Department for the Economy clauses in a potential Financial Provisions Bill.

DfE has identified the following financial issues that it proposes to resolve via primary legislation:

* DfE’s power to provide financial assistance where it is likely to be in the interest of the economy;
* DfE’s power to exempt or remit certain fees in exceptional circumstances for Tourism Northern Ireland (TNI), for TNI to have the flexibility to introduce new fees where appropriate, and to extend TNI’s existing ability to grade or classify certified tourist establishments to also include tourist amenities;
* DfE’s power to form companies;
* Updating of section 1 of the Employment and Training Act (Northern Ireland) 1950 (as amended).
* the handling of smaller Departmental accounts (i.e. possible absorption within the main Departmental accounts).

1E. Please provide details of the aims and/or objectives of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service.



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Appendix 1 - Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA)

Template

1D. Please provide the official title (if any) of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service document or initiative relating to the category indicated in Section 1C above.

Developing a Policy Strategy Plan

Adopting a Policy Strategy Plan

Implementing a Policy Strategy Plan

Revising a Policy Strategy Plan Designing a Public Service

Delivering a Public Service

X

1C. Please indicate which category the activity specified in Section 1B above relates to.

A proposal for primary legislation to resolve issues in regard to the Department’s financial powers.

1B. Please provide a short title which describes the activity being undertaken by the Public Authority that is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.

Department for the Economy

1A. Name of Public Authority.

**SECTION 1 - Defining the activity subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016**

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N/A

*Reasons why a definition of ‘rural’ is not applicable.*

N/A

*Rationale for using alternative definition of ‘rural’.*

N/A

*Details of alternative definition of ‘rural’ used.*

Population Settlements of less than 5,000 (Default definition). Other Definition (Provide details and the rationale below).

A definition of ‘rural’ is not applicable.

X

1F. What definition of ‘rural’ is the Public Authority using in respect of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?

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We are consulting on a proposal for primary legislation which would apply to the region as a whole, at present we do not expect a different impact on people in rural areas to those in urban areas.

2C. If the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas *differently* from people in urban areas, please explain how it is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently.

DfE has identified the following financial issues that it proposes to resolve via primary legislation:

* DfE’s power to provide financial assistance where it is likely to be in the interest of the economy;
* DfE’s power to exempt or remit certain fees in exceptional circumstances for Tourism Northern Ireland (TNI), for TNI to have the flexibility to introduce new fees where appropriate, and to extend TNI’s existing ability to grade or classify certified tourist establishments to also include tourist amenities;
* DfE’s power to form companies;
* Updating of section 1 of the Employment and Training Act (Northern Ireland) 1950 (as amended).
* the handling of smaller Departmental accounts (i.e. possible absorption within the main Departmental accounts).

Although the proposal for legislation is technical in nature, parts of it may be used in future to benefit the economy, including businesses and citizens in rural areas.

Future implementation of specific policies or projects which are enabled by these provisions will be considered in accordance with the Rural Needs Act on a case by case basis by the relevant policy / project lead, including future impact assessments as appropriate.

No adverse rural impact is expected.

2B. Please explain how the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas.

Yes No If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **2E**.

X

2A. Is the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service likely to impact on people in rural areas?

**SECTION 2 - Understanding the impact of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service**

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2E. Please explain why the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is NOT likely to impact on people in rural areas.

If the response to Section 2A was YES GO TO Section 3A.

Rural Businesses Rural Tourism Rural Housing

Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas Education or Training in Rural Areas

Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas

Poverty in Rural Areas Deprivation in Rural Areas

Rural Crime or Community Safety Rural Development

Agri-Environment

Other (Please state)

X

X

X

X

2D. Please indicate which of the following rural policy areas the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to primarily impact on.

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This draft RNIA is to be published alongside the Department’s consultation on the proposal for primary legislation.

We will consider any response to the consultation that indicates a rural impact or evidence that is relevant to this proposal and will review the proposal in light of any new information. We will update the draft RNIA following the consultation.

However, this proposal for legislation is technical in nature, although parts of it may be used in future to benefit the economy, including businesses and citizens in rural areas.

Future implementation of specific policies or projects which are enabled by these provisions will be considered in accordance with the Rural Needs Act on a case by case basis by the relevant policy / project lead, including future impact assessments as appropriate.

3C. Please provide details of the methods and information sources used to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas including relevant dates, names of organisations, titles of publications, website references, details of surveys or consultations undertaken etc.

Consultation with Rural Stakeholders Published Statistics Consultation with Other Organisations Research Papers Surveys or Questionnaires Other Publications

Other Methods or Information Sources (include details in Question 3C below).

X

3B. Please indicate which of the following methods or information sources were used by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

Yes No If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **3E**.

X

3A. Has the Public Authority taken steps to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas that are relevant to the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?

**SECTION 3 - Identifying the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas**

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3E. Please explain why no steps were taken by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas?

If the response to Section 3A was YES GO TO Section 4A.

None specifically identified in relation to this proposal for primary legislation.

We will consider any response to the consultation that indicates a social or economic needs of people in rural areas that is relevant to this proposal and will review the proposal in light of any new information. We will update the draft RNIA following the consultation.

3D. Please provide details of the social and economic needs of people in rural areas which have been identified by the Public Authority?

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Given the technical nature of DfE’s proposal for legislation in this case, it is not expected that the legislation alone would impact on the social or economic needs of people in rural areas.

Future implementation of specific policies or projects which are enabled by these provisions will be considered in accordance with the Rural Needs Act on a case by case basis by the relevant policy / project lead, including future impact assessments as appropriate.

4A. Please provide details of the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

**SECTION 4 - Considering the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas**

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If the response to Section 5A was YES GO TO Section 6A.

5B. Please explain how the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, has been influenced by the rural needs identified.

Yes No If the response is NO GO TO Section 5C.

X

5A. Has the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, been influenced by the rural needs identified?

**SECTION 5 - Influencing the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service**

HB Hudson

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Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:

Heidi-Beth Hudson

Position/Grade:

Principal (G7)

Division/Branch

Economic Vision

Signature:

Date:

24 May 2024

Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:

Giulia ní Dhulchaointigh

Position/Grade:

G5

Division/Branch:

Economic Vision

Signature:

G n Dhulchaointigh

Date:

29 May 2024

I confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained and relevant information compiled.

X

6A. Please tick below to confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained by the Public Authority and relevant information on the Section 1 activity compiled in accordance with paragraph 6.7 of the guidance.

**SECTION 6 - Documenting and Recording**

This draft RNIA is to be published alongside the Department’s consultation on the proposal for primary legislation.

We will consider any response to the consultation that indicates a rural impact or evidence that is relevant to this proposal and will review the proposal in light of any new information. We will update the draft RNIA following the consultation.

However, this proposal for legislation is technical in nature, although parts of it may be used in future to benefit the economy, including businesses and citizens in rural areas.

Future implementation of specific policies or projects which are enabled by these provisions will be considered in accordance with the Rural Needs Act on a case by case basis by the relevant policy / project lead, including future impact assessments as appropriate.

5C. Please explain why the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or the delivery of the Public Service, has NOT been influenced by the rural needs identified.