

DOJ Section 75

EQUALITY SCREENING FORM

Title of Policy:

Consultation on 'Vehicle Recovery, Storage and Disposal Statutory Charges Review - Northern Ireland'

The Legal Background – Under section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the Department is required to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity:

- between person of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
- between men and women generally;
- between persons with a disability and persons without; and,
- between persons with dependants and persons without¹.

Without prejudice to the obligations set out above, the Department is also required to:

- have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group; and
- meet legislative obligations under the Disability Discrimination Order.

Introduction

- **Part 1. Policy scoping** asks public authorities to provide details about the policy, procedure, practice and/or decision being screened and what available evidence you have gathered to help make an assessment of the likely impact on equality of opportunity and good relations.
- **Part 2. Screening questions** asks about the extent of the likely impact of the policy on groups of people within each of the Section 75 categories. Details of the groups consulted and the level of assessment of the likely impact. This includes consideration of multiple identity and good relations issues.
- **Part 3. Screening decision** guides the public authority to reach a screening decision as to whether or not there is a need to carry out an equality impact assessment (EQIA), or to introduce measures to mitigate the likely impact, or the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.
- **Part 4. Monitoring** provides guidance to public authorities on monitoring for adverse impact and broader monitoring.
- **Part 5.** Approval and authorisation verifies the public authority's approval of a screening decision by a senior manager responsible for the policy.

The flowchart details the equality screening process.

Part 1. Policy scoping

The first stage of the screening process involves scoping the policy under consideration. The purpose of policy scoping is to help prepare the background and context and set out the aims and objectives for the policy, being screened. At this stage, scoping the policy will help identify potential constraints as well as opportunities and will help the policy maker work through the screening process on a step by step basis.

Public authorities should remember that the Section 75 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).

Information about the policy

Name of the policy:

Consultation on 'Vehicle Recovery, Storage and Disposal Statutory Charges Review - Northern Ireland'

Is this an existing, revised or a new policy?

This is a consultation on the levels of fees set in regulations made by the Department of Justice for the removal, storage and disposal of vehicles where:

- a vehicle is driven without insurance:
- a vehicle is driven carelessly, inconsiderately or off-road in a manner causing alarm, distress or annoyance; and
- a vehicle seizure order is made where a person has defaulted on payment of a fine or other penalty.

This relates to an existing policy. The charges have not been reviewed since they were set in 2008.

Legislation concerned

The fees are prescribed in the following Regulations:

- The Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 (Retention and Disposal of Seized Motor Vehicles) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008 (legislation.gov.uk) Art6
- The Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 2008 (Retention and Disposal of Seized Motor Vehicles) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008 (legislation.gov.uk) Art 6
- The Enforcement of Fines and Other Penalties Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018 (legislation.gov.uk) Sch 3

Amendments to these Regulations, if necessary, would be subject to the negative resolution procedure.

What is it trying to achieve? (Intended aims/outcomes)

The consultation aims to seeks views on whether there is a need to change specified vehicle recovery, storage and disposal fees.

The consultation document explains that vehicle seizure powers apply across a range of circumstances each regulated by legislation specific to the power in question¹. There is a degree of variation between the provisions, but typically the relevant legislation sets the procedure to be followed, provides for the fees that can be levied and by whom these must be paid, and identifies who can carry out the removal, the storage and, in some cases, the disposal of the vehicle in question. This is generally the relevant Department², a Council

vehicles driven without insurance: <u>Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 (legislation.gov.uk)</u>
 <u>The Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 (Retention and Disposal of Seized Motor Vehicles)</u>
 Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008 (legislation.gov.uk)

 vehicles driven carelessly, inconsiderately or illegally off-road in a manner causing or likely to cause alarm, distress or annoyance: <u>The Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 2008</u> (<u>legislation.gov.uk</u>)
 The Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 2008 (Retention and Disposal of Seized Motor Vehicles)

Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008 (legislation.gov.uk)

- where a vehicle seizure order has been made in order to enforce the payment of an outstanding financial penalty: <u>Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 (legislation.gov.uk)</u>
 The Enforcement of Fines and Other Penalties Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018 (legislation.gov.uk)
- vehicles broken down or left on a road where they cause an obstruction or may cause a danger or left on a road in contravention of any statutory prohibition or restriction: <u>The Road Traffic Regulation</u> (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 (legislation.gov.uk)
- use of prohibited vehicles: <u>The Traffic Management (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 (legislation.gov.uk)</u>
 <u>The Removal, Storage and Disposal of Vehicles (Prescribed Charges) Regulations (Northern Ireland)</u>
 2006 (legislation.gov.uk)
- vehicles being used illegally for taxiing: <u>Taxis Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (legislation.gov.uk)</u>
 <u>The Taxis Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 (Retention and Disposal of Seized Motor Vehicles, Equipment and Items) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 (legislation.gov.uk)</u>
- vehicles on land at unauthorized encampments: <u>The Unauthorised Encampments (Northern Ireland)</u>
 <u>Order 2005 (legislation.gov.uk)</u>
 <u>The Unauthorised Encampments (Retention and Disposal of Vehicles) Regulations (Northern Ireland)</u>
 <u>2006 (legislation.gov.uk)</u>
- vehicles being used while prohibited from being driven: <u>The Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 2007 (legislation.gov.uk)</u>
 <u>The Road Traffic (Immobilisation, Removal and Disposal of Vehicles) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 (legislation.gov.uk)</u>

¹ These include:

² This will be the Department for Infrastructure or the Department of Justice, as provided by the legislation relevant to the particular seizure power.

and/or the police.

Police or the relevant Department are normally authorized to appoint independent contractors to carry out the removals, storage and disposals. The fees levied are used to pay the contractors. Over recent years the costs to contractors and the effect of inflation have made the continued provision of this service less viable.

Following similar reviews carried out in Scotland in 2019 and in England and Wales early in 2023, we feel it is now appropriate to review the fees to ensure that they are fair to both those carrying out removal, storage and disposal work and those whose vehicles are removed. This consultation is an important step in the review process.

The consultation document also confirms that the aim of the charges/fees is not to impose a penalty on vehicle drivers or owners. Exemptions apply to ensure owners are not unfairly charged where the driving which led to the seizure of a vehicle was not their responsibility.

Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy? If so, explain how.

None identified. The policy decision is to consult on the need or otherwise for a change. There is no evidence to suggest any s.75 group would be expected to benefit from the decision to consult.

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

The Department of Justice.

Who owns and who implements the policy?

The Department of Justice.

Implementation factors

Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision?

If yes, are they (please delete as appropriate)

Financial - Having checked the Bank of England inflation calculator, inflation has increased by 55% since 2008. The uplift of 28% being consulted on is below 'actual' inflation.

Respondents to the consultation are likely to be mindful of cost of living concerns when responding to the consultation questions.

Legislative – any change following the consultation must be implemented by amendment to secondary legislation subject to the affirmative resolution procedure in the NI Assembly. This will be a factor if a decision to make changes is taken, and will feature in screening of the decisions at that point.

Main stakeholders affected

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

The consultation seeks views on whether to change or not to change the fees currently charged. Any decisions will impact on:

- Service users.
- PSNI
- Contractors procured and appointed to carry out this service of recovery or seizure, storage and disposal of vehicles.

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

What are they?

n/a

Who owns them?

n/a

Available evidence

Evidence to help inform the screening process may take many forms. Public authorities should ensure that their screening decision is informed by relevant data. The Commission has produced this guide to <u>signpost to S75 data</u>.

What <u>evidence/information</u> (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories.

Religious belief evidence / information:

We are unaware of any evidence to indicate that people with different religious beliefs would

be differentially affected by this decision to consult on a review of statutory charges. The consultation document will be made available online and consideration will be given to requests to provide it in other formats. The launch of the consultation will be promoted to ensure as wide a reach as possible.

Political Opinion evidence / information:

We are unaware of any evidence to indicate that people with different political opinions beliefs would be differentially affected by this decision to consult on a review of statutory charges. The consultation document will be made available online and consideration will be given to requests to provide it in other formats. The launch of the consultation will be promoted to ensure as wide a reach as possible.

Racial Group evidence / information:

We are unaware of any evidence to indicate that people of different racial groups would be differentially affected by this decision to consult on a review of statutory charges. The consultation document will be made available online and consideration will be given to requests to provide it in other formats. The launch of the consultation will be promoted to ensure as wide a reach as possible.

Age evidence / information:

We are unaware of any evidence to indicate that people of different ages would be differentially affected by this decision to consult on a review of statutory charges. The consultation document will be made available online and consideration will be given to requests to provide it in other formats. The launch of the consultation will be promoted to ensure as wide a reach as possible.

Marital Status evidence / information:

We are unaware of any evidence to indicate that people with different marital status would be differentially affected by this decision to consult on a review of statutory charges. The consultation document will be made available online and consideration will be given to requests to provide it in other formats. The launch of the consultation will be promoted to ensure as wide a reach as possible.

Sexual Orientation evidence / information:

We are unaware of any evidence to indicate that people with different sexual orientation would be differentially affected by this decision to consult on a review of statutory charges. The consultation document will be made available online and consideration will be given to requests to provide it in other formats. The launch of the consultation will be promoted to ensure as wide a reach as possible.

Men & Women generally evidence / information:

We are unaware of any evidence to indicate that men and women would be differentially affected by this decision to consult on a review of statutory charges. The consultation

document will be made available online and consideration will be given to requests to provide it in other formats. The launch of the consultation will be promoted to ensure as wide a reach as possible.

Disability evidence / information:

We are unaware of any evidence to indicate that people with or without disabilities would be differentially affected by this decision to consult on a review of statutory charges. The consultation document will be made available online and consideration will be given to requests to provide it in other formats. The launch of the consultation will be promoted to ensure as wide a reach as possible.

Dependants' evidence / information:

We are unaware of any evidence to indicate that people with or without dependents would be differentially affected by this decision to consult on a review of statutory charges. The consultation document will be made available online and consideration will be given to requests to provide it in other formats. The launch of the consultation will be promoted to ensure as wide a reach as possible.

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 <u>details</u> of the <u>needs</u>, <u>experiences and priorities</u> for each of the Section 75 categories below:

Religious belief:

It is not considered that the decision to consult would have any significant effect on the needs, experiences and priorities of this Section 75 category.

Political Opinion:

It is not considered that the decision to consult would have any significant effect on the needs, experiences and priorities of this Section 75 category.

Racial Group:

It is not considered that the decision to consult would have any significant effect on the needs, experiences and priorities of this Section 75 category. Any request for provision of the consultation in a different format to ensure the opportunity to respond to the consultation for those who cannot understand English will be considered.

Age:

It is not considered that the decision to consult would have any significant effect on the needs, experiences and priorities of this Section 75 category. Any request for provision of the

consultation in an age appropriate format to ensure the opportunity to respond to the consultation for those of different age groups will be considered.

Marital status:

It is not considered that the decision to consult would have any significant effect on the needs, experiences and priorities of this Section 75 category.

Sexual orientation:

It is not considered that the decision to consult would have any significant effect on the needs, experiences and priorities of this Section 75 category.

Men and Women Generally:

It is not considered that the decision to consult would have any significant effect on the needs, experiences and priorities of this Section 75 category.

Disability:

It is not considered that the decision to consult would have any significant effect on the needs, experiences and priorities of this Section 75 category. The consultation document is suitable for 'read aloud'. This will assist those with literacy and sight impairments.

Dependants:

It is not considered that the decision to consult would have any significant effect on the needs, experiences and priorities of this Section 75 category.

Part 2. Screening questions

Introduction

In making a decision as to whether or not there is a need to carry out an equality impact assessment, the public authority should consider its answers to the questions 1-4 which are detailed below.

If the public authority's conclusion is **none** in respect of all of the Section 75 equality of opportunity and/or good relations categories, then the public authority may decide to screen the policy out. If a policy is 'screened out' as having no relevance to equality of opportunity or good relations, a public authority should give details of the reasons for the decision taken.

If the public authority's conclusion is **major** in respect of one or more of the Section 75 equality of opportunity and/or good relations categories, then consideration should be given to subjecting the policy to the equality impact assessment procedure.

If the public authority's conclusion is **minor** in respect of one or more of the Section 75 equality categories and/or good relations categories, then consideration should still be given to proceeding with an equality impact assessment, or to:

- measures to mitigate the adverse impact; or
- the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

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 it would be appropriate to conduct an equality impact assessment in order to better assess them;
- 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 amongst 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;
- 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 evidence presented above, consider and comment on the likely impact on equality of opportunity and good relations for those affected by this policy, in any way, for

each of the equality and good relations categories, by applying the screening questions given overleaf and indicate the level of impact on the group i.e. minor, major or none.

Screening questions

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

Please provide <u>details of the likely policy impacts</u> and <u>determine the level of impact</u> for each S75 categories below i.e. either minor, major or none.

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Religious belief**:

We have no reason to believe the decision to consult will have an adverse effect on equality of opportunity for this group.

What is the level of impact? None

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Political Opinion**: We have no reason to believe the decision to consult will have an adverse effect on equality of opportunity for this group. What is the level of impact? None

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Racial Group**: We believe the option of providing the consultation in a different format could improve participation for members of racial groups who cannot understand English.

What is the level of impact? Minor (positive impact)

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Age**: We believe the option of providing the consultation in a different format could improve participation for members of different age groups.

What is the level of impact? Minor (positive impact)

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Marital Status**: We have no reason to believe the decision to consult will have an adverse effect on equality of opportunity for this group. What is the level of impact? None

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Sexual Orientation**:

We have no reason to believe the decision to consult will have an adverse effect on equality of opportunity for this group.

What is the level of impact? None

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Men and Women**:

We have no reason to believe the decision to consult will have an adverse effect on equality of opportunity for this group.

What is the level of impact? None

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Disability**:

We have no reason to believe the decision to consult will have an adverse effect on equality of opportunity for this group. An accessibility check has confirmed that the consultation document is suitable for 'read aloud'. This will assist those with literacy and sight impairments.

What is the level of impact? Minor (positive impact)

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Dependants**:

We have no reason to believe the decision to consult will have an adverse effect on equality of opportunity for this group.

What is the level of impact? None

2. Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories? Yes/No

Detail opportunities of how this policy could promote equality of opportunity for people within each of the Section 75 Categories below:

Religious Belief - If Yes, provide details:

If No, provide <u>reasons:</u> No, as the decision to consult has no differential impact on any s75 categories. The consultation document will be made available online and consideration will be given to requests to provide it in other formats. The launch of the consultation will be promoted to ensure as wide a reach as possible to allow views from members of all s.75 categories to be considered.

Political Opinion - If Yes, provide details:

If No, provide <u>reasons:</u> No, as the decision to consult has no differential impact on any s75 categories. The consultation document will be made available online and consideration will be given to requests to provide it in other formats. The launch of the consultation will be promoted to ensure as wide a reach as possible to allow views from members of all s.75 categories to be considered.

Racial Group - If Yes, provide details:

If No, provide <u>reasons</u>: Yes, any request for the consultation document to be made available in a different format will be considered. This may include consideration of requests for translations which may be relevant to certain racial groups to allow wider participation within this group.

Age - If Yes, provide details:

If No, provide <u>reasons:</u> Yes, any request for the consultation document to be made available in a different format will be considered. This may include consideration of requests for provision of the document or its content in age-appropriate format to allow wider participation across age groups.

Marital Status - If Yes, provide details:

If No, provide <u>reasons:</u> No, as the decision to consult has no differential impact on any s75 categories. The consultation document will be made available online and consideration will be given to requests to provide it in other formats. The launch of the consultation will be promoted to ensure as wide a reach as possible to allow views from members of all s.75 categories to be considered.

Sexual Orientation - If Yes, provide details:

If No, provide <u>reasons:</u> No, as the decision to consult has no differential impact on any s75 categories. The consultation document will be made available online and consideration will be given to requests to provide it in other formats. The launch of the

consultation will be promoted to ensure as wide a reach as possible to allow views from members of all s.75 categories to be considered.

Men and Women generally - If Yes, provide details:

If No, provide <u>reasons:</u> No, as the decision to consult has no differential impact on any s75 categories. The consultation document will be made available online and consideration will be given to requests to provide it in other formats. The launch of the consultation will be promoted to ensure as wide a reach as possible to allow views from members of all s.75 categories to be considered.

Disability - If Yes, provide <u>details:</u>

If No, provide <u>reasons: Yes.</u> An accessibility check has confirmed that the consultation document is suitable for 'read aloud'. This will assist those with literacy and sight impairments to participate in the consultation.

Dependants - If Yes, provide details:

If No, provide <u>reasons:</u> No, as the decision to consult has no differential impact on any s75 categories. The consultation document will be made available online and consideration will be given to requests to provide it in other formats. The launch of the consultation will be promoted to ensure as wide a reach as possible to allow views from members of all s.75 categories to be considered.

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

Please provide <u>details of the likely policy impact</u> and <u>determine the level of impact</u> for each of the categories below i.e. either minor, major or none. (Underline as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Religious belief**: (insert text here) What is the level of impact? None

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Political Opinion**: (insert text here) What is the level of impact? None

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Racial Group**: (insert text here) What is the level of impact? None

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

Detail opportunities of how this policy could better promote good relations for people within each of the Section 75 Categories below:

Religious Belief - If Yes, provide details:

If No, provide <u>reasons:</u> There are no opportunities for promoting good relations between specific categories as the decision to consult has no differential impact on people of different religious beliefs.

Political Opinion - If Yes, provide <u>details:</u>

If No, provide <u>reasons</u>: There are no opportunities for promoting good relations between specific categories as the decision to consult has no differential impact on people of different political opinions.

Racial Group - If Yes, provide details:

If No, provide <u>reasons</u>: Yes, potentially. If the document were to be provided in a different format to enable people of a different racial group to participate this would allow an opportunity for those people to share their views which could in turn promote good relations between people of different racial groups. Any request will be considered.

Additional considerations

Multiple identity

Generally speaking, people can fall into more than one Section 75 category. Taking this into consideration, are there any potential impacts of the policy/decision on people with multiple identities?

(For example; disabled minority ethnic people; disabled women; young Protestant men; and young lesbians, gay and bisexual people).

No

Provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned.

No impact has been identified during this screening exercise.

Part 3. Screening decision

If the decision is not to conduct an equality impact assessment, please provide details of the reasons.

An EQIA is not necessary as we do not anticipate any adverse equality-related impacts on any s75 category.

- The decision to consult has no negative impact on equality of opportunity or good relations.
- The policy makes no changes to fees at this stage, rather the consultation seeks views on whether fees should be changed or not 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.

If the decision is not to conduct an equality impact assessment the public authority should consider if the policy should be mitigated or an alternative policy be introduced - please provide details.

The screening exercise has not identified any significant implications for equality of opportunity.

If the decision is to subject the policy to an equality impact assessment, please provide details of the reasons.

Not applicable.

All public authorities' equality schemes must state the authority's arrangements for assessing and consulting on the likely impact of policies adopted or proposed to be adopted by the authority on the promotion of equality of opportunity. The Commission recommends screening and equality impact assessment as the tools to be utilised for such assessments. Further advice on equality impact assessment may be found in a separate Commission publication: Practical Guidance on Equality Impact Assessment.

Mitigation

When the public authority concludes that the likely impact is 'minor' and an equality impact assessment is not to be conducted, the public authority may consider mitigation to lessen the severity of any equality impact, or the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity or good relations.

Can the policy/decision be amended or changed or an alternative policy introduced to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations?

Not applicable

If so, **give the reasons** to support your decision, together with the proposed changes/amendments or alternative policy.

Timetabling and prioritising

Factors to be considered in timetabling and prioritising policies for equality impact assessment.

If the policy has been 'screened in' for equality impact assessment, then please answer the following questions to determine its priority for timetabling the equality impact assessment.

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 equality impact assessment.

Priority criterion [Author pick 1, 2 or 3 if a full EQIA is to take place]

Effect on equality of opportunity and good relations N/A

Social need N/A

Effect on people's daily lives N/A

Relevance to a public authority's functions N/A

Note: The Total Rating Score should be used to prioritise the policy in rank order with other policies screened in for equality impact assessment. This list of priorities will assist the public authority in timetabling. Details of the Public Authority's Equality Impact Assessment Timetable should be included in the quarterly Screening Report.

Is the policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities? N/A

If yes, please provide details.

Part 4. Monitoring

Public authorities 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, the public authority should monitor more broadly than for adverse impact (See Benefits, P.9-10, paras 2.13 - 2.20 of the Monitoring Guidance).

Effective monitoring will help the public authority identify any future adverse impact arising from the policy which may lead the public authority to conduct an equality impact assessment, as well as help with future planning and policy development.

Further advice on monitoring can be found at: **ECNI Monitoring Guidance for Public Authorities**

Part 5 - Approval and authorisation

Screened by: Angela Bell Position/Job Title: G7

Date: 12 04 24

Approved by: Maura Campbell

Position/Job Title: G5

Date: 17 04 24

Prior to final approval the Screening Form should be forwarded to DOJESSS@justice-ni.gov.uk for comment/quality assurance. Contact the branch should you require advice or have any queries prior to this stage.

Any NIPS forms should also be forwarded to Peter.Grant@justice-ni.gov.uk

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 the DoJ website as soon as possible following completion and made available on request.

Separately from undertaking screening of the policy, consideration must also be given in respect of undertaking a Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA). This is to ensure that public authorities comply with their duty under Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.