

Section 75 Policy Screening & Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) Template

Part 1: Policy Scoping

The template applies to statutory obligations attaching both to Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016. The first stage of the process is common to both statutes and involves scoping the policy or policy area. The purpose of policy scoping is to help prepare the background and context and set out the aims and objectives for the policy under consideration. At this stage, scoping the policy will help identify potential constraints as well as opportunities and will help the policy maker work through the process on a step by step basis.

You should remember that your statutory duties apply to internal policies (relating to people who work for the authority), as well as external policies (relating to those who are, or could be, served by the authority).

With regard to the Rural Needs Impact Assessment, DAERA recommend that the level of analysis undertaken in the impact assessment should be proportionate to both the scale of the potential impact and significance to rural areas.

Information about the policy

Name of the policy or policy area:

EXHIBITION THIRD PARTY ORGANISATIONS (TPOs) FUND

Is this an existing, revised or a new policy/policy area?

Existing	Revised	New
x		

Brief Description

Core annual funding to Belfast Film Festival, Cinemagic Film Festival, Foyle Film Festival and QFT.

What is it trying to achieve? (intended aims and outcomes)

To enable the continued existence of the festivals and cultural cinema (TPOs) to deliver moving image screenings and events in Northern Ireland and to provide all the people of Northern Ireland with the opportunity to see as wide a range of films as possible, including those made by the wealth of home-grown creative talent. We want specialist exhibitors and festivals in Northern Ireland to make a significant contribution to film culture,

education and training within the context of the Department for Communities' (DfC) priority of Promoting Equality, Targeting Poverty and Social Exclusion.

Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy?

YES	NO	N/A
x		

If YES, explain how.

Various conditions of funding and support enhance inclusion and promote diversity.

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

Northern Ireland Screen (funding through DfC).

Who owns and who implements each element of the policy?

Annual Funding Agreements are drawn up with KPIs for the TPOs. These are agreed and responsibility for implementation handed over to the relevant Festival Director and Head of Cultural Cinema.

Implementation factors

Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision?

YES	NO	N/A
x		

If YES, are they

Financial: YES (If YES, please detail)

Constrained by annual budget and availability of same which can vary according to the DfC departmental priorities.

Legislative: Y / N (If YES, please detail)

Not applicable

Other, please specify:

Main stakeholders affected

Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the policy will impact upon?

Staff: Head of Marketing and Director of Finance & Corporate Services

Service users: TPO staff and board; Northern Ireland audiences

Other public sector organisations: Other public sector funders of the TPOs

Voluntary/community/trade unions: Film Hub NI

Other, please specify:

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

What are they and who owns them?

Yes. Other Northern Ireland Screen policies including CLC policy; Education & Archive.

Rural Needs Impact Assessment Step 1: Define the issue:

- *What impact do you intend it to have in rural areas?*

Through a network of partnerships, the TPOs aspire to engage with hard to reach areas which hitherto have not been exposed to the festival programme, cultural cinema screenings and events.

- *How is 'rural' defined for the purposes of this policy/strategy/service/plan?*

Outside of the main conurbations where the festivals and cultural cinemas traditionally operate and are based.

- *What would constitute a fair rural outcome in this case?*

Increased participation outside of the cities and large towns as defined above.

Section 75: Available evidence

Evidence to help inform the Section 75 screening process may take many forms. Public authorities should ensure that their screening decision is informed by relevant data.

What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy? Specify details for relevant Section 75 categories.

Section 75 Category	Details of Evidence/Information
All	There are a number of legacy projects which we have inherited and continue to support for the foreseeable future and where we apply criteria to assess viability and impacts.
All	Delivery by the TPOs: Within their annual Funding Agreement, the TPOs are required to set a S75 target and report on this activity in their KPIs.

Section 75: Needs, experiences and priorities

Taking into account the information referred to above, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories, in relation to the particular policy/decision? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories

Section 75 Category	Details of Needs/Experiences/Priorities
Disability	<p>The TPOs must assure Northern Ireland Screen that the following procedures are in place and must deliver on signature of their Funding Agreement the following documentation, where relevant:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Safeguarding Checklist & Compliance Statement b. Child Protection Policy / Vulnerable Persons Policy / Safeguarding Policy (whichever is applicable to your organisation) c. Access NI Registration Number d. Date of Registration e. Name of Safeguarding Officer f. Equal opportunities Policy (Section 75) g. Procurement Policy
Age	
Race	
Gender	
Dependency	

Rural Needs Impact Assessment Step 2: Understand the situation

Key questions to consider:

- *What is the current situation in rural areas?*

Audiences are underserved by festivals and cultural cinema and positive steps are being taken to redress this imbalance through partnership with festivals and Film Hub NI.

- *What evidence (statistics, data, research, stakeholder advice) do you have about the position in rural areas?*

Surveys by the BFI in conjunction with Film Hub NI.

- *If the relevant evidence is not available, can this be sourced?*

n/a

- *Do you have access to the views of rural stakeholders about the likely impact of the policy?*

Yes, Film Hub NI leads on this and shares the available information.

- *Are there existing design features or mitigations already in place to take account of rural needs?*

Yes. Programmes are in place to address the imbalance.

Part 2: Section 75 Screening Questions

Introduction

1. If the conclusion is **none** in respect of all of the Section 75 categories, then you may decide to screen the policy **out**. If a policy is 'screened out', you should give details of the reasons for the decision taken.
2. If the conclusion is **major** in respect of one or more of the Section 75 categories, then consideration should be given to subjecting the policy to an EQIA.
3. If the conclusion is **minor** in respect of one or more of the Section 75 categories, then consideration should still be given to proceeding with an EQIA, or to measures to mitigate the adverse impact; or an alternative policy.

In favour of a 'major' impact

- a) The policy is significant in terms of its strategic importance;
- b) Potential equality impacts are unknown, because, for example, there is insufficient data upon which to make an assessment or because they are complex, and hence it would be appropriate to conduct an EQIA;
- c) Potential equality and/or good relations impacts are likely to be adverse or are likely to be experienced disproportionately by groups of people including those who are marginalised or disadvantaged;
- d) Further assessment offers a valuable way to examine the evidence and develop recommendations in respect of a policy about which there are concerns among affected individuals and representative groups, for example in respect of multiple identities;
- e) The policy is likely to be challenged by way of judicial review;
- f) The policy is significant in terms of expenditure.

In favour of 'minor' impact

- a) The policy is not unlawfully discriminatory and any residual potential impacts on people are judged to be negligible;
- b) The policy, or certain proposals within it, are potentially unlawfully discriminatory, but this possibility can readily and easily be eliminated by making appropriate changes to the policy or by adopting appropriate mitigating measures;
- c) Any asymmetrical equality impacts caused by the policy are intentional because they are specifically designed to promote equality of opportunity for particular groups of disadvantaged people;
- d) By amending the policy there are better opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

In favour of none

- a) The policy has no relevance to equality of opportunity or good relations.
- b) The policy is purely technical in nature and will have no bearing in terms of its likely impact on equality of opportunity or good relations for people within the equality and good relations categories.

Taking into account the earlier evidence, consider and comment on the likely impact on equality of opportunity / good relations for those affected by this policy, by applying the following screening questions and the impact on the group i.e. minor, major or none.

Section 75: Screening questions

1 What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 grounds? Minor/Major/None		
Section 75 Category	Details of Policy Impact	Level of Impact? Minor/Major/None
Religious belief	The TPOs are encouraged to be open and inclusive to all communities and to create an environment of mutual respect.	Minor (positive)
Political opinion	The TPOs are encouraged to be open and inclusive to all communities and to create an environment of mutual respect.	Minor (positive)
Racial / ethnic group	The TPOs are encouraged to be open and inclusive to all communities and to create an environment of mutual respect. One festival hosts an annual an Inter-cultural and Anti-Racism programme.	Minor (positive)
Age	The TPOs are encouraged to be open and inclusive to all age groups including events for young people and dementia screenings.	Minor (positive)
Marital status	The TPOs are encouraged to be open and inclusive to all communities and to create an environment of mutual respect.	
Sexual orientation	The TPOs are encouraged to be open and inclusive to all communities and to create an environment of mutual respect including delivery of strands on behalf of LGBTTQ.	Minor (positive)
Men and women generally	The TPOs are encouraged to be open and inclusive to all communities and to create an environment of mutual respect.	

Disability	The TPOs are encouraged to be open and inclusive to all communities and to create an environment of mutual respect including dementia friendly screenings.	Minor (positive)
Dependants	The TPOs are encouraged to be open and inclusive to all communities and to create an environment of mutual respect including dementia friendly screenings, family events and screenings.	Minor (positive)

2 Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within any of the Section 75 categories?		
Section 75 Category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide reasons
		No. We are doing everything we reasonably can do already.

3 To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group? Minor/Major/None		
Good Relations Category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact Minor/Major/None
Religious belief	Screenings and events can be hosted for audiences of varying religious beliefs, in an environment to encourage understanding and debate of alternative beliefs.	Minor (positive)
Political opinion	Screenings and events are hosted for audiences of varying political opinions, in an environment to encourage understanding and debate of alternative political identities.	Minor (positive)
Racial group	Screenings and events are hosted for audiences of varying racial groups, in an environment to encourage understanding and debate of alternative racial identities.	Minor (positive)

4 Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?		
Good relations category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide reasons
		No. These areas are well covered.

Rural Needs Impact Assessment Step 3: Develop and appraise options

Key questions to consider:

- *Are there barriers to delivery in rural areas?*
Yes, financial and logistical.
- *If so, how can these be overcome or mitigated?*
Partnership opportunities and additional funding.
- *Will it cost more to deliver in rural areas?*
Sometimes.
- *What steps can be taken to achieve fair rural outcomes?*
Encourage activities outside of urban conurbations.

Rural Needs Impact Assessment Step 4: Prepare for Delivery

Key questions to consider:

- *Do the necessary delivery mechanisms exist in rural areas?*
Not always.
- *Have you considered alternative delivery mechanisms?*
Yes
- *What action has been taken to ensure fair rural outcomes?*
Different delivery mechanisms and partnerships
- *Is there flexibility for local delivery bodies to find local solutions?*
Yes
- *Are different solutions required in different areas?*
Yes

Additional considerations

Multiple identity

Individuals are represented across more than one Section 75 category. Taking this into consideration, along with rural needs and social deprivation / isolation, are there any potential impacts of the policy/decision on people with multiple identities?

(For example; socially deprived disabled minority ethnic people; disabled women in urban communities; young Protestant men in rural communities; young lesbians, gay and bisexual people in both urban and rural communities).

n/a

Provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities. Specify aspects of identity concerned.

Monitor by all Section 75 grounds

Part 3: Section 75 Screening Decision

In light of your answers to the previous questions, with regard to Section 75 considerations, do you feel that the policy should: (please underline one):

1. **Not be subject to an EQIA (with no mitigating measures required)**
2. **Not be subject to an EQIA (with mitigating measures /alternative policies)**
3. **Not be subject to an EQIA at this time**
4. **Be subject to an EQIA**

If 1. or 2. (i.e. not be subject to an EQIA), please provide details of the reasons why:

The TPOs continue to provide considerable opportunities for those of different identity to come together and celebrate the medium of film.

If 2. (i.e. not be subject to an EQIA), in what ways can identified adverse impacts attaching to the policy be mitigated or an alternative policy be introduced?

In light of these revisions, is there a need to re-screen the revised/alternative policy at a future date? YES / NO

If YES, when & why?

If 3. or 4. (i.e. to conduct an EQIA), please provide details of the reasons:

Timetabling and Prioritising EQIA

If 3. or 4., is the policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities? YES / NO

If YES, please provide details:

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Please answer the following questions to determine priority for timetabling the EQIA. On a scale of 1-3, with 1 being the lowest priority and 3 being the highest, assess the policy in terms of its priority for EQIA.

Priority criterion	Rating (1-3)
Effect on equality of opportunity and good relations	
Social need	
Effect on people's daily lives	
Relevance to a public authority's functions	

Note: The Total Rating Score should be used to prioritise the policy in rank order with other policies screened in for EQIA. This list of priorities will assist you in timetabling the EQIA. Details of your EQIA timetable should be included in the quarterly Section 75 report.

Proposed date for commencing EQIA: _____

Any further comments on the screening process and any subsequent actions?

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Part 4: Monitoring

Effective monitoring will help identify any future adverse impacts arising from the policy which may lead you to conduct an EQIA, as well as help with future planning and policy development. You should consider the guidance contained in the Commission's Monitoring Guidance for Use by Public Authorities (July 2007). The Commission recommends that where the policy has been amended or an alternative policy introduced, then you should monitor more broadly than for adverse impact (See Benefits, P.9-10, paras 2.13 – 2.20 of the Monitoring Guidance).

Please detail proposed monitoring arrangements below:

TPOs are required to provide general monitoring information on key performance areas including number of screenings, events and audience attendance, and maintain monitoring information through audience surveys from time to time.

Rural Needs Impact Assessment Step 5: Implementation & Monitoring

Key questions to consider:

- *Have you set any rural specific indicators or targets to monitor?*

No

- *How will the outcomes be measured in rural areas?*

Through standard monitoring procedures

- *Are there any statistics or data that you will collect to monitor rural needs and impacts?*

Postcode

Rural Needs Impact Assessment Step 6: Evaluation & Review

Key questions to consider:

- *What processes are in place to evaluate and review the implementation of the policy, strategy, plan or service?*

See above.

- *Have rural needs been factored into the evaluation process?*

See above.

- *How will lessons learned in relation to rural outcomes be used to inform future policy making and delivery?*

Through the standard programme review mechanism that extends to rurality alongside Section 75 grounds.

Part 5: Approval and Authorisation

Screened by:	Position/Job Title	Date
Moyra Lock	Head of Marketing	14.11.2017
Linda Martin	Director of Finance & Corporate Services	14.11.2017
Approved by:		
John Kremer	S75 Specialist	18.12.2017
Richard Williams	CEO	19.12.2017

Note: A copy of the Screening Template, for each policy screened, should be 'signed off' and approved by a senior manager responsible for the policy, made easily accessible on your website as soon as possible following completion and made available on request.