

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

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

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

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

#### 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.

Developing a DAERA Science Strategy as part of the DAERA Science Transformation Programme

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

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

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

DAERA Science Strategy

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

The aim of the DAERA Science Strategy is to define a framework (for the commissioning and use of the science) to ensure the optimization of investment in science to deliver positive impacts for the agri foods, environmental, fishing, forestry and rural enterprise sectors. It will outline a high level Vision for the science DAERA uses, the principles it will adopt in doing so and the goals it will reach by 2028 in pursuit of this Vision. It will provide a framework for the development of operational strategies at function level and outline stakeholder engagement mechanisms.

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

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

Other Definition (Provide details and the rationale below).

A definition of 'rural' is not applicable.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The DAERA Science Strategy will provide a framework of principles to guide investment in and use of science in accordance with the NI Assembly's priority to tackle disadvantage and drive economic growth and the Department's aim to achieve a "strong competitive, regionally balanced economy, living and working sustainably, protecting the environment and becoming an innovative, creative society where people can fulfil their potential".

It will establish operation policies and strategies for:-

- Research & Development
- Monitoring & surveillance
- Encouraging innovation
- Responding to emergencies

The strategy will recommend enhanced collaboration & integration, better data management and information sharing as well as improved governance around research & development, monitoring & surveillance, innovation and emergency response. It will also recommend the provision of fit for purpose future proof facilities to support the delivery of science. Combined these factors will contribute to economic growth within the agri-food, environmental and rural development sectors benefitting those working and living in rural areas.

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

The sectors that will be impacted by this strategy are largely based in rural areas of Northern Ireland (agri-food, environment, fisheries, forestry and rural enterprise). Consequently the implementation of the DAERA Science Strategy will have considerably more impact on those in rural areas than in urban areas.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Information sources used in the completion of this assessment include:

- Draft Programme for Government 2016-21
- The Northern Ireland Economic Strategy – Priorities for sustainable growth and prosperity (2012)
- Innovate NI – Innovation Strategy for Northern Ireland 2014 – 2025;
- The draft Economy 2030 – Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland (2017)
- The draft DAERA future agriculture policy framework for Northern Ireland
- Agricultural Census in Northern Ireland 2018;
- Mid Year Estimates – Population Change January 2019;
- Tailored Review of the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute 2018
- DAERA Science Scoping Study

Subject to approval the draft DAERA Science Strategy will undergo a formal Public Consultation whereby DAERA will seek the views of the public on the proposals. Feedback received following the consultation exercise will be used to revise the strategy draft.

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

Rural poverty as a result of limited local employment opportunities and associated travel costs in securing employment can be a disadvantage that is faced by people living in rural areas. To that end it is important that there are employment opportunities in rural areas. Agriculture, food & drink, horticulture and sea fishing industries are largely rural based industries provide employment opportunities for people in rural areas. Science is needed to ensure that these industries can continue to develop and compete in challenging markets and in doing so contribute to the development of a strong, competitive and sustainable economy in NI – providing quality employment and contributing to the economic development of rural areas. The Northern Ireland Economic Strategy – Priorities for sustainable growth and prosperity (2012) identifies the agri- food industry as one of the areas in NI with the greatest growth potential.

Under the NI Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 the Department is working to improve the quality of life for people living in rural areas by promoting tourism, investing in natural and built heritage, tackling poverty and social isolation. The science undertaken by the Department in relation to the monitoring and surveillance of the natural environment is essential to maintain the health of the environment so it can continue to provide opportunities for employment and social inclusion to those in rural areas.

The DAERA Science Strategy will provide a framework for policies dealing with Research & Development, Monitoring & Surveillance and Innovation which will contribute to addressing the needs of people in rural areas.

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

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

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

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

Agriculture makes an important contribution to the NI economy accounting for 1.7% Gross Value added (GVA) compared to 0.5% across the UK. A total of 1,022,400ha of land across Northern Ireland are farmed (*Agricultural Census in Northern Ireland 2018*) with 46,800 farmers and workers on 24,900 farms. The food and drink industry is also a major employer employing in the region of 23,479 (projected) employees with a projected gross turn-over of £4,478m in 2017 and contributes significantly to the regions exports with 75.6% of that produced locally sold outside NI accounting for sales in the region of £3.3m. The Northern Ireland sea fishing industry had landings at local fishing ports and outside NI to the value of £50 – 55m in 2016 and the seafood processing sector along with supporting industries have a turnover of around £79m.

The science strategy will put in place principles supporting the commissioning of research and development and encouraging collaboration and Innovation with industry and academia. This will contribute to the industry's ability to grow and compete in an ever increasingly challenging market, creating employment opportunities and helping address social isolation in rural areas.

The strategy will outline principles around how the Department monitors animal and plant health as well as how it responds to emergencies (i.e foot & mouth, bird flu). This will help keep the plant stock and animal population within NI healthy which will contribute to the growth of the agri-food and associated industries. It will also ensure that the NI countryside is accessible for people to visit, promoting leisure and tourism opportunities which again will help create job opportunities and address social isolation in rural areas.

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

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

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

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

As the majority of DAERA's stakeholders are predominantly involved in the agri-food, environmental and rural development sectors and therefore live and/or work within the rural areas, the DAERA Science Strategy will be heavily influenced by the needs of rural people.

The Science Strategy takes account of the needs of people in rural areas in relation to financial poverty and social isolation by providing for measures aimed at supporting the agri-food, environmental and rural development sectors. It encourages collaboration between the Department, industry and academia to look for new innovative ways of working and sharing information to ensure best outcomes for all. It provides for effective governance around how the Department commissions and uses science to ensure it meets the needs of its stakeholders.

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



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

## SECTION 6 - Documenting and Recording

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

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

<b>Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:</b>	Nuala Harbey
<b>Position/Grade:</b>	Deputy Principal
<b>Division/Branch</b>	Science, Evidence and Innovation Policy Division
<b>Signature:</b>	Nuala Harbey
<b>Date:</b>	03 April 2019
<b>Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:</b>	Alistair Carson
<b>Position/Grade:</b>	Grade 5
<b>Division/Branch:</b>	Science, Evidence and Innovation Policy Division
<b>Signature:</b>	<i>Alistair Carson</i>
<b>Date:</b>	05 August 2019