 9 (11%) were not travelling. The majority of those travelling in the current research are from unauthorised sites, 54 (66%) compared with 21 (26%) in the original research.

It is undoubtedly the case that this is as a result of the large reduction in available pitches on authorised sites in the area, as detailed earlier in this report. Contrary to the original research, despite the reduction in pitches and the blocking off of unauthorised sites, Gypsies/Travellers continue to travel in the area, resorting to alternative halting places.

The main reason given for not travelling related to health issues in the case of those on the local authority sites and commitments to the Light and Life Mission on the private sites. The interviewee on the unauthorised site considered it a permanent base and had no wish to travel.

ii) Areas travelled and travelling companions

A total of 73 interviewees had travelled in the previous 12 months. The breakdown of areas travelled is as follows:

- Scotland only – 42 (58%)
- England – 30 (41%)
- Wales – 18 (25%)
- Ireland – 14 (19%)
- Other – 7 (10%)

Details of how far the interviewees travelled from what they considered their base area are detailed in table 5.2.

Table 5.2 Travel from base area

Distance	Number	Percentage
Within 100 miles	5	7%
Between 100-200 miles	32	44%
Between 200-300 miles	6	8%
More than 300 miles	30	41%
Total	73	100%

Comparing this data with that contained in the original research shows broadly similar patterns of travelling and distance travelled.

iii) Composition of travelling groups

As in the original research the majority of interviewees could provide several answers to this question. For the purposes of this research the answer represents the preferred composition of travelling groups undertaken in the recent past.

The interviewees, in the majority of cases either travelled with their own household 18 (25%) or other family members 48 (66%). Only 1 (1%) interviewee travelled alone, with 6 (8%) travelling with other families.

There was a strong bond between groups of Gypsies/Travellers on encampments visited, indicative of these statistics.

Several interviewees stated they would only reside on an encampment where they knew other residents, as they considered it safer than associating with unknown Gypsy/Traveller groups.

iv) Sites used when travelling

Overall the current research indicated that whilst travelling the majority of Gypsies/Travellers used unauthorised sites. The breakdown of sites used is shown on table 5.3.

Table 5.3 Different sites used by interviewees when travelling

Sites used by interviewee	Local Authority Site	Private Site	Roadside/ unauthorised	Farmers field
Interviewees on Local Authority site	8	5	4	0
Interviewees on Private site	8	6	6	2
Interviewees on Unauthorised site	20	17	54	11

A total of 28 (34%) interviewees used solely unauthorised encampments when travelling.

v) Ease or difficulty in finding and accessing sites

A substantial number of interviewees had encountered difficulties in finding and accessing sites. These difficulties did not occur solely in the North East of Scotland but were encountered wherever they travelled.

A total of 37 (48%) interviewees who had travelled had encountered difficulties in accessing official sites. The most common difficulty being extended waiting lists to access official sites, stated by 17 (23%) of those who had encountered difficulties. One Gypsy/Traveller stated

there was a 4-5 year waiting list on a site outwith the North East of Scotland.

The next most common difficulty was access to private caravan sites where 12 (16%) interviewees had encountered difficulties. The reason given was refusal to permit commercial vehicles onto these sites. This prohibition is a Local Authority licensing condition on many sites in the area. However, those Gypsies/Travellers interviewed were unaware of these licensing conditions and interpreted the refusal of access as being because they were Gypsies/Travellers, interpreting refusal as discriminatory.

Surprisingly, the lowest numbers of interviewees 6 (8%), encountering difficulties were those accessing unauthorised encampments, where little difficulty was encountered by interviewees resident on these sites.

Undoubtedly the lack of accommodation, particularly in the North East of Scotland, is a contributory factor in these statistics, with the majority of interviewees using unauthorised sites. Many of the Gypsies/Travellers interviewed were aware of local unauthorised site locations that had been used as stopping places previously, and used them on more than one occasion.

vi) Main reason for movement

The main reasons given for moving from site to site by interviewees in this research were 'way of life' (38) or work related reasons (24). In several interviews a combination of both was given as a reason for movement. The next most common reason for movement was attendance at Light and Life Missions (9).

The results of this data differ greatly from the original research where the main reason was work related issues, particularly seasonal work. A large number of those Gypsies/Travellers who were interviewed in the current research showed an increased awareness of their cultural heritage of travelling.

vii) Forced off sites

The data obtained from interviewees was designed to explore whether Gypsies/Travellers were being forcibly moved on while travelling. A total of 47 (57%) interviewees had been forced to move in the preceding 12 months.

The methods used to achieve this movement varied. Not all forced movements occurred in the North East of Scotland.

The most common method was civil eviction processes reported by 21 interviewees, ranging from the initial service of a notice to quit through to final eviction. There was some evidence that Gypsies/Travellers

served with legal documents were unaware of the content, many assuming the initial notice to quit was an eviction order. There was no evidence of individual Sheriff Officers who served these documents, taking cognisance of the literacy issues impacting on the Gypsies/Travellers concerned or adequately explaining the content of these documents.

The next most common method of forced movement reported was by the Police (13). There was no evidence of Grampian Police forcing movement of interviewees and generally the greater majority of interviewees commenting very positively on the change in methods being adopted by the Scottish Police, as opposed to the methods in England and Wales. A total of 6 interviewees had been forced to move in England and Wales using the Police powers contained in Section 61 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994. All had subsequently moved to other unauthorised encampments as a result of these actions.

Whilst generally positive regarding interaction with the Police in Scotland regarding occupation of sites, 3 interviewees commented on being forced to move in the Tayside Police area. No in depth interviews were however undertaken in the Tayside area due to lack of research resources.

Disturbingly 8 interviewees stated they had been forced to move as a result of threats or harassment. Whilst not all of these incidents were in the North East of Scotland a number were. These incidents ranged from verbal threats to spreading silage over a Gypsy/Traveller's caravan.

None of these incidents were reported to the authorities.

Only 2 interviewees reported being forced to move as a result of other Gypsies/Travellers actions.

Analysis of this data reveals the ongoing difficulty in accessing official accommodation that has changed little from the original research. As indicated earlier in this report, the non-provision of official accommodation, blocking off of traditional halting sites, in tandem with the actions taken to move on Gypsies/Travellers, is a vicious circle that can only lead to increased unauthorised encampments, inevitably resulting in increased inter-community tensions.

viii) Changes in Aspirations

With regard to whether the travelling or non-travelling undertaken by each interviewee in the last year was typical of how they normally travelled in the last 5 – 10 years, the greater majority 51 (62%), believed it had not changed.

Of the 31 (38%) who felt it had changed, 19 stated that this had been caused by the lack of available accommodation and stopping areas, with the others stating various reasons, from illness to family issues, with a few becoming resident on a private site.

The make up of travelling groups had largely remained unchanged, with only 6 interviewees stating there had been a change.

All interviewees were asked how they would like to be able to travel in the future. Similarly to the original research a total of 50 interviews wanted more freedom to travel, stating that more stopping places and halting sites were desirable as opposed to 14 who wished to travel as at present. A number of Gypsies/Travellers (8) had experience of the planning system or indicated a wish to purchase their own land however had little knowledge of the planning system and indeed two interviewees had encountered severe difficulties in the past, having purchased land and subsequently been refused planning permission.

A total of 6 interviewees wished to give up travelling completely.

Analysis of these statistics indicate that despite the limited availability of accommodation in the North East of Scotland, the majority of Gypsies/Travellers are continuing to travel in the area, with others wishing to travel more frequently. There is an identified need to

provide both long-term all year accommodation and short term halting sites for the increase in short stay visitors during the summer months.

There is an increasing awareness, given the lack of official sites that purchase and development of land for residential purposes is an option. Sadly there is little awareness of planning legislation or procedures amongst the Gypsy/Traveller community that could result in great difficulties in the future.

Aberdeen City Council are in the process of identifying and planning a network of halting sites for development in the near future, which is welcomed, and refurbishing the official site, increasing its capacity. At the time of writing this report, the completion date of this work is unknown. Similarly Aberdeenshire and Moray Council's are at an earlier stage of development of halting sites that will undoubtedly result in a delay in development however, when operational these sites will also be a welcome and necessary development.

There is a very real need for the provision, and where available, increased awareness of advisory/advocacy services that Gypsies/Travellers can interact with regarding civil, criminal justice and planning issues.

c) Work

The original research made reference to the work of Okely²² regarding the employment characteristics of Gypsies/Travellers. The current research confirmed these characteristics regarding self-employment, nomadism and based on a family unit or extended family. There was interestingly evidence of employment of economic migrants in building work, by Irish Travellers, who on two separate instances employed Polish migrants in their family based businesses.

The employment activity in the North East of Scotland however differed from the work of Okely, although this activity was still labour intensive and small scale in nature. The interviewees additionally indicated flexibility in activity undertaking, in a number of cases, more than one employment activity.

The breakdown of the employment activity of interviewees was as follows:

- Gardening/Landscaping (59 interviewees);
- Building work including PVC, roofing and driveway blocking (21);
- Scrap (17) and,
- Sales of goods/vehicles (5).

²² Okely J (1983) *The Traveller-Gypsies*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

There was minimal evidence of general agricultural work and sales of goods, with no evidence of specialised 'Gypsy' goods and services identified in Okely's work. The breakdown of the employment activity of interviewees does reflect more the activities identified in the work of Clark and Greenfields²³, which is not surprising, given the Gypsy/Traveller communities ability to identify and adapt to economic opportunities.

When asked if the current employment activity differed from that of the past, 28 interviewees stated that there had been a change in the last few years. The main economic activity that had changed was farm related work where several interviewees (15) stated that economic migrants from Eastern Europe were now undertaking the majority of this work.

Given that the majority of Gypsies/Travellers in the North East of Scotland are employed in gardening/landscaping work, potential recycling methods for 'green waste' should be a consideration in local authority management strategies.

²³ Clark, C. and Greenfields, M. *Here to stay – The Gypsies and Travellers of Britain*. (University of Hertfordshire Press 2006).

6. Gypsies/Travellers' views on Advice and Information

This chapter provides data regarding the sources of information and advice received or obtained by Gypsies/Travellers. Additionally information was also received regarding what information or advice services Gypsies/Travellers use, would prefer to use and the preferred method of interaction.

a) Recent points of contact

Similarly to the original research, the number of interviewees who had contacted outside bodies for information and advice reflected the original data with 37 (40%) interviewees having done so in the preceding 12 months. As in the original research, female Gypsies/Travellers were the members of the community who made most contact with outside bodies, with 26 (70%). The role of female members of the community appears to have changed little regarding interaction with outside bodies from the original research. Given the employment role of male Gypsies/Travellers and their absence during the day, in tandem with the role of female Gypsies/Travellers in managing the family during the day, this is not surprising.

i) Agencies contacted for information or advice

The breakdown of contacts made for information and advice revealed the majority were regarding health issues followed by housing issues:

- Health - 20

- Housing, including contact with site manager/liaison officers -15
- Voluntary sector i.e. G/TEIP - 10

Several of the contacts with housing were assisted by G/TEIP providing assistance with form filling or making enquiries on behalf of the particular interviewee.

Interviewees made further contacts to individual Council Departments including education (3) and Environmental health (1).

Two interviewees had contacted Grampian Racial Equality Council regarding racial abuse and only 1 interviewee had reported the matter to Grampian Police.

Several interviewees had contacted more than one organisation with health and housing frequently being mentioned as having both been contacted by individual interviewees.

ii) Making contact with these organisations

The method of making contact with other bodies was generally by telephone or dropping in at offices. Methods of contact are detailed in table 6.1 below.

Table 6.1 Method of making contact with other bodies

Method	Number	Percentage %
Telephone	15 (8)	40% (26%)
Dropped in at office	13 (11)	35% (35%)
Made an appointment	1 (1)	3% (3%)
Other	8 (11)	22% (36%)
Total	37 (31)	100% (100%)

NB Original research data indicated in (red).

The main differences in method of contact from the original research are an increase in contact being made of 6 (19%) and a substantial increase in telephone contacts possibly attributable to the increase in use of mobile phones. There were few interviewees who did not have access to a mobile phone.

The majority of other contacts in the current research related to interaction with G/TEIP and particular public authorities.

The knowledge of where to get different kinds of information came from informal networks mainly within the Gypsy/Traveller community and is detailed in table 6.2 below.

Table 6.2 Knowledge of where to get information

Source	Number	Percentage %
Family/friend	4	11%
Site Manager	2	5%
Leaflet	1	3%
General knowledge/other	30	81%
Total	37	100%

As in the original research some interviewees were vague on the source of this knowledge. It is undoubtedly the case that networking within the Gypsy/Traveller community is a valuable source of local knowledge.

iii) General nature and response to enquiry

The main areas where information and advice was sought were:

- Housing, both access to settled housing and official sites.
- Access to health care.
- Voluntary organisation G/TEIP to secure advice regarding the aforementioned issues.

In the majority of interviews undertaken it appeared that the interviewees had received a satisfactory response in 31 (84%) cases.

A minority of interviewees did however state that when making contact they encountered prejudice and perceived their treatment as racially motivated. A Gypsy/Traveller in Moray detailed difficulties encountered in obtaining settled housing and was afraid to leave the area for fear of losing a place in the waiting list. This interviewee had remained on unauthorised encampments in the area for this reason.

As previously stated, a few Gypsies/Travellers in the Aberdeen City area encountered difficulty registering in health practices, as they did not have a fixed address. They did however receive initial treatment.

All Gypsies/Travellers interviewed in the Aberdeen City area, and in some cases beyond, complemented the service provided by the Bucksburn Practice.

No interviewees stated they had contact with Social Workers. There was an evident suspicion and mistrust of Social Workers who were considered as interfering with families and, in a few cases, a perception that they would remove children into care.

The majority of interviewees who had contact with G/TEIP were positive regarding the service provided. One interviewee was however concerned regarding tensions that had arisen between Gypsy/Traveller families when the content of a conversation, between an outreach

worker and one family had been divulged to another family resulting in tensions emerging between the families.

b) Past points of contact

The main organisations that Gypsies/Travellers had ever used or contacted for information or advice were local Health Centres and the voluntary organisation G/TEIP. The other sources were used less frequently to varying degrees with Grampian Police and Social Work not contacted by any interviewees for information and advice. Grampian Police had however been contacted by some Gypsies/Travellers to report incidents.

A total of 73 (89%) interviewees stated they had contacted Health Centres or health professionals for information or advice. The greater majority reported a good service in the area, particularly with respect of the Bucksburn Practice in Aberdeen that was previously commented on.

The local voluntary organisation G/TEIP was contacted by 60 (73%) interviewees the majority of whom had confidence and respected the service provided by this organisation. The only negative remarks encountered related to the incident referred to in the previous section and extended delays for responses from the Project. A few interviewees had experience of other voluntary organisations, including Save the Children, and commented positively regarding the service provided by these organisations.

The number of interviewees who reported contacting Site Managers was 42 (51%) who encountered varying responses from individual Site Managers, many who were very good, with a few being poor.

These interviewees' comments regarding the part-time Site Manager at the Aberdeenshire official and private sites were all very positive as were those regarding the Site Manager at the Aberdeen City official site.

An equal number of interviewees had contacted local Housing Departments or Education Departments, 34 (41%), the majority of which were outwith the North East of Scotland. Contact with Education Departments was, in the majority of cases, via teachers and considered very positive by the majority of interviewees concerned.

A varied response was given by interviewees regarding Housing Departments, where some prejudicial treatment was reported, again mainly outwith the North East of Scotland. The main complaint being that housing staff did not understand the needs of Gypsies/Travellers.

The following table details the contacts reported by interviewees:

Table 6.3 Previous contacts reported by interviewees

Organisation/individual	Number	Percentage %
Health Centre/GP	73	89%
Voluntary Organisations	60	73%
Site Manager	42	51%
Local Housing Dept	34	41%
Teacher	34	41%
Traveller Liaison Officer	31	38%
Benefits Agency	29	35%
Solicitor/Law Centre	26	32%
Post Office	23	28%
Job Centre/Careers Office	22	27%
Private Landlord	21	26%
Housing Association	12	15%
Shelter	3	4%
CAB	17	21%
Welfare Rights Advisor	7	9%
Social Work Dept	6	7%
Other	5	6%
Woman's Aid	0	0%

The main differences from the previous research is an increase in contact with Health professionals, Site Managers, Teachers and the voluntary sector in the form of G/TEIP. All these increases represent positive developments in engagement with the Gypsy/Traveller community.

Similar to the original research, the usage of Benefits' agencies, job centres and Woman's Aid remain very similar.

i) Main sources of information

As in the original research the results indicate that Gypsies/Travellers mostly rely on informal networks to access information from mostly family and friends (80) and other Gypsies/Travellers (77).

A total of 63 (77%) interviewees stated they received information from G/TEIP although the majority did not state this was their main source of information.

The interviewees variously used the other sources of information, with approximately half utilising site managers/wardens and a third visiting officials as a source.

The least used source of information was local Council offices, with 14 interviewees reporting these premises as a source of information.

As in the original research the question regarding the least likely source of information the interviewees would use was problematical and not answered well. Those that did answer mainly identified Council offices as the least likely source of information.

ii) Preferred mode of contact

All correspondents answered this question with a single preference.

The majority of interviewees (71) preferred to receive information face to face, with (9) preferring telephone and only (2) written responses.

Those who preferred face-to-face contact generally had no preference whether this occurred on site or off site.

The aforementioned findings indicate that the main organisations contacted for information and advice related to health issues and access to accommodation with a number of interviewees utilising G/TEIP for this information. The preferred method of obtaining information was face to face with an apparent resistance to engaging with local Council offices. As in the original research the majority of Gypsies/Travellers making these contacts were female.

The main source of information and advice however remains social networking within the Gypsy/Traveller community.

7. Gypsies/Travellers' views on prejudice and harassment

Gypsies/Travellers' experiences of prejudice and harassment was one of the main reasons for undertaking this research, to inform the authors PhD research examining this area of Gypsy/Traveller law in Scotland.

a) Prejudice and Harassment

Since the original research, there has been legislative change that should have impacted positively on this area of Gypsy/Travellers lives. Sadly the current research indicates a substantial increase in prejudice and harassment suffered by this community that was unacceptably high in the original research in any case.

The main legislative provisions that should have impacted on this area of Gypsy/Travellers lives are the Human Rights Act 1998 (HRA) and the Race Relations Act 1976 as amended by the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 (RRAA). Each piece of legislation has the potential to impact on this area, the HRA regarding the duty on Public Authorities to act in compliance with European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and take cognisance of the jurisprudence developing in the European Court regarding Gypsies/Travellers and the RRAA preventing discrimination and the creation of a General Duty on public authorities, in particular the duty to promote good relations between different racial groups in society.

A full analysis of this legislation is outwith the scope of this research though very much part of the author's PhD research.

The one public authority on which the majority of Gypsies/Travellers commented positively was the Police Service in Scotland. Many Gypsies/Travellers contrasted their treatment by the Police Service in Scotland with other areas of the United Kingdom, where they often encountered harassment. There was however instances of concern highlighted during the research in a minority of cases regarding the Scottish Police Service.

This turn around from the original research will be examined further in this report.

In the current research the data has been focused on prejudice and harassment suffered in the preceding 12 months. Many of those who provided a negative response had in fact suffered prejudice or harassment outwith this time scale. These statistics should not be interpreted as applying solely to the North East of Scotland, as many interviewees also referred to incidents outwith this area.

The breakdown of data regarding prejudice suffered by sex of respondent is provided in table 7.1 below.

Table 7.1 Experience of prejudice or harassment in the past year

Sex	Experienced prejudice/harassment	Experienced prejudice/harassment
	Yes	No
Male	31 (38%)	7 (9%)
Female	34 (41%)	10 (12%)
Total	65 (79%)	17 (21%)

These statistics indicate that 79% of interviewees experienced prejudice and harassment in the preceding 12 months in comparison with the original research findings of 62% of interviewees, indicating a very substantial increase of 17%.

The sources of the prejudice and harassment suffered by Gypsies/Travellers follow similar sources as detailed in the original research, however additional local sources were identified. This research will examine the following sources:

- Local communities
- Police
- Local Councils and other officials
- Media
- Elected Representatives

i) Local communities

The breakdown of these incidents of prejudice and harassment indicate that the local community figured in the majority of instances (63). This behaviour ranged from mainly verbal/racial abuse such as '*gypsy bastards*', '*tinky bastards*' etc commonly being used. Verbal abuse generally occurred from the occupants of vehicles when passing sites or deliberately driving onto sites. Disturbingly, a substantial number of interviewees (24) reported having their caravans damaged by stone throwing during racial attacks.

Several interviewees (7) reported difficulties in shops and garages. These ranged from being continually followed around a store by staff to refusal to supply water by several local garages in the Aberdeen area. The latter occurred during heightened anti-Traveller reporting in local press that will be examined later.

The statistics regarding prejudice and harassment show a considerable increase in all areas regarding the local community.

ii) Police

A total of 20 interviewees reported experiencing prejudice and harassment from the police. This statistic represents a reduction from the original research from 41% to 31%. However, those interviewed were asked to be more specific about where these incidents occurred and 8 reported that they had occurred in England. Similarly when asked where in Scotland

the majority of incidents had occurred, the particular interviewees stated the majority were outside the North East of Scotland. A total of 3 incidents were attributable to the Grampian Police area of responsibility.

A substantial number of interviewees commented very positively on the methods adopted by the police in Scotland as opposed to the rest of the United Kingdom when dealing with Gypsies/Travellers. There was however occasional instances of abusive behaviour by police officers with the Tayside area particularly mentioned as difficult for Gypsies/Travellers by several interviewees and other Gypsies/Travellers who did not wish to be interviewed during this research.

With regard to Grampian Police, the incidents reported related to the attitude of one officer in Aberdeenshire and the over use of Stop and Search procedures in the Moray area.

Examination of the reported incidents (12), identified by interviewees as occurring in Scotland, indicates that 18% of those interviewed had encountered prejudice and harassment from the Scottish Police Service. Whilst the original research does not differentiate between individual Police Forces these statistics do indicate a substantial decrease.

The reduction in incidents, from the original research, is considered by the author as attributable to the Scottish Police Service diversity training and

policies, in tandem with the national policy regarding management of unauthorised encampments.

Despite the positive comments by individual Gypsies/Travellers regarding the Police Service in Scotland none reported seeking information and advice from this public authority of their own volition although several had reported incidents to this public authority. These contacts were considered reactive as opposed to proactively seeking information and advice. There was an apparent lack of confidence in interviewees to engage and interact with the Police Service proactively.

iii) Local Councils and other officials

A total of 13 interviewees stated they had encountered prejudice and harassment from Council and other Officials mainly outwith the North East of Scotland. This statistic represents a reduction from the original research from 31% to 20%. These incidents ranged from the general attitude of officials to the application procedures for housing. Several interviewees commented on a lack of awareness regarding Gypsy/Traveller culture displayed by some Council officials, particularly regarding travelling. In general the Gypsies/Travellers interviewed were positive regarding their interaction with Councils when it occurred, however there was a general lack of confidence in engaging with Councils.

Included in the aforementioned total of responses are 4 interviewees who reported difficulties with health professionals previously discussed.

iv) Media

The media impact on racism and xenophobia towards Gypsies and Travellers is a matter of concern that has been raised in the United Nations, Council of Europe and domestically in the United Kingdom. The concerns raised, regarding the impact of negative reporting on racism, racial stereotyping and xenophobia, whilst outwith the scope of this particular research, are none the less relevant to Gypsies/Travellers in the North East of Scotland.

For several years a local newspaper has engaged in a prolonged anti-Traveller campaign primarily in the Aberdeen City/Aberdeenshire areas. This campaign has consisted of negative reporting using, on occasions, false or inaccurate information, including the use of photographs, usually of environmental issues, unconnected to the particular issue being reported. This campaign also uses negative comments attributed to a few elected representatives that are often repeated in subsequent articles.

The issue of elected representatives will be discussed later in this report.

The impact of this campaign is to effectively stereotype all Gypsies/Travellers and inevitably focuses negatively on unauthorised encampments, and the subsequent issues surrounding them, contributing to increased community tensions.

Given the accommodation issues previously discussed in this report it is inevitable that the majority of Gypsies/Travellers visiting the area will have to resort to unauthorised encampment.

During the course of this research several interviewees commented on their mistrust of local newspapers and stated that during heightened reporting by that particular section of the press they were subjected to increased racial abuse and racially motivated attacks.

v) Elected Representatives

Elected Representatives have a duty to comply with the provisions of the Race Relations Act 1976 as amended by the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 and in particular the General Duty within that legislation, regarding promotion of good relations between different racial groups in society.

As briefly mentioned in the aforementioned comments on the media, the role of elected representatives can impact on the prejudice and harassment suffered by Gypsies/Travellers. The vast majority of elected representatives in the North East of Scotland are responsible politicians, many of whom challenge racist behaviour, particularly by other elected representatives.

There have been several instances, in the past and present, of statements, attributed to a small minority of elected representatives,

regarding Gypsies/Travellers that are quoted by the media that have a negative impact on community tensions. These statements include repeated calls for Gypsies/Travellers to be forced to use the Aberdeen City official site, despite it being full to capacity, and stereotypical statements regarding environmental issues that do not apply to the majority of Gypsies/Travellers. Similarly in the Moray Council area an elected representative has repeatedly requested that a local byelaw be introduced to prevent Gypsies/Travellers residing on unauthorised sites in the area, despite the lack of an official site.

Whilst these statements indicate the particular elected representatives views, and are generally condemned by the majority of elected representatives, local media concentrate on these negative statements rather than the majority view.

Such statements reinforce the impact of the media stereotyping the whole Gypsy/Traveller community, reinforcing others prejudices.

Whilst individual Gypsies/Travellers did not make any comments regarding elected representatives they are included as this conduct impacts on community tensions and consequently prejudice and harassment suffered by Gypsies/Travellers.

Throughout this research the author became increasingly aware that those Gypsies/Travellers interviewed considered they were being discriminated

against on racial grounds, to a greater degree than is apparent in the original research.

What was particularly disturbing and indicative of the issues to be overcome was the fatalistic viewpoint of the majority of Gypsies/Travellers who considered being victims of racism as part of their way of life, with one interviewee encapsulating this in the statement:

'Its always been and always will be like this'

One interviewee also made a statement that captured the views of Gypsies/Travellers on travelling:

'Trying to stop Travellers travelling is like trying to make a black man white'

This statement is indicative of the determination within the Gypsy/Traveller community, to continue travelling, that was so apparent to the author during this research.

It is of great concern that, despite the various legislative provisions and policies designed to prevent prejudice and harassment, there is such a large increase reported by interviewees, compared with the original research.

Whilst the interviewees have generally travelled outwith the North East of Scotland and not all prejudice and harassment occurred in this area, there are

a number of factors that can be identified as contributory factors in the North East of Scotland and indeed are replicated in other areas. The lack of accommodation provision, in the North East of Scotland, has resulted in increased unauthorised encampments, combined with the systematic closure or blocking off of these locations, once Gypsies/Travellers leave the sites. These actions result in other areas being used for unauthorised encampments by Gypsies/Travellers. These issues, in combination with the actions of the minority of Gypsies/Travellers who are irresponsible regarding environmental waste, inevitably results in increased community tensions.

Additionally, in tandem with these activities, the campaign undertaken by local press resulting in stereotyping of all Gypsies/Travellers has further increased community tensions between the settled and Gypsy/Traveller community.

b) Responses to Prejudice and Harassment

When asked their response to prejudice and harassment and whether they would make a formal complaint regarding this, 56% stated they would do so and 44% that they would not make a formal complaint. Those stating they would make a complaint generally referred to serious complaints of physical abuse/attacks, the majority ignoring low-level abuse such as racial remarks.

A total of 22 (27%) interviewees had made complaint regarding incidents of prejudice and harassment to various organisations as follows:

- Police – 14
- CRE/Local Racial Equality Council - 7
- Local Council – 1

Only one complaint was regarding the actions of Police that occurred outwith the North East of Scotland and was not resolved to the satisfaction of the complainer.

A number of complaints were made to the Police regarding verbal abuse or physical attacks on Gypsies/Travellers.

Further complaints were made to the CRE regarding access to a seasonal site and management of a housing issue by a local Council.

Of those stating they would not make a complaint 16 interviewees stated this was because they had no confidence in public authorities progressing their complaints. A total of 12 interviewees in this group stated they would ignore, move on or *'walk away'* from such incidents revealing an apparent general acceptance that prejudice and harassment was a frequent occurrence for Gypsies/Travellers. The statement of a female Traveller typifies this:

'I have had it all my life'

A total of 7 interviewees in this group stated they would '*sort it out themselves*'.

Overall the interviewee's responses indicate that the majority of incidents of prejudice and harassment towards Gypsies/Travellers originate from the local community with few occurrences from public authorities. The responses to reporting these incidents are similar to the original research in that very few were reported.

It is of concern that there is an apparent lack of confidence that any complaint would be progressed, with interviewees perceiving this was because they were Gypsies/Travellers, illustrating a need for all public authorities to examine and implement improved methods of engagement and consultation with this community to overcome this lack of confidence and suspicion.

c) Harassment by other Gypsies/Travellers

No difficulties were encountered during this research regarding obtaining data regarding this issue.

A total of 24 (29%) interviewees stated they had encountered harassment from other Gypsies/Travellers in the past. The general response to this harassment was to move on.

Generally the interviewees would not detail particular incidents or identify those responsible other than by surnames known to the Gypsy/Traveller community.

Most interviewees stated they were careful who they pulled onto a site with to avoid such incidents.

These incidents were not reported to the Police.

d) Other issues

As in the original research a final opportunity was given to interviewees to raise any other issues not already discussed. A small number (10) did raise other issues.

In general, during interviews, individual interviewees discussed other issues at times that, whilst not specific to the question being asked, were none the less of interest to the research and noted at the time. This resulted in extended interview times in some cases. A number of these issues raised would have been appropriate in the Other Issues section of the research but to avoid interrupting the flow of each interview were discussed when raised.

The main issues raised by interviewees related to sites, race/ethnicity and media.

Two residents of the Aberdeen City Council site raised issues of the size and lack of consultation regarding refurbishment/alterations to the site respectively.

A further interviewee suggested appropriate sport facilities for young Gypsies/Travellers in Aberdeen, relating to boxing training.

Other issues raised regarding sites were regarding lack of knowledge of planning regulations regarding land purchase, lack of availability of sites, with one interviewee advising on good practice on a site in Northern Ireland.

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Appendix – The Questionnaire

SURVEY OF GYPSY/TRAVELLERS' VIEWS

INTRODUCTION

This survey is being undertaken with Gypsies/Travellers in the North East of Scotland as part of a research project being undertaken at the University of Aberdeen. Additionally the information obtained will be used to inform public authorities of Gypsies/Travellers views, provide up to date information about what Gypsies/Travellers think about a range of issues, particularly your views on sites and how travelling may have changed over the last 5/10 years or so and the type of information and advice that Gypsies/Travellers need and how you get this or how you would like to get it.

The whole interview is completely confidential.

INTERVIEWER CHECK:

SITE:

Date of interview:

Start time:

Finish time:

Sex Respondent: Male 1 / **Female** 2.

PERMISSION TO RECORD INTERVIEW: Yes 1 / **No** 2

If, during the interview, a particular question comes up that you'd really rather not answer, then please just say so.

1. Have you been interviewed for this survey already?

YES 1 —————> **END OF INTERVIEW**

NO 2

SECTION A - SITES

This section is about the type of site that you're currently living on and your views about that.

2. How long have you lived here?

Up to 1 month 1

1-3 months 2

3-6 months 3

6-12 months 4

More than a year 5

3. Do you have a base somewhere else? YES 1

(PROBE - where re type of site/house?) NO 2

IF STAYING ON A ROADSIDE CAMP ASK GREEN SHEET. IF STAYING ON LA/PRIVATE SITE ASK YELLOW SHEET.

QR1. Are there any services provided to the camp by the LA?
(PROBE - school bus, rubbish collection, water?)

QR2. Are there any people who visit the site like health visitors, teachers, support workers (e.g. Scottish Gypsy Traveller Association, Save the Children, Local support workers)
(PROBE FULLY e.g. if visiting teacher, how often and for what age group?)

QR3. Which services or local support people would you like to have on the site?

QR4. Are there any water/toilet facilities nearby that you can use?
(PROBE – what, how near and do you have to pay?)

QR5. How close are local services that you might need?
(PROBE - How do you get there? Is it easy to get there by public transport?)

- Shops
- Health Centre
- Post Office
- School

QR6 Do you have any concerns about health and safety at this site?
(e.g. - near a rubbish tip/railway/busy road/river/factory?)

RETURN TO MAIN QUESTIONNAIRE AT Q4 ON NEXT WHITE SHEET.

Is there a manager on site? YES 1
(PROBE: hours available) NO 2

QLP1. Do you find the site manager useful?

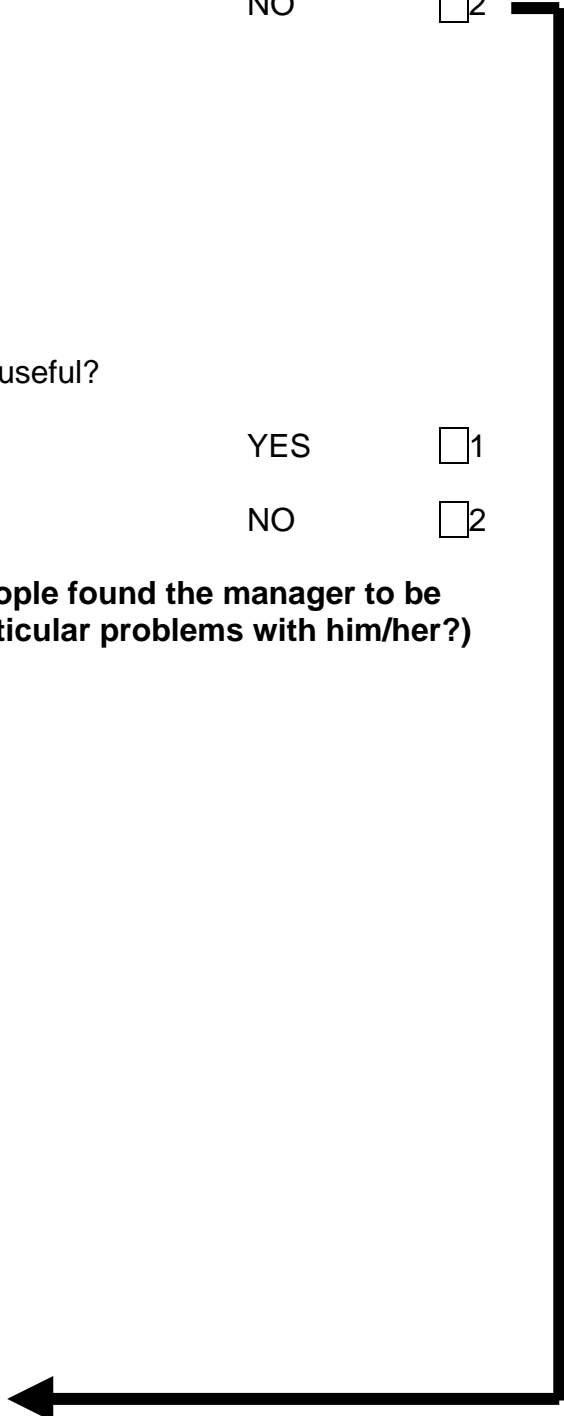
YES 1
NO 2

(PROBE WHY? Have you/other people found the manager to be particularly helpful or had any particular problems with him/her?)

NOW SKIP TO QLP4

QLP2. Would you find one useful?
(WHY)

YES 1
NO 2



QLP4. Is there a barrier at the entrance to the site? YES 1

NO 2

QLP5. Do the barrier restrictions help or hinder you in any way?
(EXPLORE)

YES 1

NO 2

NOW SKIP TO QLP7

QLP6. Would you find this useful?
(WHY)



PITCH INFORMATION

QLP7. Are any of the following facilities provided on your pitch for use just by you?:

(Interviewer tick all that apply)

Chalet with:	w/c	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
	bath/shower	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
	kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
	laundry facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	4
	heating	<input type="checkbox"/>	5
	no chalet	<input type="checkbox"/>	6

QLP8. If there were just two or three improvements which you could make to your pitch, what would they be?

(PROBE: facilities, size, layout for example)

SITE INFORMATION

QLP9. Are any of the following communal facilities provided on the site?

Laundry room	<input type="checkbox"/>	1
Common meeting place	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
Play area	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Lorry parking area	<input type="checkbox"/>	4
Post box	<input type="checkbox"/>	5
Public telephone	<input type="checkbox"/>	6
Toilet/Shower block	<input type="checkbox"/>	7

QLP10. Are there any services provided to the site by the LA?
(PROBE - school bus, (Gypsies/Travellers only/others as well?) rubbish collection?)

QLP11. Is there a postal service to the site and how is it delivered to you?
(e.g. pitch or via warden)

QLP12. Are there any people who visit the site like health visitors, teachers, support workers (e.g. Scottish Gypsy Traveller Association, Save the Children, Gypsy/Traveller Education and Information Project)?
PROBE FULLY
(E.G. IF VISITING TEACHER, HOW OFTEN AND FOR WHAT AGE GROUP?)

QLP13. Which services or local support people would you like to have on site?
(WHY?)

QLP14. How close are local services that you might need?
(PROBE - How do you get there? Is it easy to get there by public transport?)

- Shops

- Health Centre

- Post Office

- School

QLP15. How satisfied are you with the site overall?
(PROBE: facilities/services; size/layout)

QLP16. Are there any site regulations that you find particularly helpful or unhelpful?
(PROBE: permitted length of absence)

QLP17. Do you have any concerns about health and safety at this site?
(e.g. - near a rubbish tip/railway/busy road/river/factory?)

RETURN TO MAIN QUESTIONNAIRE AT Q4 ON NEXT WHITE SHEET.

SECTION B - PATTERNS OF MOVEMENT/LIFESTYLE CHANGES

We've mainly talked about sites so far, so now I'd like to talk about actually travelling, just in general, and how this might have changed? Again I'll start by reading out a short list of options, if you could just say which ones apply to you.

4. How much travelling have you done in the last 12 months:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Did not travel | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 |
| Travelled part of the year (up to 3mths) | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |
| Travelled part of the year (up to 6mths) | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 |
| Travelled part of the year (between 6 - 10mths) | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Travelled all year (less than 2mths in one location) | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |

5. Is this typical or has this changed over the past few years?

(PROBE: forced to housing/bouldering/harassment/children/ill health)

EXPLORE INCREASED TRAVEL WHEN CHILDREN OLDER IF APPLICABLE.

6. Can I just ask you who you normally travel with:

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| By yourself | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 |
| Own household | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |
| Other family members | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 |
| Other families | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |

7. Has this changed over the years?
(EXPLORE WHY?)

IF CODED 1 AT Q4 ABOVE, GO TO Q14 NOW.

8. Where did you travel in the last 12 months:
(TICK ALL THAT APPLY)

- | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Travelled in Scotland | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 |
| Travelled to England | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 |
| Travelled to Ireland | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 |
| Travelled to Wales | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 |

(ASK ONLY IF CODE 1 AT Q8 ABOVE)

9. On average, when you travelled, how far was it from your winter base?

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|---|
| within 100 miles | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 |
| between 100-200 miles | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 |
| between 200-300 miles | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 |
| more than 300 miles | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 |

10. What types of sites did you stay on when you were travelling in the last year?

(TICK ALL THAT APPLY)

- | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|---|
| LA sites | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 |
| Private sites | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 |
| Roadside camps | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 |
| Farmer's field | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 |

11. How easy/difficult was it to find or get onto these sites?

(PROBE: advance booking useful idea?)

12. What were your main reasons for moving from site to site?

(Seasonal work for example)

13. At any time, were you forced to move off a site?

(PROBE FULLY – Reasons: e.g. by authorities/other Gypsies/Travellers; How do you cope with being forced to move off?)

14. Could you describe how you would like to be able to travel in the future?
(PROBE - type of site/facilities/services; EXPLORE awareness of planning system re land purchase if mentioned)

EMPLOYMENT

The next few questions relate to the type of work available for Gypsies/Travellers and how it might have changed over the last 5/10 years.

15. First of all, can you tell me what sorts of things do Gypsies/Travellers in this area do nowadays?
(PROBE - building work, farm work, trees & gardening, mainstream or hawking)

16. Is this different from the types of work that has been done in the past?
(EXPLORE FULLY, particularly how women's employment has changed re type of/participation in labour market)

HOUSING

The next few questions relate to your experience of housing.

17. Do you have a house just now? YES 1

NO 2

18. Is this: Owned (outright/mortgage) 1

Rented from the LA/HA 2

Privately rented 3

19. Why did you choose to have a house?

20. How long have you lived there?

21. How long do you plan to stay?

22. Have you had any problems living there?

NOW GO TO SECTION C

23. Have you ever lived in housing?

YES 1

NO 2 NOW ASK Q27



24. How long was this for?

25. Did you experience any problems living there?

26. Would you consider living in housing again?
(PROBE: tenure preferred; EXPLORE group housing)

NOW GO TO SECTION C

27. Would you ever want to?
(PROBE – WHY? / WHY NOT?)
EXPLORE TENURE TYPE/GROUP HOUSING

SECTION C - ADVICE & INFORMATION

We would now like to talk, just in general, about ways of getting information and advice - we don't need to know any personal details.

28. In the past year or so, what sorts of places have you contacted for information or advice? (such as how to get onto a site, health related matters)

29. What was the general nature of the inquiry?

If respondent hasn't contacted any OUTSIDE body/organisation, then GO STRAIGHT TO Q32

30. How did you get in touch with.....(these places)?

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Telephone | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 |
| Dropped in at the office | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 |
| Made an appointment | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 |

31. How did you know **where** to get this information?

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| family/friend | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 |
| site manager | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 |
| a leaflet | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 |
| general knowledge/other | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 |

32. Did you find out everything you needed to know?

PROBE - Was the enquiry sorted out/referred on/given help to deal with yourself/no help at all? How were you treated by the agency/person – with courtesy/prejudice towards you as a Gypsy/Traveller?

33. Have you ever used any of the following for information and advice?

(Interviewer tick all that apply)

IF YES, PROBE FULLY: problems/satisfaction with service; accessibility

NOTE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Site manager/warden | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Local Health Centre/GP | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 |
| Local Housing Dept. | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Teacher | <input type="checkbox"/> 11 |
| Housing Association | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Women's Aid | <input type="checkbox"/> 12 |
| Shelter | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | Solicitor/Law Centre | <input type="checkbox"/> 13 |
| Private Landlord | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | CAB | <input type="checkbox"/> 14 |
| Welfare Rights Advisor | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | Post Office | <input type="checkbox"/> 15 |
| Social Work Dept. | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 | Traveller Liaison Officer | <input type="checkbox"/> 16 |
| Benefits Agency | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 | Voluntary orgs.
(SGTA. SCF. G/TEIP.) | <input type="checkbox"/> 17 |
| | | PROBE AWARENESS OF
THESE | |
| Job Centre/Careers Office | <input type="checkbox"/> 9 | Any other (please say) | <input type="checkbox"/> 18 |

34. In general, where do you get most of your information from? **PROBE WHY?** (Interviewer tick all that apply)

- | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| Word of mouth - family/friends | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Local council offices | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |
| Word of mouth - other Gypsies/
Travellers | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Visiting officials(teacher/
health vis) | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 |
| Word of mouth - local people | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Site manager/warden | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 |
| Newspapers | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | Support workers –
SGTA. SCF. G/TEIP. | <input type="checkbox"/> 9 |
| TV/Radio | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | | |

35. And which of these would you be least likely to use? (**PROBE WHY?**)

36. How would you like to be able to get information and advice from **outside** organisations?

Face-to-face 1

(Probe - Prefer on site /visiting or off site?)

Telephone 2

Written (leaflet) 3

SECTION D - PREJUDICE AND HARASSMENT

37. Have you experienced prejudice or harassment against you as a Gypsy/Traveller recently (in the past year)?

(PROBE FULLY AND CHECK ANY BELOW IF NOT MENTIONED:

Problems with:

- **local people**
- **police**
- **other officials)**

38. What do you do when this sort of thing happens?
(PROBE FULLY)

ASK ONLY IF NOT MENTIONED AT Q38 ABOVE.

39. Would you ever make a formal complaint about this sort of thing?
(EXPLORE)

ASK ONLY IF PROBLEMS WITH OTHER GYPSIES/TRAVELLERS NOT MENTIONED AT Q37.

40. Earlier on in this research, some Gypsies/Travellers mentioned that they had experienced some problems from other Gypsies/Travellers. Without giving me any details, can you just tell me if you have ever experienced anything like this?

(PROBE FULLY – How often in past year or so? What did you do? If move away, then type of site?)

NOTE WHERE QUESTION NOT ASKED/REFUSAL/NON-RESPONSE.

The next few questions are to assist with the analysis of the answers that you have given and will assist me to write the report following this survey.

41. Can you tell me if you are aged:

- | | | |
|--------------|--------------------------|---|
| under 16 yrs | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 |
| 16-21 yrs | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 |
| 22-34 yrs | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 |
| 35-54 yrs | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 |
| 55-74 yrs | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 |
| over 75 yrs | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 |

42. Are you:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| single | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 |
| single parent | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 |
| married or living together | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 |
| separated or divorced | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 |
| widowed | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 |

43. Can you tell me how many children you have, if any?
(Interviewer tick category that applies)

- | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------|---|
| None | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 |
| 1-2 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 |
| 3-5 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 |
| more than 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 |

44. Who else stays with you/who do you live with?
(Interviewer tick all that apply)

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Parent (s) | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 |
| Grand-parent (s) | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 |
| Brother/sister | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 |
| Cousin (s) | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 |
| Aunt/Uncle | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 |
| Own household | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 |
| On own | <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 |

45. Do you think of yourself as:
(Can be more than one of the following:)

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Romany | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 |
| Scottish Traveller | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 |
| Irish Traveller | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 |
| English Traveller | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 |
| Welsh Traveller | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 |
| Gypsy Traveller | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 |
| Other (please say) | <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 |

46. Are there any other issues/concerns that we've not talked about that you'd like to mention?

THANK-YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME