

**Period Products (Free Provision) Act (Northern Ireland) 2022.**

**Section 75 Equality Screening**

**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 s75 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:**

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| **Name of the policy:**Period Products (Free Provision) Act (Northern Ireland) 2022.**Is this an existing, revised or a new policy?**New policy.**What is it trying to achieve? (Intended aims/outcomes):**Pat Catney MLA, considered that: ‘… there is an undeniable need to provide sustained free access to period products in education settings and other public buildings’1 ; and introduced the Period Products (Free Provision) Bill in the Northern Ireland Assembly in October 2021. The Bill had broad support in the Assembly and received Royal Assent on 12 May 2022 and is now the Period Products (Free Provision) Act (Northern Ireland) 2022. (The Act).Section 1 of the Act places a duty on the Executive Office to ensure that period products are available free of charge, on a universal basis, in appropriate locations.Section 2 of the Act provides that each Department (by 11 May 2023) specify by Regulations ‘Public Service Bodies,’ which must ensure that period products are obtainable, free of charge, for use whilst on their premises.TEO is required to consider specifying a Public Service Body that is constituted by or under a statutory provision and has functions that consist of or include providing public services or otherwise serving the public interest. As well as specifying Public Service Bodies, the Regulations may also provide for descriptions of premises and people to be treated as ‘in scope’ for the purposes of the Act. It is important to note however that nothing in the Act itself limits the free provision, other than products are to be sufficient to meet the person’s needs while on the premises.. Given the two duties above the Act is wide reaching in its provision. At Final Stage debate, the Bill’s sponsor said: ‘The impact on those who cannot get access to period products is huge. Giving that to pupils, workers and all people will improve access to education and work and will allow them the level of dignity that they all deserve’2.**Are there any Section 75 categories, which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy?****If so, explain how.*** **Persons of different age:**

Menstruation usually begins between the ages of 12 and 15. Menstruation stops occurring after menopause, which usually occurs between 45 and 55 years of age.Thus, the policy might be expected to benefit people over the age of 12 (approximately) and under the age of 55 (approximately).* **[Men and] women generally:**

Provision of free period products will have a positive impact on citizens, irrespective of their gender identity. It will support and increase confidence in managing periods, in school and work, and to carry out normal activities during menstruation. **Who initiated or wrote the policy?**Pat Catney MLA introduced the Period Products (Free Provision) Bill (a Private Member’s Bill) into the Northern Ireland Assembly in October 2021.The Bill had broad support in the Assembly and received Royal Assent on 12 May 2022. The implementation of the Section 1 and Section 2 duty (in respect of TEO public service bodies) rests with The Executive Office.**Who owns and who implements the policy?** This legislation was a private members bill, at the final stages of the Bill the DfC minister and her officials provided some support to the Bill sponsor, Pat Catney MLA. s. The Act provides that TEO is responsible for implementing the s1 universal duty. Each department is responsible for implementing s2 of the legislation. Departments are to specify the public service bodies in their area to which the new s.2 duty will apply. This duty requires the specified public service body to provide free period products to meet a person’s needs whilst they are in their premises. |

**Implementation factors:**

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

If yes, are they

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Financial (the Act was a Private Members Bill so a business case and affordability were not considered. The estimate in the Explanatory Memorandum in respect of the s. 1 duty was a maximum cost of £3.08m per annum and no costs for implementation.)

PPP

Legislative Affirmative Resolution Regulations are required to implement s 2 duty.

Other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Main stakeholders affected:**

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

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Staff



Service users



Other public sector organisations

Voluntary/community/trade unions

 General Public in respect of s 1 duty

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Other, please specify ­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

##### [Other policies with a bearing on this policy](#Onefour)

**What are they? / Who owns them?**

Addressing Period Poverty / Period Dignity is relevant to:

1. draft PfG Outcomes:

*“We have an equal and inclusive society where everyone is valued and treated with respect”*

And

*“Our children and young people have the best start in life”.*

1. Other relevant cross-executive strategies, which are established or under development, include:
	* Anti-Poverty Strategy
	* Child Poverty Strategy
	* Children and Young People’s Strategy
	* Disability Strategy
	* Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy
	* Gender Equality Strategy
	* Housing Executive Report 'The Homeless Response to Covid-19'
	* Mental Health Strategy (2021-2023)
	* Sexual Orientation (also referred to as renamed LGBTQI+) Strategy

**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.

What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy? Specify details for each of the s75 groups.

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| **Section 75 category:** | **Details of evidence/information:** |
| Religious belief: | Provision of free period products will have a positive impact on citizens, irrespective of their religious beliefs. It will support and increase confidence in managing periods and to carry out normal activities during menstruation.The policy aims to minimise any limitation of this provision in making the Regulations.**Census 2021:**Table 1: Religion/religion of upbringing (Census 2021)

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Religion/religion of upbringing:** | **Number:** | **Percentage:** |
| **Catholic** | **869,800** | **45.7%** |
| Current religion | 805,200 | 42.3% |
| Religion of upbringing | 64,600 | 3.4% |
| **Protestant and other Christian (including Christian related)** | **827,500** | **43.5%** |
| Current religion | 711,000 | 37.4% |
| Religion of upbringing | 116,600 | 6.1% |
| **Other religions** | **28,500** | **1.5%** |
| Current religion | 25,500 | 1.3% |
| Religion of upbringing | 3,000 | 0.2% |
| **None** | **177,400** | **9.3%** |
| **All usual residents** | **1,903,200** | **100.0%** |

Source: https://www.nisra.gov.uk/system/files/statistics/census-2021-main-statistics-for-northern-ireland-phase-1-statistical-bulletin-religion.pdfOn census day 2021 bringing together information on current religion and religion of upbringing, 45.7% of the population were either Catholic or brought up as a Catholic, while 43.5% were recorded as ‘Protestant and other Christian (including Christian related)’.Again, bringing together information on current religion and religion of upbringing, 1.5% of the population are classified as ‘other religions’ and 9.3% of the population identified that they neither belonged to nor were brought up in a religion (‘None’).We acknowledge that menstruation is viewed differently by different religious groups. Some religions have specific guidance about the kind of products which should be used during menstruation. This will be considered in the selection of the types of products which will be made available when implementing this policy. |
| Political opinion: | Provision of free period products will have a positive impact on citizens, irrespective of their political opinion. It will support and increase confidence in managing periods, and to carry out normal activities during menstruation.The policy aims to minimise any limitation of this provision, in making the Regulations.**Census 2021:**National identity (nationality based) statistics are shown in Table 1.Table 1: National identity (nationality based) usual residents (Census 2021)

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **National identity:****(nationality based)** | **Number:** | **Percentage:** |
| British | 814,600 | 42.8% |
| Irish | 634,000 | 33.3% |
| Northern Irish | 598,800 | 31.5% |
| English | 16,800 | 0.9% |
| Scottish | 10,200 | 0.5% |
| Welsh | 2,000 | 0.1% |
| Other national identities | 113,400 | 6.0% |

Source: <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/system/files/statistics/census-2021-main-statistics-for-northern-ireland-phase-1-statistical-bulletin-national-identity.pdf>.Table 1 shows that in Census 2021 the number of people who consider themselves to be:* British (solely or in combination with other national identities) was **814,600**;
* Irish (solely or in combination) was **634,000**;
* Northern Irish (solely or in combination) was **598,800**;
* English (solely or in combination) was **16,800**;
* Scottish (solely or in combination) was **10,200**;
* Welsh (solely or in combination) was **2,000**; and
* Other national identities (solely or in combination) was **113,400**.

Data is available from the Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey. It is a household survey which is representative of all adults aged 18+ living in Northern Ireland (based on age, gender and location from 2011 Census). Data for the following questions are available from 2021:[Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey: ~year (ark.ac.uk)](https://www.ark.ac.uk/nilt/2021/)Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a unionist, a nationalist or neither?

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| --- | --- |
| **Political****Opinion:** | **Percentage:****(Weighted to be representative of the NI population)** |
| Unionist | 32% |
| Nationalist | 26% |
| Neither | 38% |
| Other | 1% |
| Don’t know | 3% |

If there were a general election tomorrow, which political party do you think you would be most likely to support?

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| --- | --- |
| **Political Party:** | **Percentage:****(Weighted to be representative of the NI population)** |
| Democratic Unionist party (DUP) | 12% |
| Sinn Fein | 13% |
| Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) | 13% |
| Social Democratic and labour party (SDLP) | 13% |
| Alliance Party | 19% |
| Green Party | 5% |
| Other Party | 4% |
| None of these | 11% |
| Other answer | 1% |
| Don’t know | 9% |

How did you vote in the 2019 General Election? (**Excludes** respondents saying **they did not vote** or were **not eligible** to vote)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Political Party:** | **Percentage:****(Weighted to be representative of the NI population)** |
| Democratic Unionist party (DUP) | 20% |
| Sinn Fein | 15% |
| Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) | 11% |
| Social Democratic and labour party (SDLP) | 16% |
| Alliance Party | 23% |
| Green Party | 3% |
| Other Party | 3% |
| None of these | 3% |
| Don’t know | 6% |

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| Racial group: | Provision of free period products will have a positive impact on citizens, irrespective of their racial group. It will support and increase confidence in managing periods, and to carry out normal activities during menstruation.The policy aims to minimise any limitation of this provision, in making the Regulations.**Census 2021:***Note: In the following analysis the label ‘minority ethnic group’ is used. This relates to all persons who have an ethnicity classification other than the ‘White’ option shown in the question above.*In 2021 the number of people with a white ethnic group was 1,837,600 (96.6% of the population). Conversely, the total number of people with a minority ethnic group stood at 65,600 people (3.4% of the population).Within this latter classification, the largest groups were Mixed Ethnicities (14,400), Black (11,000), Indian (9,900), Chinese (9,500), and Filipino (4,500). Irish Traveller, Arab, Pakistani and Roma ethnicities also each constituted 1,500 people or more.Table 1: Ethnic group of usual residents (Census 2021)

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| **Ethnic Group:** | **Number:** | **Percentage:** |
| White | 1,837,600 | 96.6% |
| Minority Ethnic Group | 65,600 | 3.4% |
| Black | 11,000 | 0.6% |
| Indian | 9,900 | 0.5% |
| Chinese | 9,500 | 0.5% |
| Filipino | 4,500 | 0.2% |
| Irish Traveller | 2,600 | 0.1% |
| Arab | 1,800 | 0.1% |
| Pakistani | 1,600 | 0.1% |
| Roma | 1,500 | 0.1% |
| Mixed Ethnicities | 14,400 | 0.8% |
| Other Asian | 5,200 | 0.3% |
| Other Ethnicities | 3,600 | 0.2% |
| **All usual residents** | **1,903,200** | **100.0%** |

Source: <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/system/files/statistics/census-2021-main-statistics-for-northern-ireland-phase-1-statistical-bulletin-ethnic-group.pdf>.As with religion, some racial groups may have traditions and guidance about the kind of products which should be used during menstruation. This will be considered in the selection of the types of products which will be made available when implementing this policy. |
| Age: | Free period products will have a positive impact on citizens, irrespective of their age. Although citizens of menstruating age will benefit directly from the provision. Their households may also be indirect beneficiaries as the provision of free period products may result in financial savings and help to ease pressures on household budgets.The provision will support and increase confidence in managing periods, and to carry out normal activities during menstruation. The policy aims to minimise any limitation on provision in making the Regulations.*Total population data:*According to the [2021 Census (first results)](https://census.gov.uk/) there are 484,000 females in Northern Ireland between the ages of 10 and 50 (proxy for menstruating age, which is typically 13 – 50/55). This represents 25.5% of the population. |
| Marital status: | Provision of free period products will have a positive impact on citizens, irrespective of their marital status. It will support and increase confidence in managing periods, and to carry out normal activities during menstruation. The policy aims to minimise any limitation of this provision, in making the Regulations.*Source: Census 2021:* [*Census 2021 main statistics demography tables – household relationships | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk)*](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-main-statistics-demography-tables-household-relationships)*.*

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| **Marital and civil partnership status:** | **Number:** | **Percentage:** |
| Single (never married or never registered a civil partnership) | 576,708 | 38.07% |
| Married | 690,509 | 45.59% |
| In a civil partnership | 2,742 | 0.18% |
| Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a civil partnership) | 57,272 | 3.78% |
| Divorced or formerly in a civil partnership which is now legally dissolved | 91,128 | 6.02% |
| Widowed or surviving partner from a civil partnership | 96,384 | 6.36% |
| **All usual residents aged 16 and over:** | 1,514,743 | 100% |

As part of ensuring a dignified approach, TEO will ensure that the arrangements put in place, further to section 1, allow products to be obtained by another person on behalf of the person who needs to use them. In some cases, husbands or partners may wish to access products on behalf of their partners. This may make products slightly more accessible to people who are married or in relationships. |
| Sexual orientation: | Provision of free period products will have a positive impact on citizens, irrespective of their sexual orientation. It will support and increase confidence in managing periods and to carry out normal activities during menstruation. The policy aims to minimise any limitation of this provision, in making the Regulations.The Office of National Statistics have indicated that 1.2% of the household population in Northern Ireland identify as Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual.*Source: Census 2021:* [*Census 2021 main statistics sexual orientation tables | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk)*](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-main-statistics-sexual-orientation-tables)*.*

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| **Sexual orientation:** | **Number aged 16+:** | **Percentage:** |
| Straight or heterosexual | 1,363,859 | 90.04% |
| Gay or lesbian | 17,713 | 1.17% |
| Bisexual | 11,306 | 0.75% |
| Other sexual orientation | 2,597 | 0.17% |
| Prefer not to say | 69,307 | 4.58% |
| Not stated | 49,961 | 3.30% |
| **All usual residents aged 16 and over** | 1,514,743 | 100% |

* While 4.58% of respondents aged 16+ preferred not to state their sexual orientation, and 3.3% did not state their sexual orientation, of those who did state their sexual orientation 97.73% stated they were straight or heterosexual, 1.27% said they were gay or lesbian, 0.81% said they were bisexual and 0.19% had an other sexual orientation.

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| **Sexual orientation:** | **Number aged 16+:** | **Percentage of those who stated their sexual orientation:** |
| Straight or heterosexual | 1,363,859 | 97.73% |
| Gay or lesbian | 17,713 | 1.27% |
| Bisexual | 11,306 | 0.81% |
| Other sexual orientation | 2,597 | 0.19% |
| **All usual residents aged 16 and over who stated their sexual orientation** | 1,395,475 | 100% |

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| Men and women generally: | Provision of free period products will have a positive impact on citizens, irrespective of their gender identity. It will support and increase confidence in managing periods, and to carry out normal activities during menstruation. The policy aims to minimise any limitation of this provision, in making the Regulations.***Census day 2021 population:***The usually resident population of Northern Ireland on census day, 21 March 2021, was 1,903,100 people. The population comprised 967,000 females and 936,200 males, which means that for every 100 women there were 97 men.Source: <https://datavis.nisra.gov.uk/census/census-2021-population-and-household-estimates-for-northern-ireland-statistical-bulletin-24-may-2022.html>.However, households / families of girls and women will also benefit from the provision given pressures on cost of living.Census 2021: MS-A07: Sex [Census 2021 main statistics demography tables – age and sex | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-main-statistics-demography-tables-age-and-sex)

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| **Sex:** | **Number:** | **Percentage:** |
| Female | 967,043 | 50.81% |
| Male | 936,132 | 49.19% |
| **All usual residents** | 1,903,175 | 100% |

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| Disability: | Provision of free period products will have a positive impact on citizens, irrespective of whether they have a disability. It will support and increase confidence in managing periods, and to carry out normal activities during menstruation. The policy aims to minimise any limitation of this provision, in making the Regulations.*Population Level Data:*The Northern Ireland Census 2011 indicated that just over one in five of the usually resident population (21 per cent) had a long-term health problem[[1]](#footnote-1).*Source: Census 2021: Long-term health problem or disability. Number and percentage of all usual residents with day-to-day activities: Limited a lot/Limited a little/Not limited.'Day-to-day activities limited' covers any health problem or disability (including problems related to old age) which has lasted or is expected to last for at least 12 months.* [*Census 2021 main statistics health, disability and unpaid care tables | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk)*](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-main-statistics-health-disability-and-unpaid-care-tables)*.*

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| **Disability:** | **Number:** | **Percentage:** |
| Day to day activities limited a lot | 217,964 | 11.45% |
| Day to day activities limited a little | 245,057 | 12.88% |
| Day to day activities not limited | 1,440,158 | 75.67% |
| **All usual residents** | 1,903,179 | 100% |

*Source: Census 2021: Communal establishment residents and long-term health problem or disability.* [*Census 2021 main statistics communal establishment tables | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk)*](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-main-statistics-communal-establishment-tables)*.*

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| **Disability:** | **Number:** | **Percentage:** |
| Day to day activities limited a lot | 10,616 | 40.29% |
| Day to day activities limited a little | 4,854 | 18.42% |
| Day to day activities not limited | 10,877 | 41.28% |
| **All usual residents in communal establishments** | 26,347 | 100% |

*Note. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.* |
| Dependents: | Provision of free period products will have a positive impact on citizens, irrespective of whether or not they have dependents. It will support and increase confidence in managing periods and to carry out normal activities during menstruation. The policy aims to minimise any limitation of this provision, in making the Regulations. Increasing the availability of free products may be beneficial for those with dependents who may have less free time to access products or greater pressures on their household income.The [2011 NI Census](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/census/2011-census) indicated that 34% per cent of households in Northern Ireland contained dependent children and 40% contained at least one person with a long-term health problem or disability; made up of those households with dependent children (9.2 per cent) and those with no dependent children (31 per cent).The 2011 Young Life and Times Survey (of 16-year-old young people) reported one in ten of their respondents had caring responsibilities. The average age of a young carer is 12 (Barnardo’s).At 31 March 2018, there were 3,109 Looked After Children in Northern Ireland.*Source: Census 2021: Number of dependent children in households.* [*Census 2021 main statistics demography tables – household relationships | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk)*](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-main-statistics-demography-tables-household-relationships)

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| **Dependents:** | **Number:** | **Percentage:** |
| No children in household | 423,956 | 55.14% |
| All children in household non-dependent | 120,314 | 15.65% |
| One dependent child | 87,559 | 11.39% |
| Two dependent children | 87,664 | 11.40% |
| Three or more dependent children | 49,316 | 6.41% |
| **All households** | 768,809 | 100% |

Note. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.Source: <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/2021-census/outputs-prospectus/release-plans#toc-2>.* **Caring responsibilities:**

Data is available from the Young Life and Times survey from 2015 [NI Young Life and Times Survey - 2015: CARERESP (ark.ac.uk)](https://www.ark.ac.uk/ylt/2015/Young_Carers/CARERESP.html):Do you give any special help or extra care to someone?

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| --- | --- |
| **Answer:** | **Percentage (%):** |
| Yes | 9 |
| No | 88 |
| Don’t know | 3 |

* At 31 March 2022, 3,624 children and young people were in care in Northern Ireland.

*Source:* [*Publication of ‘Children’s Social Care Statistics for Northern Ireland 2021/22’ | Department of Health (health-ni.gov.uk)*](https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/news/publication-childrens-social-care-statistics-northern-ireland-202122)*.* |

**Needs, experiences, and priorities:**

Taking into account the information referred to above, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories, in relation to the particular policy/decision? Specify details for each of the s75 categories

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Section 75 category:** | **Details of needs/experiences/priorities:** |
| Religious belief: | Provision of free period products will have a positive impact on citizens, irrespective of their religious belief. It will support and increase confidence in managing periods, and to carry out normal activities during menstruation.The policy aims to minimise any limitation of this provision, in making the Regulations under section 2, in addition given the universal provision to be made under s 1 provision should reflect, as far as possible, the total population breakdown.On census day 2021 bringing together information on current religion and religion of upbringing, 45.7% of the population were either Catholic or brought up as a Catholic, while 43.5% were recorded as ‘Protestant and other Christian (including Christian related)’.Again, bringing together information on current religion and religion of upbringing, 1.5% of the population are classified as ‘other religions’ and 9.3% of the population identified that they neither belonged to nor were brought up in a religion (‘None’).*Source:* [*https://www.nisra.gov.uk/system/files/statistics/census-2021-main-statistics-for-northern-ireland-phase-1-statistical-bulletin-religion.pdf*](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/system/files/statistics/census-2021-main-statistics-for-northern-ireland-phase-1-statistical-bulletin-religion.pdf)*.* |
| Political opinion: | Provision of free period products will have a positive impact on citizens, irrespective of their political opinion. It will support and increase confidence in managing periods, and to carry out normal activities during menstruation.The policy aims to minimise any limitation of their provision in making the Regulations under section 2, in addition given the universal provision to be made under s 1 provision should therefore, as far as possible, reflect the political opinion breakdown.Table 1 shows that in Census 2021 the number of people who consider themselves to be:* British (solely or in combination with other national identities) was 814,600;
* Irish (solely or in combination) was 634,000;
* Northern Irish (solely or in combination) was 598,800;
* English (solely or in combination) was 16,800;
* Scottish (solely or in combination) was 10,200;
* Welsh (solely or in combination) was 2,000; and
* Other national identities (solely or in combination) was 113,400.

*Source:* [*https://www.nisra.gov.uk/system/files/statistics/census-2021-main-statistics-for-northern-ireland-phase-1-statistical-bulletin-national-identity.pdf*](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/system/files/statistics/census-2021-main-statistics-for-northern-ireland-phase-1-statistical-bulletin-national-identity.pdf)*.*Data is available from the Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey. It is a household survey which is representative of all adults aged 18+ living in Northern Ireland (based on age, gender and location from 2011 Census).Data for the following questions are available from 2021:[Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey: ~year (ark.ac.uk)](https://www.ark.ac.uk/nilt/2021/)Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a unionist, a nationalist or neither?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Political Opinion:** | **Percentage:****(Weighted to be representative of the NI population)** |
| Unionist | 32% |
| Nationalist | 26% |
| Neither | 38% |
| Other | 1% |
| Don’t know | 3% |

If there were a general election tomorrow, which political party do you think you would be most likely to support?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Political Party:** | **Percentage:****(Weighted to be representative of the NI population):** |
| Democratic Unionist party (DUP) | 12% |
| Sinn Fein | 13% |
| Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) | 13% |
| Social Democratic and Labour party (SDLP) | 13% |
| Alliance Party | 19% |
| Green Party | 5% |
| Other Party | 4% |
| None of these | 11% |
| Other answer | 1% |
| Don’t know | 9% |

How did you vote in the 2019 General Election? (**Excludes** respondents saying **they did not vote** or were **not eligible** to vote)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Political Party:** | **Percentage:****(Weighted to be representative of the NI population)** |
| Democratic Unionist party (DUP) | 20% |
| Sinn Fein | 15% |
| Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) | 11% |
| Social Democratic and Labour party (SDLP) | 16% |
| Alliance Party | 23% |
| Green Party | 3% |
| Other Party | 3% |
| None of these | 3% |
| Don’t know | 6% |

 |
| Racial group: | Provision of free period products will have a positive impact on citizens, irrespective of their racial group. It will support and increase confidence in managing periods, in public service bodies, and to carry out normal activities during menstruation.The policy aims to minimise any limitation of their provision in making the Regulations; and so provision should, as far as possible, reflect the total population statistics set out in Census 2021.**Ethnic group – Census 2021:***Note: In the following analysis the label ‘minority ethnic group’ is used. This relates to all persons who have an ethnicity classification other than the ‘White’ option shown in the question above.*In 2021 the number of people with a white ethnic group was 1,837,600 (96.6% of the population).Conversely, the total number of people with a minority ethnic group stood at 65,600 people (3.4% of the population).Within this latter classification, the largest groups were Mixed Ethnicities (14,400), Black (11,000), Indian (9,900), Chinese (9,500), and Filipino (4,500). Irish Traveller, Arab, Pakistani and Roma ethnicities also each constituted 1,500 people or more.*Source:* [*https://www.nisra.gov.uk/system/files/statistics/census-2021-main-statistics-for-northern-ireland-phase-1-statistical-bulletin-ethnic-group.pdf*](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/system/files/statistics/census-2021-main-statistics-for-northern-ireland-phase-1-statistical-bulletin-ethnic-group.pdf)*.* |
| Age: | According to the [2021 Census](https://census.gov.uk/) (first results) there are 484,000 females in Northern Ireland between the ages of 10 and 50. This represents 25.5% of the population.The median starting age of menstruation is 13 and menopause typically occurs between 45 and 55 years of age so people in this age range are most likely to benefit from the policy.Although younger people may typically have lower incomes and therefore greater need, free period products will have a positive impact for all, irrespective of their age. While citizens of menstruating age will benefit directly from the provision, their households are likely to be indirect beneficiaries given pressures on household budgets.The provision will support and increase confidence in managing periods, and to carry out normal activities during menstruation.The policy aims to minimise any limitation on provision in making the Regulations under section 2, in addition given the universal provision to be made under s 1 the provision, as far as possible, reflects the total population. |
| Marital status: | Provision of free period products will have a positive impact on citizens, irrespective of their marital status. It will support and increase confidence in managing periods, in public service bodies, and to carry out normal activities during menstruation.The policy aims to minimise any limitation of their provision in making the Regulations, so provision, as far as possible, reflects the total population set out in Census 2021.*Source: Census 2021:* [*Census 2021 main statistics demography tables – household relationships | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk)*](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-main-statistics-demography-tables-household-relationships)*.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Marital and civil partnership status:** | **Number:** | **Percentage:** |
| Single (never married or never registered a civil partnership) | 576,708 | 38.07% |
| Married | 690,509 | 45.59% |
| In a civil partnership | 2,742 | 0.18% |
| Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a civil partnership) | 57,272 | 3.78% |
| Divorced or formerly in a civil partnership which is now legally dissolved | 91,128 | 6.02% |
| Widowed or surviving partner from a civil partnership | 96,384 | 6.36% |
| **All usual residents aged 16 and over** | **1,514,743** | **100%** |

 |
| Sexual orientation: | Provision of free period products will have a positive impact on citizens, irrespective of their sexual orientation. It will support and increase confidence in managing periods, in public service bodies, and to carry out normal activities during menstruation.The policy aims to minimise any limitation of their provision in making the Regulations, so provision, as far as possible, reflects the needs of the overall population.*Source: Census 2021:* [*Census 2021 main statistics sexual orientation tables | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk)*](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-main-statistics-sexual-orientation-tables)*.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Sexual orientation:** | **Number aged 16+:** | **Percentage:** |
| Straight or heterosexual | 1,363,859 | 90.04% |
| Gay or lesbian | 17,713 | 1.17% |
| Bisexual | 11,306 | 0.75% |
| Other sexual orientation | 2,597 | 0.17% |
| Prefer not to say | 69,307 | 4.58% |
| Not stated | 49,961 | 3.30% |
| **All usual residents aged 16 and over** | 1,514,743 | 100% |

* While 4.58% of respondents aged 16+ preferred not to state their sexual orientation, and 3.3% did not state their sexual orientation, of those who did state their sexual orientation 97.73% stated they were straight or heterosexual, 1.27% said they were gay or lesbian, 0.81% said they were bisexual and 0.19% had another sexual orientation.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Sexual orientation:** | **Number aged 16+:** | **Percentage of those who stated their sexual orientation:** |
| Straight or heterosexual | 1,363,859 | 97.73% |
| Gay or lesbian | 17,713 | 1.27% |
| Bisexual | 11,306 | 0.81% |
| Other sexual orientation | 2,597 | 0.19% |
| **All usual residents aged 16 and over who stated their sexual orientation** | 1,395,475 | 100% |

 |
| Men and women generally: | Provision of free period products will have a positive impact on citizens, irrespective of their gender identity. It will support and increase confidence in managing periods, in public service bodies, and to carry out normal activities during menstruation.While 51% of the total population are female[[2]](#footnote-2), households/families of girls and women will also benefit from the provision given pressures on cost of living.*Source: Census 2021: MS-A07: Sex* [*Census 2021 main statistics demography tables – age and sex | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk)*](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-main-statistics-demography-tables-age-and-sex)*.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Sex:** | **Number:** | **Percentage:** |
| Female | 967,043 | 50.81% |
| Male | 936,132 | 49.19% |
| **All usual residents** | 1,903,175 | 100% |

 |
| Disability: | The Northern Ireland Census 2011 indicated that just over one in five of the usually resident population (21 per cent) had a long-term health problem[[3]](#footnote-3).Provision of free period products will have a positive impact on citizens, irrespective of whether or not they have a disability. It is important to ensure that products will be made available to all who need them. This must include the use of suitable signage for those who are vision impaired and the use of locations which are fully accessible. It will support and increase confidence in managing periods, in public service bodies, and to carry out normal activities during menstruation.The policy aims to minimise any limitation of their provision in making the Regulations.*Source: Census 2021: Long-term health problem or disability. Number and percentage of all usual residents with day-to-day activities: Limited a lot/Limited a little/Not limited.**'Day-to-day activities limited' covers any health problem or disability (including problems related to old age) which has lasted or is expected to last for at least 12 months.* [*Census 2021 main statistics health, disability and unpaid care tables | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk)*](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-main-statistics-health-disability-and-unpaid-care-tables)*.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Answer:** | **Number:** | **Percentage:** |
| Day to day activities limited a lot | 217,964 | 11.45% |
| Day to day activities limited a little | 245,057 | 12.88% |
| Day to day activities not limited | 1,440,158 | 75.67% |
| **All usual residents** | 1,903,179 | 100% |

*Source: Census 2021: Communal establishment residents and long-term health problem or disability.* [*Census 2021 main statistics communal establishment tables | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk)*](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-main-statistics-communal-establishment-tables)*.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Answer:** | **Number:** | **Percentage:** |
| Day to day activities limited a lot | 10,616 | 40.29% |
| Day to day activities limited a little | 4,854 | 18.42% |
| Day to day activities not limited | 10,877 | 41.28% |
| **All usual residents in communal establishments** | 26,347 | 100% |

*Note. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.* |
| Dependants: | Provision of free period products will have a positive impact on citizens, irrespective of whether or not they have dependents. It will support and increase confidence in managing periods, in public service bodies, and to carry out normal activities during menstruation.The policy aims to minimise any limitation of their provision in making the Regulations.*Source: Census 2021: Number of dependent children in households.* [*Census 2021 main statistics demography tables – household relationships | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk)*](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-main-statistics-demography-tables-household-relationships)*.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Answer:** | **Number:** | **Percentage:** |
| No children in household | 423,956 | 55.14% |
| All children in household non-dependent | 120,314 | 15.65% |
| One dependent child | 87,559 | 11.39% |
| Two dependent children | 87,664 | 11.40% |
| Three or more dependent children | 49,316 | 6.41% |
| **All households** | 768,809 | 100% |

*Note. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.** **Caring responsibilities:**

Data is available from the Young Life and Times survey from 2015 [NI Young Life and Times Survey - 2015: CARERESP (ark.ac.uk)](https://www.ark.ac.uk/ylt/2015/Young_Carers/CARERESP.html):Do you give any special help or extra care to someone?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Answer:** | **Percentage (%):** |
| Yes | 9 |
| No | 88 |
| Don’t know | 3 |

* At 31 March 2022, 3,624 children and young people were in care in Northern Ireland.

*Source:* [*Publication of ‘Children’s Social Care Statistics for Northern Ireland 2021/22’ | Department of Health (health-ni.gov.uk)*](https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/news/publication-childrens-social-care-statistics-northern-ireland-202122)*.* |

**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 given on pages 20-24 of this Guide.

If the public authority’s conclusion is **none** in respect of all of the s75 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 s75 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 s75 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:**

1. The policy is significant in terms of its strategic importance;
2. 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;
3. 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;
4. 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;
5. The policy is likely to be challenged by way of judicial review; and / or
6. The policy is significant in terms of expenditure.

**In favour of ‘minor’ impact:**

1. The policy is not unlawfully discriminatory and any residual potential impacts on people are judged to be negligible;
2. 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;
3. 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; and / or
4. By amending the policy there are better opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

**In favour of none:**

1. The policy has no relevance to equality of opportunity or good relations; and / or
2. 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? minor/major/none
 |
| Section 75 category: | Details of policy impact: | Level of impact? minor/major/none |
| Religious belief: | None. | None. |
| Political opinion: | None. | None. |
| Racial group: | None. | None. |
| Age: | The policy is likely to have some benefits for people of menstruating age, particularly younger people who may have lower incomes and may be less able to afford to purchase products. | Minor (Positive). |
| Marital status: | None. | None. |
| Sexual orientation: | None. | None. |
| Men and women generally: | The policy is likely to have benefits for people who menstruate. | Minor (Positive). |
| Disability: | The increased availability of accessible products may afford people with disabilities easier and more discrete access to them, enhancing their independence. | Minor (Positive) |
| Dependants: | Increasing the availability of free products may be beneficial for those with dependents who may have less free time to access products or greater pressures on their household income. | Minor (Positive) |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. 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: |
| Religious belief: | People of all Religious beliefs (and none) might be expected to benefit from the intended policy. |  |
| Political opinion: | People of all Political opinions (and none) might be expected to benefit from the intended policy. |  |
| Racial group: | People of all Racial groups might be expected to benefit from the intended policy. |  |
| Age: | Menstruation usually begins between the ages of 12 and 15.Menstruation stops occurring after menopause, which usually occurs between 45 and 55 years of age.Benefits are expected between age of 12 (approximately) and under the age of 55 (approximately) from the intended policy. |  |
| Marital status: | People of all Marital statuses (and none) might be expected to benefit from the intended policy.Married, single, divorced, and widowed people might be expected to benefit from the intended policy. |  |
| Sexual orientation: | People of all Sexual orientations might be expected to benefit from the intended policy.Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex (LGBTQI+) people might be expected to benefit from the intended policy. |  |
| Men and women generally: | Women generally might be expected to benefit from the intended policy.Provision of free period products will have a positive impact on citizens, irrespective of their gender identity. It will support and increase confidence in managing periods, in school and work, and to carry out normal activities during menstruation. |  |
| Disability: | The increased availability of accessible products may afford people with disabilities easier and more discreet access to them, enhancing their independence. |  |
| Dependants: | Increasing the availability of free products may be beneficial for those with dependents who may have less free time to access products or greater pressures on their household income. |  |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group? minor/major/none
 |
| Good relations category: | Details of policy impact: | Level of impact:minor/major/none  |
| Religious belief: | None. | None. |
| Political opinion: | None. | None. |
| Racial group: | None. | None. |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?
 |
| Good relations category: | If **Yes**, provide details: | If **No**, provide reasons: |
| Religious belief: |  | Menstruation and issues of period poverty predominantly effect women regardless of religious belief, political opinion or racial group.Given sensitivities around the issues they are often not discussed and it is unlikely that this policy can encourage better interaction between these categories. |
| Political opinion: |  | As above. |
| Racial group: |  | As above. |

**Additional considerations:**

**Multiple identity:**

Generally speaking, people can fall into more than one s75 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).*

Provision includes all of TEO’s specified public service bodies.

Guidance to be issued (which is subject to separate consultation and screening) has potential to support people with multiple identities.

Provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant s75 categories concerned.

As above.

**Part 3. Screening decision:**

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

|  |
| --- |
| The decision is not to conduct an equality impact assessment.**Reasons:**Provision of free period products under the Act will enhance equality of opportunity, regardless of Section 75 category.Access to free period products helps citizens to manage their periods, in public service bodies, and to carry out normal activities during their period.The Policy is in line with that provided for in the Act, only limiting provision only where necessary. |

**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.**

Not Applicable.

Policy screened out.

However, Guidance to Public Service Bodies can ensure support for S75 groups. This will be subject to a separate screening and consultation.

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

Not Applicable.

Policy screened out.

**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?

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

|  |
| --- |
| **Not Applicable.****Policy screened out.** |

**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:** | **Rating:****(1-3)** |
| 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?

Not Applicable. Policy screened out.

If yes, please provide details:

Not Applicable. Policy screened out.

**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.

Under the Act, all Departments will be required to provide Public Service Bodies with Guidance on their duties.

Public Service Bodies will be required to consult with product users and publish a statement on arrangements.

The statement must include how the arrangements have had regard to Departmental Guidance, and the body’s consultation with product users.

Guidance will be subject to separate consultation and screening but will provide a further opportunity to ensure Section 75 groups are supported.

**Part 5 – Approval and authorisation:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Screened by:** | **Position/Job Title:** | **Date:** |
| Marc Vannucci | Staff Officer (SO) | 06/07/2022 |
| **Approved by:** | **Position/Job Title:** | **Date:** |
| Marie Matthews | Head of Branch (G7) | 17/10/2022 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Reviewed by:** | **Position/Job Title:** | **Date:** |
| Marc Vannucci | Staff Officer (SO) | 14/06/2023 |
| **Approved by:** | **Position/Job Title:** | **Date:** |
| Marie Matthews | Head of Branch (G7) | 14/6/23 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Reviewed by:** | **Position/Job Title:** | **Date:** |
|  |  |  |
| **Approved by:** | **Position/Job Title:** | **Date:** |
|  |  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Reviewed by:** | **Position/Job Title:** | **Date:** |
|  |  |  |
| **Approved by:** | **Position/Job Title:** | **Date:** |
|  |  |  |

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 public authority’s website as soon as possible following completion and made available on request.

**ANNEX 1**

Section 2 – A Duty placed on Public Service Bodies:

1. Section 2 provides for a new duty on a specified public service body to ensure period products are obtainable free of charge by persons on its premises who need to use them (s.2 (3)). Products made available are those sufficient to meet the person’s needs when in the premises (s. 2(6)). Products are to be available in premises at all times whether or not “in use” by the public.
2. Each department must specify these “public service bodies” in Regulations made within 1 year beginning with the day the Act is passed (Royal Assent) and following consultation with any such body to be so specified (s. 2(1)).
3. A public service body is defined as a body constituted by statute and having functions that consist of or include providing public services or otherwise serving the public interest. The Act makes clear that a public service body includes school premises; further and higher education premises.
4. The Regulations (affirmative resolution) may provide for commencement of this new duty on different days for different specified bodies. The Regulations may describe premises to be treated as being premises of that body; persons to be treated as being (or not being) “in” that body’s premises and may define the term “in use”. (Regulations may be made jointly by more than 1 department.)
5. Each department must, as soon as reasonably practicable, after specifying a body publish guidance on the exercise of the functions conferred on it (s.5).
6. Each specified public service body must after the s 5 guidance is published consult with potential users about the proposed arrangements in respect of the way users may obtain products; locations and the types of products. These arrangements must provide for the products to be reasonably easy to obtain; in a way that respects dignity, privacy and confidentiality (dpc); provides reasonable choice; publicised in a way that respects dpc. The body must then set out these arrangements in a written statement as soon as reasonably practicable after s 5 guidance issues.
7. Each department must also publish information on location of products within 1 year of section 2 Regulations being made (s 7).

Section 1 a Universal Duty

1. Section 1 provides that TEO must ensure period products are obtainable free of charge (in accordance with arrangements) by all persons who need to use them; to meet the needs of the person while in NI.
2. TEO must consult on the proposed arrangements on similar terms as section 2 (ways obtainable, locations and types of products; respects dpc.). In addition, these arrangements –
* Must allow for products to be obtainable by another person on behalf of a person who needs them; and
* May allow for delivery (with person required to pay costs of delivery).
1. TEO must then set out in a written statement the arrangements and must publish information about locations within 1 year of establishing arrangements and annually thereafter.
2. Section 4 requires the Executive to review and make a report on the operation of sections 1 and 2, which is laid before the Assembly and published. This must be done 3 years after Royal Assent.
1. [2011 Census - Key Statistics for Northern Ireland - Statistics Bulletin (nisra.gov.uk)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/2011-census-results-key-statistics-statistics-bulletin-11-december-2012.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [NI Census 2021](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-population-and-household-estimates-for-northern-ireland) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [2011 Census - Key Statistics for Northern Ireland - Statistics Bulletin (nisra.gov.uk)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/2011-census-results-key-statistics-statistics-bulletin-11-december-2012.pdf)f [↑](#footnote-ref-3)