

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:

Opening Doors Strategy Phase ii 2018-2022

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

Existing	Revised	New
		x

Brief Description

Northern Ireland Screen is the screen agency for Northern Ireland committed to maximising the economic, cultural and educational value of the screen industries for the benefit of Northern Ireland. This goal is pursued through its mission to accelerate the development of a dynamic and sustainable screen industry and culture in Northern Ireland, and over coming years will be delivered through the new Opening Door Strategy 2018 - 22.

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

This a 10 year economic strategy delivered by Northern Ireland Screen and is designed to support the screen industry in Northern Ireland to grow to a strength that is second only to London within the UK and Ireland.

This is Phase 2 of Opening Doors covering the period 2018-2022.

The strategy is about creating opportunity. The overarching theme remains but, for Phase 2, the focus must be on two points which are to:

- Ensure that we retain appropriate targeted support for each of our priority screen sectors; and
- Strengthen the pathways into and through the screen industries for those with the potential skills and drive to succeed in this exciting industry.

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.

The strategy aspires to ensure the long-term viability of the screen industry in Northern Ireland thereby enhancing the local economy to the benefit of all its citizens.

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

Northern Ireland Screen

Who owns and who implements each element of the policy?

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)

Working within a defined budget that normally requires ministerial approval, and may be impacted upon by the shifting socio-political landscape locally and internationally..

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

N/a

Other, please specify: The current political vacuum creates a degree of uncertainty over long term budget arrangements and affordability.

Main stakeholders affected

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

Staff: All staff

Service users: Those who engage with the organisation within the industry

Other public sector organisations: Department for the Economy, Department for Communities, DCMS, BFI, ACNI.

Voluntary/community/trade unions: Range of Third Party Organisations.

Other, please specify:

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

What are they and who owns them?

All other Northern Ireland Screen policies and procedures are subsumed under the overarching corporate strategy.

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 organisation aspires to engage with all sections of the community and including those Hard to Reach areas which hitherto may not have engaged fully with Northern Ireland Screen.

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

DAERA definition.

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

Increased engagement outside of the large urban conurbations 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	Northern Ireland Screen continues to gather comprehensive monitoring data on all those who apply as individuals for support and guidance. Any significant trends that emerge will be reflected on and positive actions taken should these be appropriate. Industry wide data are available from other jurisdictions giving a profile of the screen industry in general. There is nothing at this time to suggest that the Northern Ireland profile deviates significantly from the norm.

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
Race, gender, disability, sexual orientation.	Internationally there is growing awareness of the need to promote and protect diversity and minorities within the industry and key stakeholders including BFI and BBC have recently launched a number of initiatives designed to address perceived adverse impacts on minority groups.

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 strategy aspires to consolidate previous work by Northern Ireland Screen specially strengthening pathways into the industry for all those with potential skills, irrespective of personal identity. There is nothing inherent in the strategy that would disadvantage or discourage on grounds of faith or religious belief.	None
Political opinion	The strategy aspires to consolidate previous work by Northern Ireland Screen specially strengthening pathways into the industry for all those with potential skills, irrespective of personal identity. There is nothing inherent in the strategy that would disadvantage or discourage on grounds of political opinion.	None
Racial / ethnic group	The strategy aspires to consolidate previous work by Northern Ireland Screen specially strengthening pathways into the industry for all those with potential skills, irrespective of personal identity. There is nothing inherent in the strategy that would disadvantage or discourage on grounds of racial or ethnic group.	None
Age	The strategy aspires to consolidate previous work by Northern Ireland Screen specially strengthening pathways into the industry for all those with potential skills, irrespective of personal identity. There is nothing inherent in the strategy that would disadvantage or discourage on grounds of age.	None
Marital status	The strategy aspires to consolidate previous work by Northern Ireland Screen specially strengthening pathways into the industry for all those with potential skills, irrespective of personal identity. There is	None

	nothing inherent in the strategy that would disadvantage or discourage on grounds of marital status.	
Sexual orientation	The strategy aspires to consolidate previous work by Northern Ireland Screen specially strengthening pathways into the industry for all those with potential skills, irrespective of personal identity. There is nothing inherent in the strategy that would disadvantage or discourage on grounds of sexual orientation.	None
Men and women generally	The strategy aspires to consolidate previous work by Northern Ireland Screen specially strengthening pathways into the industry for all those with potential skills, irrespective of personal identity. There is nothing inherent in the strategy that would disadvantage or discourage on grounds of gender.	None
Disability	The strategy aspires to consolidate previous work by Northern Ireland Screen specially strengthening pathways into the industry for all those with potential skills, irrespective of personal identity. There is nothing inherent in the strategy that would disadvantage or discourage on grounds of disability.	None
Dependants	The strategy aspires to consolidate previous work by Northern Ireland Screen specially strengthening pathways into the industry for all those with potential skills, irrespective of personal identity. There is nothing inherent in the strategy that would disadvantage or discourage on grounds of dependency.	None

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
All	Where monitoring may suggest potential obstacles preventing full engagement by all section 75 categories then these issues will be addressed appropriately at that time.	

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	By the nature of the industry it is likely that controversial issues will be the subject matter of some applications. Northern Ireland Screen will continue to deal with these matters in a sensitive and responsive manner mindful of diverse faiths and beliefs.	Minor positive
Political opinion	By the nature of the industry it is likely that controversial issues will be the subject matter of some applications. Northern Ireland Screen will continue to deal with these matters in a sensitive and responsive manner mindful of diverse political views.	Minor positive
Racial group	The film industry typically regards itself as pan-national bringing together those from diverse ethnic origins. The current strategy is likely to continue this trend.	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
All		No, the strategy itself should help to promote good relations on these three grounds.

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 cities

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.

n/a

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 emerging strategy has been subject to consultation at each stage of development and this has helped to ensure that a wide range of stakeholders have already had an opportunity to help fashion the future orientation of Northern Ireland Screen in a way that accommodates those from diverse section 75 categories.

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:

Northern Ireland Screen will continue to monitor all those who apply for support and guidance by all nine section 75 grounds. This information is reviewed on a regular basis and at least quarterly. Should any trends suggest an adverse impact then appropriate remedial steps will be taken at that 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?*

Regular monitoring will include postcode and hence any trends attaching to rurality can be identified and remedied as appropriate.

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

Monitoring data.

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?*

The emerging strategy will be subject to ongoing review and refinement.

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

Yes, through standard monitoring arrangements (e.g. postcode)

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

In common with other monitoring, should any trends emerge then appropriate actions will be taken at that time.

Part 5: Approval and Authorisation

Screened by:	Position/Job Title	Date
Linda Martin	Director of Finance and Corporate Services	14.11.17
John Kremer		14.11.17
Approved by:		
Richard Williams	CEO	19.12.17
John Kremer	S75 Specialist	18.12.17

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.