

## 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.

DAERA, Animal Health & Welfare Policy Division, Animal Identification and Welfare Branch.

#### 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.

Consultation on proposed approach to the implementation of the European Union Commission implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/949, which sets out the configuration of the identification code for bovine animals in Northern Ireland.

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

Developing a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Adopting a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Implementing a	Policy <input checked="" 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.

Commission Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000, amendments to Regulation EU 653/2014 and EU Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/949

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

Under Commission Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000, member states were required to establish a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals. Regulation 653/2014 allowed for member states to introduce electronic Identification (EID) systems of bovine animals, with the purpose to enable automated reporting of animal movements and improve the speed, reliability and accuracy of the traceability system. This regulation places 2 requirements on member states – to ensure the necessary infrastructure is in place to provide for EID and for member states to have autonomy to make EID main form of ID. EU Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/949 sets out configuration of the identification code for bovine animals in NI

**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 implementation of Bovine EID cannot be supported by the current animal numbering regime currently in place in Northern Ireland. The change away from the existing tag number format of identifying cattle to a new EID format will have an impact on people in rural areas as the majority of farms and keepers of cattle are predominantly located in these areas. While keeping and movement of cattle is not an exclusive rural activity, the implementation of these changes may relate more to people in this area as opposed to urban 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 proposed changes and legislative amendments will be applied equally across all areas of Northern Ireland, therefore the potential impacts are the same. However, as outlined, due to the nature and location of farming and agri-environment activities, the impacts will be experienced by greater numbers in rural 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 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.**

N/A

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

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

The Department has previously canvassed the views of the key stakeholders, on an informal basis. Representatives from the Ulster Farmers' Union (UFU), markets and the meat processing industry attended and were unanimous in their support for the introduction of bovine EID in general.

The Department has identified two options for a new cattle numbering regime and, as this change will impact farmers and other key stakeholders, it has agreed to take forward a targeted consultation to set out the two options and seek views on a preferred option. The Department is now in a position to initiate the formal stakeholder engagement exercise, and comments from any part of the agricultural industry will be welcomed during this consultation.

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

As outlined, the Department has previously canvassed the views of key stakeholders on an informal basis. Representatives from the Ulster Farmers' Union (UFU), markets and the meat processing industry were unanimous with their support for the introduction of Bovine EID. Representatives from meat processors and markets were strongly in favour, whilst the UFU were also supportive and recognized that Bovine EID had the ability to transform operations and confer many benefits. However, they also had concerns about how bovine EID would be implemented in practice, which centred around two issues (i) technological costs; and (ii) potential disruption for farmers. The UFU noted that that EID tags by their nature are more expensive than conventional flag tags, and indicated that this expense, coupled with the potential to renumber and retag all animals, may be cost prohibitive and disincentive for change.

The comments and responses to the consultation, when undertaken, will provide further information to these details.

**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.**

Informal discussions held with Ulster Farmers Union, and other stakeholders, generally indicated a welcome for the introduction of Bovine EID in general. However, a full consideration of the issues involved will be undertaken when the consultation has been completed.

## 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.**

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.**

The key driver for development and implementing Bovine EID is the need to comply with Regulation EU No 653/2014, which requires member states to have the necessary infrastructure in place to provide for the electronic identification of cattle. The European Commission has then brought forward an implementing act (Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/949) which sets out the configuration of the identification code for bovine animals using EID. In particular, this regulation amends Commission Regulation(EC) No 911/2004 to enable bovine EID to utilize the county code 826 for animals in the UK. The numbering format for bovine EID will also have to be consistent with the standards set by the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) for the identification of animals.

The Department has already agreed in principle to implement this, in line with other UK devolved administrations.

**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>	Mark Bradley
<b>Position/Grade:</b>	Staff Officer
<b>Division/Branch</b>	Animal Welfare and Identification Branch
<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	16/04/2019
<b>Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:</b>	
<b>Position/Grade:</b>	
<b>Division/Branch:</b>	
<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	