

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:

NI Delegations

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

Existing	Revised	New
X		

Brief Description

Match funding for clients of Northern Ireland Screen - individuals and companies - to attend relevant markets, festivals and conferences in accordance with our key sector priorities.

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

Organised group visits provide an excellent opportunity for individuals and companies to visit markets and festivals, both at home and abroad, where we can promote Northern Ireland produced projects, seek co-production opportunities and finance for projects, network with industry professionals, as well as generate interest from distributors, broadcasters, commissioners, sales agents, literary and talent agents, producer reps and other valuable industry leads. Additionally, they are constructed to:

- help Northern Ireland content producers to build their business by networking with the international influencers in this sector;
- help Northern Ireland content producers to engage in critical dialogue on issues that affect the industry;
- help Northern Ireland content producers to attend market workshops and seminars to get a better understanding of current market needs, opportunities and challenges;
- help Northern Ireland content producers to meet sales agents, distributors, broadcasters, commissioning editors, publishers, co-producers, financiers and discuss their projects with them;
- help Northern Ireland content producers to discover new talent and build relationships with potential partners.

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.

Potential participants in NI Delegations will reflect in each of the nine grounds of difference identified in the Section 75 legislation..

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

Northern Ireland Screen

Who owns and who implements each element of the policy?

The Marketing Department, Northern Ireland Screen

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 key sector priorities as outlined in the strategy.

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 CEO

Service users: As budgets are limited, decisions are made on a range of criteria including perceived readiness of project(s) for market; previous attendance and evidence of development/success from that; how far the project(s) have/have moved on; the relevance of market to the content producer; whether the project is in festival/ being sold in market/has a sales agent (film); distributor (TV); publisher (gaming); the participant's knowledge of and research in the relevant sector.

Other public sector organisations:

None

Voluntary/community/trade unions:

None

Other, please specify:

The applicant as it is match funding

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

What are they and who owns them?

The Screen Fund – Northern Ireland Screen.

Rural Needs Impact Assessment Step 1: Define the issue:

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

When developing the industry, Northern Ireland Screen wants to include all individuals and companies from all communities and areas in Northern Ireland, irrespective of location.

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

Outside of the two main cities of Belfast and Derry.

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

A greater number of invitations to content producers and production companies based in rural communities.

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	<p>We have a planned programme of Northern Ireland Delegations which respond to the key sectoral priorities as outlined in our Opening Doors Strategy. We will now have a wider selection from the sector going to more markets but these will be more keenly targeted and on an invitation basis. This is about width, depth and reach across all activity.</p> <p>As budgets are limited, decisions will be made on a range of criteria including perceived readiness of project(s) for market; previous attendance and evidence of development/success from that; how far the project(s) have/have moved on; the relevance of market to the content producer; whether the project is in festival/being sold in market/has a sales agent (film); distributor (TV); publisher (gaming); the participant's knowledge of and research in the relevant sector.</p> <p>Support is match funding for 1 person from each company and set at 50% of our budgeted cost to attend for normally 3 days for UK and Europe and up to 5 for North America, and is based on registration cost, best value economy flight and the government rates for B&B and subsistence, as well as an allowance for ground transport.</p>

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
ALL	We have a corporate relationship with individuals and businesses that will put forward delegates to participate on the understanding that any particular circumstances will be given due consideration in making arrangements for their attendance.

Rural Needs Impact Assessment Step 2: Understand the situation

Key questions to consider:

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

N/A

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

Postcode of attendees

- *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?*

No

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

No

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	NI Delegations are encouraged to be open and inclusive to all communities and offer the same opportunities.	Minor +
Political opinion	NI Delegations are encouraged to be open and inclusive to all communities and offer the same opportunities.	Minor +
Racial / ethnic group	NI Delegations are encouraged to be open and inclusive to all communities and offer the same opportunities.	Minor +
Age	NI Delegations are encouraged to be open and inclusive to all communities and offer the same opportunities.	Minor +
Marital status	NI Delegations are encouraged to be open and inclusive to all communities and offer the same opportunities.	Minor +
Sexual orientation	NI Delegations are encouraged to be open and inclusive to all communities and offer the same opportunities.	Minor +
Men and women generally	NI Delegations are encouraged to be open and inclusive to all communities and offer the same opportunities.	Minor +
Disability	NI Delegations are encouraged to be open and inclusive to all communities and offer the same opportunities.	Minor +
Dependants	NI Delegations are encouraged to be open and inclusive to all communities and offer the same opportunities.	

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 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	The NI Delegations will offer participants of differing identities the opportunity to engage with individuals of differing identities.	Minor (positive)
Political opinion	The NI Delegations will offer participants of varying political opinion the opportunity to engage with individuals of differing political opinion.	Minor (positive)
Racial group	The NI Delegations will offer participants of differing racial groups the opportunity to engage with individuals of differing racial groups.	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?*
Some. Financial and logistical.
- *If so, how can these be overcome or mitigated?*
Additional funding
- *Will it cost more to deliver in rural areas?*
Sometimes
- *What steps can be taken to achieve fair rural outcomes?*
Encourage more participation through increased funding..

Rural Needs Impact Assessment Step 4: Prepare for Delivery

Key questions to consider:

- *Do the necessary delivery mechanisms exist in rural areas?*
No. This is an export-based programme.
- *Have you considered alternative delivery mechanisms?*
n/a
- *What action has been taken to ensure fair rural outcomes?*
n/a
- *Is there flexibility for local delivery bodies to find local solutions?*
n/a
- *Are different solutions required in different areas?*
n/a

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 NI Delegations continue to provide considerable opportunities for those of different identity to participate in an export-based programme to further their business.

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?

n/a

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?

None

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

n/a

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:

--

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?

--

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:

NI Delegation participants are required to complete an evaluation form on the continued relevance of the market/festival/conference attended. Some biographical data is currently available regarding attendees but more systematic monitoring may be undertaken in future by Section 75 grounds.

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?*
N/A
- *Are there any statistics or data that you will collect to monitor rural needs and impacts?*
No

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?*
Routine policy review.
- *Have rural needs been factored into the evaluation process?*
Yes.
- *How will lessons learned in relation to rural outcomes be used to inform future policy making and delivery?*
Through policy review.

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.