

**Equality and Human Rights  
Screening Template**

August 2019



Department of  
**Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs**

[www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk)

## DAERA Equality and Human Rights

### Screening Template

DAERA has a statutory duty to screen. This includes our strategies and plans, policies, legislative developments; and new ways of working such as – the introduction, change or end of an existing service, grant funding arrangement or facility. This screening template is designed to help business areas consider the likely equality and human rights impacts of their proposed decisions on different groups of customers, service users, staff and visitors.

Before carrying out an equality screening exercise it is important that you have received the necessary training and know the current effective guidance first (see HPRM (Trim) link below for Guidance Document). To find out about the training needed, contact - [equalitydiversitypublicappointments@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:equalitydiversitypublicappointments@daera-ni.gov.uk). All screening exercises must be supported by evidence and Quality Assured by Equality Unit prior to being cleared at Grade 3 level.



DAERA Screening  
Guidance - Updated

The accompanying Screening Guidance note provides straightforward advice on how to carry out equality screening exercises. Detailed information about the Section 75 equality duties<sup>1</sup> and what they mean in practice is available on the Equality Commission's website.

Please note: Only plain English<sup>2</sup> should be used in all sections of this document.

The screening template has 4 sections to complete. These are:

**Section A** - asks you to provide details about the policy / decision that is being screened.

**Section B** - has 4 key questions that require you to outline the likely impacts on equality groups, and all supporting evidence.

---

<sup>1</sup> ECNI 'Section 75 of the NI Act 1998: A Guide for Public Authorities' April 2010. [www.equalityni.org](http://www.equalityni.org)

<sup>2</sup> Should be easily understood by a 12 year old.

[Type here]

**Section C** - has 4 key questions in relation to obligations under the Disability Discrimination Order and the Human Rights Act.

**Section D** - is the formal record of the screening decision.

## Section A

### Details about the policy / decision to be screened – In plain English

**Title of policy / decision to be screened:-** Rural Policy Framework for Northern Ireland

**Brief description of policy / decision to be screened:-** The Framework being equality screened is a new high level overarching policy which has been developed collaboratively with a wide range of stakeholders including from the public, private, and voluntary and community sector. The Framework sets the strategic direction for rural policy initiatives in Northern Ireland.

The Framework has provided an opportunity to review the approach to rural policy and what is needed to support rural communities in the context of the following main strategic drivers:

- Brexit – in particular the cessation of the Priority 6 funding (promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas) – LEADER and Rural Tourism aspects of the current EU Rural Development Programme in Northern Ireland. Priority 6 has provided around £80 million over the course of its lifetime attributed to non-agricultural activities supporting wider rural development. This includes ongoing work that currently supports rural businesses, rural tourism, basic services in rural areas, rural broadband and village renewal;
- Increased budgetary pressures;
- The priorities set out in the draft Programme for Government; and
- The New Decade, New Approach Deal.

The new Framework aims to create a sustainable rural community where people can work and live, complementing any future Green Growth Strategy. The Framework focuses on five thematic pillars and associated priorities and will be a living document, flexible enough to respond to emerging rural issues as they happen such as the current global COVID-19 pandemic.

Given that strategic nature of the Framework, any potential financial, legislative or procurement implications could not be properly evaluated until a later stage. Following full public consultation and subject to approval of the proposed Rural Policy Framework for Northern Ireland, individual schemes will then be developed into a new Programme entitled 'Rural Business and Community Investment Programme' based on the identified need emerging from the Framework. This new Programme is anticipated to last for a minimum of 5 years to facilitate meaningful outcomes and to tie into the multi-year budget approach outlined in the New Decade, New Approach Deal. An

Equality Screening exercise will be carried out in respect of the Rural Business and Community Investment Programme to be delivered under the Rural Policy Framework for NI.

**Aims and objectives of the policy / decision to be screened:-** The Rural Policy Framework has provided an opportunity to take stock to ensure that the needs of rural communities continue to be appropriately addressed, particularly in light of Brexit. The Framework supports the Northern Ireland Executive's vision for rural areas by promoting a fair and inclusive rural society where rural dwellers enjoy the same quality of life as all others in the region.

The overarching aim for the Draft Rural Policy Framework for NI is:

**To create a sustainable rural community where people can work and live.**

The Draft Rural Policy Framework for NI contains five key Thematic Pillars as follows:

- **Thematic Pillar 1: Innovation and Entrepreneurship** - To create a rural society where innovation and entrepreneurship flourish;
- **Thematic Pillar 2: Sustainable Tourism** - To maximise the contribution that sustainable rural tourism makes to rural society and to the wider economy and environment;
- **Thematic Pillar 3: Health and Wellbeing** - To reduce loneliness and social exclusion in rural areas, to minimise the impacts of rural isolation and to promote the health and wellbeing of rural dwellers;
- **Thematic Pillar 4: Employment** - To increase employment opportunities available to people living in rural areas; and
- **Thematic Pillar 5: Connectivity** - To improve connectivity between rural and urban areas.

### On whom will the policy / decision impact?

Consider the internal and external impacts (both actual or potential)

- Staff
- service users
- rural community
- other public sector organisations
- voluntary / community groups / trade unions
- others, please specify

**Are there linkages to other NI Departments / NDPBs?** Yes – the development of the draft Rural Policy Framework for NI has been underpinned by engagement, partnership and flexibility throughout with extensive engagement incorporating a wide range of rural stakeholders including those from the public, private, and voluntary and community sector. Stakeholders from a range of NI Departments / NDPBs were represented on the Rural Society Project Board and Rural Stakeholder Forum in addition to the five Working Groups representing each of the thematic pillars and during any stakeholder events. It is anticipated that many initiatives resulting from the Rural Policy Framework for NI will involve partnership working between DAERA, other Departments and public sector organisations.

In addition, the Rural Policy Framework for NI is intended to feed into the following draft Programme for Government 2016-2021 outcomes:

- **Outcome 1:** We prosper through a strong competitive regionally balanced economy;
- **Outcome 2:** We live and work sustainably – protecting the environment;
- **Outcome 3:** We have a more equal society;
- **Outcome 4:** We enjoy long, healthy, active lifestyles;
- **Outcome 5:** We are an innovative, creative society, where people can fulfil their potential;
- **Outcome 6:** We have more people working in better jobs;
- **Outcome 8:** We care for others and we help those in need;
- **Outcome 9:** We are a shared, welcoming and confident society that respects diversity;
- **Outcome 10:** We have created a place where people want to live and work, to visit and invest;
- **Outcome 11:** We connect people and opportunities through our infrastructure; and
- **Outcome 12:** We give our children and young people the best start in life.

## Section B

### Available evidence

What evidence or information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy? Set out all evidence below along with details of the different groups you have met and or consulted with to help inform your screening assessment.

<b>Section 75 category</b>	<b>Details of evidence or information and engagement</b>
<b>Religious belief</b>	Consideration of the breakdown of rural statistical data in the 2011 census.
<b>Political opinion</b>	Consideration of the breakdown of rural statistical data in the 2011 census and the Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey 2013.
<b>Racial group</b>	Consideration of the breakdown of rural statistical data in the 2011 census.
<b>Age</b>	Consideration of the breakdown of rural statistical data in the 2011 census.  Evidence identified by the Working Groups which fed into the development of the Draft Rural Policy Framework for NI such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GEM UK: Northern Ireland Report 2017</li><li>• NISRA 2018/19 Statistics</li><li>• DAERA analysis of the Rural Business Investment Scheme 2014-2020 delivered under Priority 6 of the Rural Development Programme in Northern Ireland (January 2020)</li></ul>
<b>Marital status</b>	Consideration of the breakdown of rural statistical data in the 2011 census.
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	Consideration of the breakdown of rural statistical data in the 2011 census.
<b>Men &amp; women generally</b>	Consideration of the breakdown of rural statistical data in the 2011 census.  Evidence identified by the Working Groups which fed into the development of the Draft Rural Policy Framework for NI such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GEM UK: Northern Ireland Report 2017</li><li>• DAERA analysis of the Rural Business Investment Scheme 2014-2020 delivered under Priority 6 of the Rural Development Programme in Northern Ireland (January 2020)</li><li>• Alison Rose Review of Female Entrepreneurship (2019)</li></ul>

[Type here]

<b>Disability</b>	<p>Consideration of the breakdown of rural statistical data in the 2011 census.</p> <p>Evidence identified by the Working Groups which fed into the development of the Draft Rural Policy Framework for NI such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Centre for Mental Health –‘BRIEFING Covid-19 and the nation's mental health: May 2020’</li> </ul>
<b>Dependants</b>	<p>Consideration of the breakdown of rural statistical data in the 2011 census and evidence identified by the Working Groups which fed into the development of the Draft Rural Policy Framework for NI.</p>

**No evidence held? Outline how you will obtain it:** Further evidence will be obtained as part of the public consultation. Following full public consultation and subject to approval of the proposed Rural Policy Framework for Northern Ireland, individual schemes will then be developed into a new Programme entitled ‘Rural Business and Community Investment Programme’ based on the identified need emerging from the Framework. An Equality Screening exercise will be carried out at that stage, in respect of the Rural Business and Community Investment Programme to be delivered under the Rural Policy Framework for NI. In addition, monitoring of any such programme, both applications made to it and delivery will continue to help identify any possible problems that are specific to groups, individuals or organisations within the rural community. As this programme will address some of the issues impacting on rural communities and will be developed from the extensive evidence available we would hope that the positive outcomes will be evident and any negative impacts can be addressed during programme delivery.

**1. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories? What is the level of impact?**

<b>Section 75 category</b>	<b>Details of likely impact</b>	<b>Level of impact? Minor/Major/None</b>
<b>Religious belief</b>	<p>The draft Rural Policy Framework for NI aims to create a sustainable rural community where people can work and live. Statistics from the 2011 census show the make-up of the rural community (based on head of household) to be 45% Catholic, 52% Protestant and other Christian and 3% other or no religion. The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI are neutral as regards religious belief and therefore are considered to have no impact on the equality of opportunity as regards religious belief.</p>	none

<p><b>Political opinion</b></p>	<p>The draft Rural Policy Framework for NI aims to create a sustainable rural community where people can work and live. Statistics from the 2011 census show the make-up of the rural community (based on head of household) to be 45% Catholic, 52% Protestant and other Christian and 3% other or no religion.</p> <p>The Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey 2013 found that 25% of the Northern Ireland population describe themselves as nationalist, 29% as unionist and 43% held neither political opinion.</p> <p>The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI are neutral as regards political opinion and therefore are considered to have no impact on the equality of opportunity as regards political opinion.</p>	<p>none</p>
<p><b>Racial group</b></p>	<p>The draft Rural Policy Framework for NI aims to create a sustainable rural community where people can work and live. Statistics from the 2011 census show the make-up of the rural community to be 99.4% white and 0.6% other ethnic groupings. The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI are neutral as regards racial group and therefore are considered to have no impact on the equality of opportunity as regards racial group.</p>	<p>None</p>
<p><b>Age</b></p>	<p>The draft Rural Policy Framework for NI aims to create a sustainable rural community where people can work and live. Statistics from the 2011 census show the make-up of the rural community to be 22% aged under 15, 24% aged 16 – 34, 39% aged 35 – 64 and 14% aged 65+.</p> <p>NI is the 2nd youngest UK region (median age 38.7) after London (35.3). Evidence from the Working Groups feeding into the Rural Policy Framework for NI indicated that support is needed to facilitate young people into employment in rural areas. There are concerns that young people are</p>	<p>Minor positive</p>

moving away from rural areas due to a lack of employment and training opportunities; a lack of affordable housing; and connectivity issues. If young people move out of rural areas, there is a negative impact on the sustainability of those rural communities.

According to the GEM UK: Northern Ireland Report 2017 the Total Early-Stage Entrepreneurial Activity (TEA) in NI in 2017 was 6.5% compared to the UK average of 8.7%. Those aged between 25-34 years old in NI were most entrepreneurial.

Opportunity also exists to tap into the entrepreneurial potential of 18-24-year olds. There is a need to make enterprise and entrepreneurship visible to the existing and potential talent pool in rural areas including graduates. Just under 30% of the non-entrepreneurial working age population perceive good start-up opportunities locally. The UK rate, which is almost 40%, continues to be significantly higher than that for NI.

Previous initiatives relevant to young people funded by DAERA include:

- Tackling Rural Poverty Social Isolation (TRPSI) funded projects such as Prosper and Step Up to Sustainable Employment (SUSE). This initiative successfully assisted young unemployed and those in lower paid employment, into better jobs;
- Rural Business Investment Scheme 2014-2020 delivered under Priority 6 of the Rural Development Programme in Northern Ireland - An analysis in January 2020 found that there are lower levels of youth, social enterprise and farm diversification engagement. The review showed that the highest percentage of beneficiaries were over 40 years old with 309 compared to less than 10 for those under the age of 25 years old.

A need has been identified by the Working Groups feeding into the development of the Rural Policy Framework for NI to target young people with training to develop their entrepreneurial skills. This could involve tying into education at a young age or addressing barriers such as childcare and other caring responsibilities etc. Linkages could also be

	<p>improved between the education and private sector to facilitate young people in accessing employment and training opportunities including apprenticeships and more specialised training. In addition, there is a need for succession planning in the voluntary and community sector with young people encouraged to take up volunteering activity.</p> <p>Within the Framework, it was identified that there is an ageing rural population with increased caring responsibilities which can exacerbate the risk of loneliness and exclusion. In particular NISRA noted that in NI in 2018/19 people without internet access or access to a car were more likely to be “more often lonely” than those with access, highlighting two key challenges for rural dwellers. People in the 75+ and 55-64 age groups were “more often lonely”.</p> <p>Given the strategic nature of the Framework, any potential impacts on section 75 groups cannot be fully evaluated until a later stage. Following public consultation and subject to approval an Equality Screening exercise will be carried out in respect of the Rural Business and Community Investment Programme. The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI have the potential to have a minor positive impact on equality of opportunity for age (in particular young and elderly people) given the need which has been identified in relation to these groups and the likelihood of being targeted in any future schemes.</p>	
<p><b>Marital status</b></p>	<p>The draft Rural Policy Framework for NI aims to create a sustainable rural community where people can work and live. Statistics from the 2011 census show the make-up of the rural households to be 22.24% one person households, 48.67% married couple households, 0.03% same-sex civil partnership couple households, 4.58% cohabiting couple households, 11.05% lone parent households and 6.58% other types of households. The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI are neutral as regards people of different marital status and</p>	<p>none</p>

	consequently there is no opportunity to promote equality of opportunity.	
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	<p>The draft Rural Policy Framework for NI aims to create a sustainable rural community where people can work and live. Statistics from the 2011 census show the make-up of the rural households to be 22.24% one person households, 48.67% married couple households, 0.03% same-sex civil partnership couple households, 4.58% cohabiting couple households, 11.05% lone parent households and 6.58% other types of households. The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI are neutral as regards people of different sexual orientation and consequently there is no opportunity to promote equality of opportunity.</p>	none
<b>Men and women generally</b>	<p>The draft Rural Policy Framework for NI aims to create a sustainable rural community where people can work and live. Statistics from the 2011 census show the make-up of the rural community to be 50% men and 50% women.</p> <p>According to the GEM UK: Northern Ireland Report 2017 the Total Early-Stage Entrepreneurial Activity (TEA) in NI in 2017 was 6.5% compared to the UK average of 8.7%. Females in NI were half as likely to be entrepreneurs as males. An analysis in January 2020 of the Rural Business Investment Scheme 2014-2020 funded by DAERA and delivered under Priority 6 of the Rural Development Programme in Northern Ireland found that in line with wider research there was a disparity between male and female entrepreneurs. In relation to gender males benefitted most from the scheme with 76% of beneficiaries identified as male and 24% female.</p> <p>Innovations and entrepreneurial accomplishments of rural women are imperative to the future progress and viability of rural areas. The Treasury commissioned 'Alison Rose Review of Female Entrepreneurship (2019)' identified 3 areas of opportunities to help female entrepreneurs including: increasing the funding directed towards them; greater family care support; and making entrepreneurship more accessible to women and</p>	Minor positive

	<p>increasing support locally, through relatable and accessible mentors and networks. The government is aiming to increase the number of female entrepreneurs by half by 2030, equivalent to nearly 600,000 additional female entrepreneurs.</p> <p>Therefore, a need has been identified by the Working Groups feeding into the development of the Rural Policy Framework for NI to target females with training to develop their entrepreneurial skills. Women also need assistance as they tend to be more disproportionately affected by caring responsibilities which can block small business start-up.</p> <p>Given the strategic nature of the Framework, any potential impacts on section 75 groups cannot be fully evaluated until a later stage. Following public consultation and subject to approval an Equality Screening exercise will be carried out in respect of the Rural Business and Community Investment Programme. The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI have the potential to have a minor positive impact on equality of opportunity for gender (in particular on women) given the need which has been identified in relation to this group and the likelihood of being targeted in any future schemes.</p>	
<p><b>Disability</b></p>	<p>The draft Rural Policy Framework for NI aims to create a sustainable rural community where people can work and live. Statistics from the 2011 census show that 40% of rural households contain at least one person with a long term health problem or disability.</p> <p>A need was identified by the Working Groups feeding into the development of the Rural Policy Framework for NI to target improving the mental and emotional wellbeing of those living in rural areas. In particular, thematic pillar 3: Health and Wellbeing To reduce loneliness and social exclusion in rural areas, to minimise the impacts of rural isolation and to promote the health and wellbeing of rural dwellers and associated priority areas for intervention seeks to do this.</p>	<p>Minor positive</p>

The Working Groups found that the levels of reported (and anecdotal) poor mental and emotional wellbeing are increasing in rural communities. It was identified that there is a need for timely access to support services in relation to mental and emotional wellbeing within rural communities when in a crisis. Whilst such issues affect wider society, matters are exacerbated further for rural dwellers due to poor transport and access to services and this can also impact on people's ability to access employment and training opportunities.

Interventions suggested by the Working Groups and stakeholders that could be considered include:

- Reducing stigma around mental and emotional wellbeing issues via engagement; health and wellbeing programmes (e.g. social prescribing, social farming, walking trails, intergenerational programmes etc.); support groups; and outreach services;
- Social enterprises in rural communities which can create training and employment opportunities for a range of target groups including adults post-18 years exiting the special needs education environment, people on the autism spectrum and people dealing with / coping with life challenges (e.g. addictions, anxiety, depression);
- Extra support for certain groups seeking access to employment such as those with disabilities.

A publication by the Centre for Mental Health – 'BRIEFING Covid-19 and the nation's mental health: May 2020' highlighted the following:

- The COVID-19 pandemic is likely to lead to an increase in mental ill health in the UK, as a result of both the illness itself and the measures being taken to protect people from the virus;
- If the economic impact is similar to that of the post 2008 recession, then we could expect 500,000 additional people experiencing mental health problems, with depression being the most common;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The economic impact is likely to affect different parts of the country differently and therefore the likely increased prevalence of mental illness will be unevenly distributed;</li> </ul> <p>Given the strategic nature of the Framework, any potential impacts on section 75 groups cannot be fully evaluated until a later stage. Following public consultation and subject to approval an Equality Screening exercise will be carried out in respect of the Rural Business and Community Investment Programme. The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention (in particular under Thematic Pillar 3: Health and Wellbeing) identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI have the potential to have a minor positive impact on equality of opportunity for disability given the need which has been identified in relation to this group. The need is also likely to be greater following on from the impacts of COVID-19.</p>	
<p><b>Dependants</b></p>	<p>The draft Rural Policy Framework for NI aims to create a sustainable rural community where people can work and live. Statistics from the 2011 census show the make-up of rural households to be 37% with dependants and 63% without.</p> <p>A need was identified by the Working Groups feeding into the development of the Rural Policy Framework for NI to target the lack of services such as access to affordable, good quality and consistent childcare which was also available beyond early years provision. Access to such services are needed in rural areas to facilitate parents in gaining employment. A lack of such services can also increase isolation and negatively impact on child development (i.e. poor language skills and low levels of physical activity resulting in obesity among children), which can in turn lead to poor academic performance.</p> <p>It was also identified that groups at particular risk of loneliness and exclusion include carers (of all ages), especially in the context of an ageing rural population with a growing number of ageing carers which often entails one generation of older people caring for the generation above them. Carers face a number of challenges and obstacles and may</p>	<p>Minor positive</p>

	<p>need extra support to facilitate access to employment.</p> <p>Given the strategic nature of the Framework, any potential impacts on section 75 groups cannot be fully evaluated until a later stage. Following public consultation and subject to approval an Equality Screening exercise will be carried out in respect of the Rural Business and Community Investment Programme. The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI have the potential to have a minor positive impact on equality of opportunity for dependants given the need which has been identified in relation to this group and the likelihood of being targeted in any future schemes.</p>	
--	---	--

**2. Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories?**

Section 75 category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide reasons
<b>Religious belief</b>		The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI are neutral as regards people of different religious belief and consequently there is no opportunity to promote equality of opportunity.

<p><b>Political opinion</b></p>		<p>The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI are neutral as regards people of different political opinion and consequently there is no opportunity to promote equality of opportunity.</p>
<p><b>Racial group</b></p>		<p>The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI are neutral as regards people of different racial groups and consequently there is no opportunity to promote equality of opportunity</p>
<p><b>Age</b></p>	<p>The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI have the potential to promote equality of opportunity for people within this group. For example, young people and elderly people in rural areas have been identified as being in need and could potentially be targeted in future schemes.</p>	
<p><b>Marital status</b></p>		<p>The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI</p>

		are neutral as regards people of different marital status and consequently there is no opportunity to promote equality of opportunity
<b>Sexual orientation</b>		The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI are neutral as regards people of different sexual orientations and consequently there is no opportunity to promote equality of opportunity
<b>Men and women generally</b>	The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI have the potential to promote equality of opportunity for people within this group. For example, women in rural areas have been identified as being in need and could potentially be targeted in future schemes.	
<b>Disability</b>	The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI have the potential to promote equality of opportunity for people within this group. For example, promoting health and emotional wellbeing has been identified as a need within the Framework and it is likely that future schemes will target those in disabled groups, particularly under Thematic Pillar 3.	
<b>Dependants</b>	The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI have the potential to promote equality of opportunity for people within this group. For example, future schemes could potentially target provision of support facilitating access to childcare and employment opportunities for those with caring responsibilities.	

3. To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group? What is the level of impact? ***Think People!***

Good relations category	Likely impact?	Level of impact? Minor/Major/None
<b>Religious belief</b>	The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI are neutral as regards the impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, there is likely to be no impact.	none
<b>Political opinion</b>	The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI are neutral as regards the impact on good relations between people of different political opinion, there is likely to be no impact.	none
<b>Racial group</b>	The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI are neutral as regards the impact on good relations between people of different racial groups, there is likely to be no impact.	none

4. Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group? ***Think People!***

Good relations category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide reasons

<p><b>Religious belief</b></p>		<p>Given that the proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI are neutral as regards to promoting good relations between people of different religious beliefs, there is likely to be no impact.</p>
<p><b>Political opinion</b></p>		<p>Given that the proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI are neutral as regards to promoting good relations between people of different political opinion, there is likely to be no impact.</p>
<p><b>Racial group</b></p>		<p>Given that the proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI are neutral as regards to promoting good relations between people of different racial groups, there is likely to be no impact.</p>

DAERA also has legislative obligations to meet under the [Disability Discrimination Order](#) and [Human Rights Act](#) Questions 5 -9 relate to these two areas.

### Consideration of Disability Duties

5. Does this proposed policy or decision provide an opportunity for DAERA to better **promote positive attitudes** towards disabled people?

#### Explain your assessment in full

Yes - Thematic Pillar 3: Health and Wellbeing: To reduce loneliness and social exclusion in rural areas, to minimise the impacts of rural isolation and to promote the health and wellbeing of rural dwellers and associated priority areas for intervention provides an opportunity for DAERA to better promote positive attitudes towards disabled people. In particular groups which are likely to benefit are those living in rural areas who require support to improve their mental and emotional wellbeing. The need to target such groups is potentially going to be greater post COVID-19. However, given the strategic nature of the Framework, any benefits are unlikely to be fully realised until the development of Rural Business and Community Investment Programme at a later stage.

6. Does this proposed policy or decision provide an opportunity to actively **increase the participation** by disabled people in public life?

#### Explain your assessment in full

Yes - Thematic Pillar 3: Health and Wellbeing: To reduce loneliness and social exclusion in rural areas, to minimise the impacts of rural isolation and to promote the health and wellbeing of rural dwellers and associated priority areas for intervention provides an opportunity for DAERA to actively increase the participation by disabled people in public life. The Framework additionally will seek to address barriers to participation in public life such as difficulties in accessing transport, broadband, employment, training and social isolation etc. However, given the strategic nature of the Framework, any benefits are unlikely to be fully realised until the development of Rural Business and Community Investment Programme at a later stage.

## Consideration of Human Rights

7. The Human Rights Act (HRA) 1998 brings the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) into UK law and it applies in N Ireland. Indicate below (place an X in the appropriate box) any potential *adverse impacts* that the policy or decision may have in relation to human rights issues.

**See Annex A for brief synopsis on each of the Human Rights Articles & Protocols**

Right to Life	<b>Article 2</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prohibition of torture, inhuman or degrading treatment	<b>Article 3</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prohibition of slavery and forced labour	<b>Article 4</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Right to liberty and security	<b>Article 5</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Right to a fair and public trial	<b>Article 6</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Right to no punishment without law	<b>Article 7</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence	<b>Article 8</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion	<b>Article 9</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Right to freedom of expression	<b>Article 10</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association	<b>Article 11</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Right to marry and to found a family	<b>Article 12</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The prohibition of discrimination	<b>Article 14</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Protection of property and enjoyment of possessions	<b>Protocol 1 Article 1</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Right to education	<b>Protocol 1 Article 2</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Right to free and secret elections	<b>Protocol 1 Article 3</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Consideration of Human Rights (cont)

**8. Please explain any adverse impacts on human rights that you have identified**

No adverse impact identified.

**9. Please indicate any ways which you consider the policy positively promotes human rights**

None

## Monitoring Arrangements

**Section 75 places a requirement on DAERA to have equality monitoring arrangements in place in order to assess the impact of policies and services etc; and to help identify barriers to fair participation and to better promote equality of opportunity. Please note the following excerpt from The Equality Commission for Northern Ireland in relation to monitoring:**

*A system must be established to monitor the impact of the policy in order to find out its effect on relevant groups. The results of ongoing monitoring must be reviewed on an annual basis. The public authority is required to publish the results of this monitoring. And they must be included in the public authorities' annual review on progress to the Equality Commission. The Equality Scheme must specify how and where such monitoring information will be published. It is therefore essential that monitoring is carried out in a systematic manner and that the results are widely and openly published.*

*If the monitoring and analysis of results over a two year period show that the policy results in greater adverse impact than predicted, or if opportunities arise which would allow for greater equality of opportunity to be promoted, the public authority must ensure that the policy is revised to achieve better outcomes for the relevant equality groups.*

**Outline what data you will collect in the future in order to monitor the impact of this policy or decision on equality, good relations and disability duties.**

<b>Equality</b>	<b>Good Relations</b>	<b>Disability Duties</b>
S75 data monitoring will be carried out on any Rural Business and Community Investment Programmes to be delivered under the Rural Policy Framework for NI.	S75 data monitoring will be carried out on any Rural Business and Community Investment Programmes to be delivered under the Rural Policy Framework for NI.	S75 data monitoring will be carried out on any Rural Business and Community Investment Programmes to be delivered under the Rural Policy Framework for NI.

## Section D – Summary Sheet

### Formal Record of Screening Decision

**Title of Proposed Policy / Decision being screened:** Rural Policy Framework for Northern Ireland

I can confirm that the proposed policy / decision has been screened for –

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	equality of opportunity and good relations
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	disabilities duties; and
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	human rights issues

On the basis of the answers to the screening questions, I recommend that this policy / decision is

–

**\*place an X in the appropriate box below**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>*<u>Screened In</u></b> – Necessary to conduct a full EQIA
--------------------------	---

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>*<u>Screened Out</u></b> – No EQIA necessary (no impacts)  Provide a brief note here to explain how this decision was reached:  The screening exercise has established that it is unlikely for Section 75 categories to be adversely impacted upon as a result of the proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI. In regards to some groups there is a potential for minor positive impacts. As regards Human Rights, the proposals have no differential impact.  Following public consultation on the Rural Policy Framework for NI, should there be any issues raised in relation to this screening template, then consideration will be given to a full EQIA. It should be noted, however, that it is proposed that an Equality Screening exercise will be undertaken in respect of the Rural Business and Community Investment Programme to be delivered under the Rural Policy Framework for NI, and where appropriate, full EQIAs will be carried out by the lead public authority.
-------------------------------------	---

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>* <u>Screened Out -</u> Mitigating Actions (minor impacts)</b>
--------------------------	---

## DAERA Equality and Human Rights

### Screening Checklist

Before signing off this screening template please confirm that you have completed all the actions listed below.

I can confirm that all the actions listed below have been completed –

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I have explained any technical issues in plain English (easily understood by a 12 year old)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I have added evidence and explained my assessments in full
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I have provided a brief note to justify my decision to 'Screen In' or 'Screen Out'
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A copy of this screening template and the final decision has been sent to the Equality Unit for their consideration before it has been forwarded for sign-off

### Formal Record of Screening Decision (cont.)

***Have you issued this document to Equality Unit prior to obtaining Grade 3 signature?***

Yes – guidance sought from Equality Unit with response received on 28/07/20.

### Screening assessment completed by (Staff Officer level or above) -

Name: Katrina Killen

Grade: Deputy Principal

Date: 29/07/2020

Branch: Rural Policy and Delivery Branch

Signature:

Katrina Killen

**Screening decision approved by (must be Grade 3 or above) -**

Name: FIONA McCANDLESS

Grade: 3

Date: 29 July 2020

Branch: Deputy Secretary RAFSET

Signature: please insert a scanned image of your signature below

*Fiona M. Candless.*

Please save the final signed version of the completed screening form in the HPRM container below as soon as possible after completion and forward the HPRM link to Equality Branch at [equalitydiversitypublicappointments@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:equalitydiversitypublicappointments@daera-ni.gov.uk). The screening form will be placed on the DAERA website and a link provided to the Department's Section 75 consultees.



Strategic  
Management DAERA

For more information about equality screening, contact –

DAERA Equality Unit  
Equality, Diversity & Public Appointments Branch  
Ballykelly House  
111 Ballykelly Road  
LIMAVADY  
BT49 9HP

Email: [equalitydiversitypublicappointments@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:equalitydiversitypublicappointments@daera-ni.gov.uk)

Tel: 028 7744 2027

**August 2019**

[Type here]





## **Annex A**

### **Synopsis of Human Rights Act Articles & Protocols**

#### **ARTICLE 2**

##### ***Right to life***

1. Everyone's right to life shall be protected by law. No one shall be deprived of his life intentionally save in the execution of a sentence of a court following his conviction of a crime for which this penalty is provided by law.
2. Deprivation of life shall not be regarded as inflicted in contravention of this Article when it results from the use of force which is no more than absolutely necessary:
  - (a) In defense of any person from unlawful violence;
  - (b) In order to effect a lawful arrest or to prevent the escape of a person lawfully detained;
  - (c) In action lawfully taken for the purpose of quelling a riot or insurrection.

#### **ARTICLE 3**

##### ***Prohibition of torture***

No one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

#### **ARTICLE 4**

##### ***Prohibition of slavery and forced labour***

1. No one shall be held in slavery or servitude.
2. No one shall be required to perform forced or compulsory labour.
3. For the purpose of this Article the term "forced or compulsory labour" shall not include:
  - (a) Any work required to be done in the ordinary course of detention imposed according to the provisions of Article 5 of this Convention or during conditional release from such detention;
  - (b) Any service of a military character or, in case of conscientious objectors in countries where they are recognised, service exacted instead of compulsory military service;

- (c) Any service exacted in case of an emergency or calamity threatening the life or well-being of the community;
- (d) Any work or service which forms part of normal civic obligations.

## **ARTICLE 5**

### ***Right to liberty and security***

1. Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person. No one shall be deprived of his liberty save in the following cases and in accordance with a procedure prescribed by law:
  - (a) The lawful detention of a person after conviction by a competent court;
  - (b) The lawful arrest or detention of a person for non-compliance with the lawful order of a court or in order to secure the fulfilment of any obligation prescribed by law;
  - (c) the lawful arrest or detention of a person effected for the purpose of bringing him before the competent legal authority on reasonable suspicion of having committed an offence or when it is reasonably considered necessary to prevent his committing an offence or fleeing after having done so;
  - (d) the detention of a minor by lawful order for the purpose of educational supervision or his lawful detention for the purpose of bringing him before the competent legal authority;
  - (e) The lawful detention of persons for the prevention of the spreading of infectious diseases, of persons of unsound mind, alcoholics or drug addicts or vagrants;
  - (f) The lawful arrest or detention of a person to prevent his effecting an unauthorised entry into the country or of a person against whom action is being taken with a view to deportation or extradition.
2. Everyone who is arrested shall be informed promptly, in a language which he understands, of the reasons for his arrest and of any charge against him.
3. Everyone arrested or detained in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 1(c) of this Article shall be brought promptly before a judge or other officer authorised by law to exercise judicial power and shall be entitled to trial within a reasonable time or to release pending trial. Release may be conditioned by guarantees to appear for trial.
4. Everyone who is deprived of his liberty by arrest or detention shall be entitled to take proceedings by which the lawfulness of his detention shall be decided speedily by a court and his release ordered if the detention is not lawful.
5. Everyone who has been the victim of arrest or detention in contravention of the provisions of this Article shall have an enforceable right to compensation.

## **ARTICLE 6**

### ***Right to a fair trial***

1. In the determination of his civil rights and obligations or of any criminal charge against him, everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial tribunal established by law. Judgment shall be pronounced publicly but the press and public may be excluded from all or part of the trial in the interest of morals, public order or national security in a democratic society, where the interests of juveniles or the protection of the private life of the parties so require, or to the extent strictly necessary in the opinion of the court in special circumstances where publicity would prejudice the interests of justice.
2. Everyone charged with a criminal offence shall be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law.
3. Everyone charged with a criminal offence has the following minimum rights:
  - (a) To be informed promptly, in a language which he understands and in detail, of the nature and cause of the accusation against him;
  - (b) To have adequate time and facilities for the preparation of his defense;
  - (c) To defend himself in person or through legal assistance of his own choosing or, if he has not sufficient means to pay for legal assistance, to be given it free when the interests of justice so require;
  - (d) To examine or have examined witnesses against him and to obtain the attendance and examination of witnesses on his behalf under the same conditions as witnesses against him;
  - (e) To have the free assistance of an interpreter if he cannot understand or speak the language used in court.

## **ARTICLE 7**

### ***No punishment without law***

1. No one shall be held guilty of any criminal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a criminal offence under national or international law at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the criminal offence was committed.
2. This Article shall not prejudice the trial and punishment of any person for any act or omission which, at the time when it was committed, was criminal according to the general principles of law recognised by civilised nations.

#### **ARTICLE 8**

##### ***Right to respect for private and family life***

1. Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence.
2. There shall be no interference by a public authority with the exercise of this right except such as is in accordance with the law and is necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security, public safety or the economic well-being of the country, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

#### **ARTICLE 9**

##### ***Freedom of thought, conscience and religion***

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief, in worship, teaching, practice and observance.
2. Freedom to manifest one's religion or beliefs shall be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of public safety, for the protection of public order, health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

#### **ARTICLE 10**

## ***Freedom of expression***

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers. This Article shall not prevent States from requiring the licensing of broadcasting, television or cinema enterprises.
2. The exercise of these freedoms, since it carries with it duties and responsibilities, may be subject to such formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary.

## **ARTICLE 11**

### ***Freedom of assembly and association***

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and to freedom of association with others, including the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.
2. No restrictions shall be placed on the exercise of these rights other than such as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others. This Article shall not prevent the imposition of lawful restrictions on the exercise of these rights by members of the armed forces, of the police or of the administration of the State.

## **ARTICLE 12**

### ***Right to marry***

Men and women of marriageable age have the right to marry and to found a family, according to the national laws governing the exercise of this right.

## **ARTICLE 14**

### ***Prohibition of discrimination***

The enjoyment of the rights and freedoms set forth in this Convention shall be secured without discrimination on any ground such as sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status.

## **Protocol 1**

### **ARTICLE 1**

#### ***Protection of property***

Every natural or legal person is entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of his possessions. No one shall be deprived of his possessions except in the public interest and subject to the conditions provided for by law and by the general principles of international law.

The preceding provisions shall not, however, in any way impair the right of a State to enforce such laws as it deems necessary to control the use of property in accordance with the general interest or to secure the payment of taxes or other contributions or penalties.

## **Protocol 1**

### **ARTICLE 2**

#### ***Right to education***

No person shall be denied the right to education. In the exercise of any functions which it assumes in relation to education and to teaching, the State shall respect the right of parents to ensure such education and teaching in conformity with their own religious and philosophical convictions.

## **Protocol 1**

### **ARTICLE**

### ***3 Right to free elections***

The High Contracting Parties undertake to hold free elections at reasonable intervals by secret ballot, under conditions which will ensure the free expression of the opinion of the people in the choice of the legislature