

## Appendix I - Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) Template

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

#### 1A. Name of Public Authority.

Department of Justice

#### 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.

The Department is consulting on plans for a new single community order for children. This will replace the existing seven community orders to provide better outcomes for children who offend, as well as their families, victims and communities.

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

Developing a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Adopting a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Implementing a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Revising a	Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Designing a Public Service	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Delivering a Public Service	<input type="checkbox"/>		

#### 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.

Introduction of a new flexible single community order for children.

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

The aim of the revised policy is to streamline and simplify the existing community sentencing framework for children in Northern Ireland, with better outcomes for children, families, victims and communities being the ultimate goal.

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

Population Settlements of less than 5,000 (Default definition).

Other Definition (Provide details and the rationale below).

A definition of 'rural' is not applicable.

*Details of alternative definition of 'rural' used.*

N/A

*Rationale for using alternative definition of 'rural'.*

N/A

*Reasons why a definition of 'rural' is not applicable.*

N/A

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

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

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

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

Youth offenders come from both urban and rural communities. The aim of the policy is to streamline and simplify the existing community sentencing framework in Northern Ireland for children, with better outcomes for them as well as families, victims and communities. This will apply to everyone in Northern Ireland, wherever they live. We do not believe that the impact of the policy will be different for those living in rural areas when compared to those living in urban areas. The new community order will be available to the Judiciary across Northern Ireland.

**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.**

We do not believe that the impact of the policy will be different for those living in rural areas when compared to those living in urban areas.

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

Rural Businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Tourism	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education or Training in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deprivation in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Crime or Community Safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rural Development	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agri-Environment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please state)	<input type="text"/>

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

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

We do not believe that the impact of the policy will be different for those living in rural areas when compared to those living in urban areas.

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

**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?**

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

**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.**

Consultation with Rural Stakeholders	<input type="checkbox"/>	Published Statistics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Consultation with Other Organisations	<input type="checkbox"/>	Research Papers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surveys or Questionnaires	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Methods or Information Sources (include details in Question 3C below).			<input type="checkbox"/>

**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.**

The primary reference for the assessment comes from the Youth Justice Agency annual workload statistics, with the latest statistics covering 2023/2024.

Source: [YJA Workload Statistics 2023-24](#)

**Table 11: Individual children referred to YJS by area of residence and rate per 1,000 population**

Area	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Antrim and Newtownabbey	82	86	79	59	39
Ards and North Down	78	61	44	65	63
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	87	62	91	91	101
Belfast	247	206	205	160	219
Causeway Coast and Glens	56	57	83	67	62
Derry City and Strabane	94	85	77	62	72
Fermanagh and Omagh	52	46	68	63	57
Lisburn and Castlereagh	54	40	39	38	46
Mid and East Antrim	76	81	88	62	50
Mid Ulster	43	41	53	34	28
Newry, Mourne and Down	85	66	77	72	72
Resident outside NI	0	0	0	1	0
Unassigned [Note 2]	3	0	0	0	0
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>957</b>	<b>831</b>	<b>904</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>809</b>

The table highlights the referrals to Youth Justice Services by area of residence across Northern Ireland for the last five years for children aged 10-17 years old.

Area	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Antrim and Newtownabbey	5.5	5.7	5.2	3.9	2.5
Ards and North Down	5.1	3.9	2.8	4.1	3.9
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	3.8	2.6	3.7	3.7	4.0
Belfast	7.8	6.4	6.3	4.9	6.5
Causeway Coast and Glens	4.0	4.0	5.8	4.7	4.3
Derry City and Strabane	5.9	5.3	4.7	3.8	4.3
Fermanagh and Omagh	4.2	3.7	5.4	5.0	4.4
Lisburn and Castlereagh	3.9	2.8	2.6	2.5	3.0
Mid and East Antrim	5.7	5.9	6.5	4.6	3.6
Mid Ulster	2.6	2.4	3.1	2.0	1.6
Newry, Mourne and Down	4.3	3.3	3.8	3.5	3.5
Resident outside NI	..	..	..	..	..
Unassigned [Note 2]	..	..	..	..	..
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>4.0</b>

Belfast had the highest rate of children referred at 6.5 per 1,000 population aged 10 to 17. The lowest rates seen were in Antrim and Newtownabbey (2.5) and Mid Ulster (1.6). The figures show that children living in more urban areas are more likely to be referred than those living in rural areas. As a result, the new policy will have a greater impact on those living in urban areas, in that those living in urban areas are more likely to be in receipt of the new order.

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

N/A

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

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

The Department considers that the revision to the policy would not have a differential impact on those living in rural communities. The aim of the revision is to streamline and simplify the existing community sentencing framework for **all** children in Northern Ireland, with better outcomes for children, families, victims and communities. It will, therefore, apply equally to those living in rural and urban areas.

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

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

N/A

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

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?

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

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.

N/A

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



**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.**

There have been no specific rural needs identified in respect of the policy. The revised policy is anticipated to have a positive impact on children from all areas, both urban and rural, in that it will seek to simplify the sentencing process for children involved in offending behaviour.

## SECTION 6 - Documenting and Recording

**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.**

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



<b>Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:</b>	Paddy Coughlan
<b>Position/Grade:</b>	Staff Officer
<b>Division/Branch</b>	Reducing Offending Division
<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	14/02/2025
<b>Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:</b>	Jenny McAlarney
<b>Position/Grade:</b>	Acting Grade 7
<b>Division/Branch:</b>	Reducing Offending Division
<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	14/02/2025