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A Guide to the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 for Public Authorities

*(Revised) April 2018*

Appendix 1 - Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA)

Template

Following a UK-wide consultation on the remit of the Groceries Code Adjudicator a recommendation was made (by the UK government) that mandatory sheep carcase classification and price reporting should be introduced across the UK in order to improve fairness and transparency. Currently a voluntary arrangement is in place with abattoirs, with respect to sheep in Northern Ireland. Following consultation, mandatory sheep carcase classification and price reporting may be introduced.

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

Possible introduction of mandatory sheep carcase classification and price reporting.

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

Developing a Policy Strategy Plan

Adopting a Policy Strategy Plan

Implementing a Policy Strategy Plan

Revising a Policy Strategy Plan Designing a Public Service

Delivering a Public Service

X

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

Possible introduction of mandatory sheep carcase classification and price reporting. If introduced it is likely the rules and regulation will be similar to those applied to bovine and pig carcases within The Carcase Classification and Price Reporting Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018.

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

DAERA - SAFDD

1A. Name of Public Authority.

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

A Guide to the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 for Public Authorities

*(Revised) April 2018*

The possible changes from voluntary to mandatory sheep carcase classification and price reporting will not represent significant change from current practice. As such, it is not intended that it will have any impact on rural areas.

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

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

A definition of ‘rural’ is not applicable.

X

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

A Guide to the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 for Public Authorities

*(Revised) April 2018*

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

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

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

X

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

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

A Guide to the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 for Public Authorities

*(Revised) April 2018*

Sheep carcase classification and price reporting relates to organisations and individuals in the sheep/lamb supply chain, especially processors (abattoirs).

No specific impact is anticipated on people in rural areas. While those in the sheep/lamb supply chain can be expected to be from rural areas, since changes from voluntary to mandatory sheep carcase classification and price reporting will not represent significant change from current practice, there should be no practical impact on people in rural areas.

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

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

Rural Businesses Rural Tourism Rural Housing

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

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

Poverty in Rural Areas Deprivation in Rural Areas

Rural Crime or Community Safety Rural Development

Agri-Environment

Other (Please state)

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

A Guide to the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 for Public Authorities

*(Revised) April 2018*

The public consultation will ask for respondents to provide details of any impact on them, their businesses or other organisations.

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

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

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

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

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

X

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

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

A Guide to the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 for Public Authorities

*(Revised) April 2018*

Sheep carcase classification and price reporting relates to organisations and individuals in the sheep/lamb supply chain, especially processors (abattoirs).

It is considered that any proposed changes to legislation is not relevant to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

The possible introduction of mandatory carcase classification and price reporting for sheep would ensure transparency along the sheepmeat supply chain. However as already noted, voluntary arrangements already operate and appear to be valued and respected by both the primary production and processor sectors.

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

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

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

A Guide to the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 for Public Authorities

*(Revised) April 2018*

Sheep carcase classification and price reporting relates to organisations and individuals in the sheep/lamb supply chain, especially processors (abattoirs).

It is considered that any proposed changes to legislation is not relevant to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

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

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

A Guide to the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 for Public Authorities

*(Revised) April 2018*

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

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

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

X

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

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

A Guide to the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 for Public Authorities

*(Revised) April 2018*

Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:

Kieran Coghlan

Position/Grade:

DP

Division/Branch

SAFDD / Agri-Food Policy II

Signature:

KIERAN COGHLAN

Date:

27/07/2021

Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:

Stephen Johnston

Position/Grade:

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Division/Branch:

SAFDD / Agri-Food Policy II

Signature:

SDJOHNSTON

Date:

02/08/2021

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

✓

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

**SECTION 6 - Documenting and Recording**

Sheep carcase classification and price reporting relates to organisations and individuals in the sheep/lamb supply chain, especially processors (abattoirs).

A decision to introduce mandatory carcase classification and price reporting for sheep would help ensure transparency along the sheepmeat supply chain.

If legislation is amended to introduce mandatory carcase classification and price reporting for sheep, it will have minimal impact as the practice is already ongoing on a voluntary basis. No additional rural needs are likely to come of it.

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