**Equality & Disability Duties**

**Screening Template**

# **Screening flowchart and template (taken from Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 – A Guide for public authorities April 2010 *(Appendix 1)).***

**Introduction**

**Part 1. Policy scoping** – asks public authorities to provide details about the policy, procedure, practice and/or decision being screened and what available evidence you have gathered to help make an assessment of the likely impact on equality of opportunity and good relations.

**Part 2. Screening questions** – asks about the extent of the likely impact of the policy on groups of people within each of the Section 75 categories. Details of the groups consulted and the level of assessment of the likely impact. This includes consideration of multiple identity and good relations issues. This section also includes two questions related to the Disability Duties.

**Part 3. Screening decision** –guides the public authority to reach a screening decision as to whether or not there is a need to carry out an equality impact assessment (EQIA), or tointroducemeasures to mitigate the likely impact, or the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

**Part 4. Monitoring** –provides guidance to public authorities on monitoring for adverse impact and broader monitoring.

**Part 5. Consideration of Human Rights** – please note this is not a Human Rights Screening form but rather a prompt that impacts on Human Rights should be considered.

 **Part 6. Approval and authorisation** – verifies the public authority’s approval of a screening decision by a senior manager responsible for the policy.

 A screening flowchart is provided overleaf.

Policy Scoping

* + Policy
	+ Available data

Screening Questions

* Apply screening questions
* Consider multiple identities

Screening Decision: None/Minor/Major

Mitigate

 Publish Template

Re-consider screening

Publish Template

for information

Publish Template

 EQIA

Monitor

**‘None’**

Screened out

**‘Major’**

Screened in for EQIA

**‘Minor’**

Screened out with mitigation

Concerns raised with evidence

Concerns raised with evidence re: screening decision

**Part 1. Policy scoping**

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

Public authorities should remember that the Section 75 statutory duties apply to internal policies (relating to people who work for the authority), as well as external policies (relating to those who are, or could be, served by the authority).

**Information about the policy**

**Name of the policy**

Social Farming Capital Grant Scheme

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Is this an existing, revised or a new policy?**

Existing

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

Social Farming is an innovative use of agriculture to promote therapy, rehabilitation, social inclusion, education and social services in rural areas. Central to the concept is the farm, which remains a typical working farm where people in need of support can benefit from participation in farm activities in a non-clinical environment and the farmer, who is remunerated for the provision of the service.

Grants are available to participants who are currently involved or planning to be involved in the provision of Social Farming services to support capital improvements on their farm to achieve Social Farming Standards and have not received a grant from the Social Farming Capital Grant Scheme 2020. The Social Farming Standards enable Social Farmers to provide clear evidence of service quality excellence and practically demonstrate their professionalism in delivering Social Farming.

The Social Farming Capital Grant Scheme can provide funding of up to 50% of the total capital costs associated with their project, up to a maximum grant of £4,999. The minimum grant awarded will be £500. Applicants are expected to contribute a minimum of 50% match funding towards the cost of your project and this must be in the form of a ‘cash’ contribution i.e. it cannot be a labour or ‘in-kind’ contribution. The minimum total project cost will be £1,000 and the maximum total project cost will be £20,000.

The overall total grant available is £40,000 and each application will undergo an initial eligibility check plus be assessed at an Assessment Panel and must score 50% or above to progress to receiving a Letter of Offer.

**Aim:** To encourage farmers involved in the provision of Social Farming services to adapt their facilities and improve accessibility that can contribute to the achievement of the Social Farming Standards

**Objective:** To deliver a capital-funded, small grant scheme during 2021/2022 that will incentivise farmers to complete capital works and / or provide capital equipment for the benefit of Social Farming service users and the farm enterprise.

**Target:** To provide grant aid to 10-12 farm businesses that will allow them to complete capital works and / or provide capital equipment on-farm to help achieve the Social Farming Standards by 29 October 2021.

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**Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy?**

**If so, explain how.**

There is the potential for all Section 75 categories who live in rural communities to benefit from the scheme as it is open to applications from anyone involved in Social Farming who did not receive a grant in 2020/21. Social Farming, however does benefit vulnerable individuals living with poor mental health and / or learning disabilities by providing them with the opportunity to participate in farm activities in a non-clinical environment. It also strengthens existing skills and develops new capabilities which enhance independent living.

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**Who initiated or wrote the policy?**

Rural Affairs Division

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Who owns and who implements the policy?**

Rural Affairs Division

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Implementation factors**

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

**Financial**

Funding for the scheme is limited and will fund approximately 10-12 applications from Social Farmers who are currently involved or planning to be involved in the provision of Social Farming services to support capital improvements on their farm to achieve the Social Farming Standards. However, the number who would be eligible to apply also remains minimal so all eligible applications would receive funding.

**SCHEME CRITERIA**

|  |
| --- |
| * Applicants must have been involved in Social Farming either through delivery after 1 July 2014 **or** have attended Social Farming-related training after 1 July 2014 **or** have registered an interest with Rural Support’s Social Farming Support Service before 1 June 2021\*¹;
* Applicants must have registered to complete the Social Farming Standards prior to or on the date of submission of your application
 |
| * Applicants must undertake farming activities
 |
| * Applicants must be able to complete the project by **29 October 2021** and claim their grant by **3 December 2021.**
 |

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**Main stakeholders affected**

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

**Staff** – Support provided by the existing team within RAD (West) in DAERA - and no negative impact on staff in relation to the S75 categories

Social Farmers – capital improvements will be made on their farm which will help them achieve the Standards badge.

**Service users** – the main beneficiaries of this scheme are the participants who avail of the service through day care opportunities.

**other, please specify** ­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

The Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation (TRPSI) Framework is a rural initiative led by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DAERA) which aims to tackle poverty and social isolation in rural areas through applicants working in partnership to design and implement measures which target the needs of vulnerable people.

The Framework aims primarily to target those groups that have been identified as being at risk of poverty and/or social isolation in rural areas based on evidence of need. However rather than being too prescriptive by providing a specific ‘Target Group’ list, the new Framework has the flexibility to target a wider range of groups based on evidence of need.

The following list of target groups provides examples of the types of groups that may be targeted under the Framework. The Framework has the flexibility to target these groups and other groups which are identified as being at risk but which are not listed here.

• Children and Young People • Ethnic Minorities

• Farmers • Immigrants

• Lone parents • Older People

• People with caring responsibilities • Women

• People who are unemployed or on benefits • People with disabilities

• The LGB&/T community • People with poor mental health

• People with low skills and/or low • People in work on low

levels of education incomes (the ‘working poor’)

The Framework also has the flexibility to target certain defined geographical areas where this approach is considered to be an effective way of addressing poverty and social isolation among vulnerable groups in line with the overall aims and objectives of the Framework.

**Available evidence**

Equality monitoring has been completed for 2016, 2017, 2019 and 2020 for each of the years the Scheme was opened. A summary of the information gathered is detailed below:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Total Number of Applications | **12** | **14** | **11** | **10** |
| **2016** | **2017** | **2019** | **2020** |
|  | -25 or under | 1 | 1 | 10 | 10 |
| AGE | -26-65 | 9 | 11 | 1 | 0 |
|  | -Over 65 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| RACIAL GROUP | White | 12 | 14 | 11 | 10 |
| GENDER | Male | 9 | 9 | 6 | 6 |
|  | Female | 3 | 5 | 5 | 4 |
| COUNTRY OF BIRTH | N. Ireland | 12 | 14 | 11 | 10 |
|  | England | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|  | Civil Partnership | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
|  | Cohabiting | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
|  | Divorced or legally dissolved Civil Partnership | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| MARITAL STATUS | Married Living with spouse | 7 | 8 | 6 | 7 |
|  | Married and Separated | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|  | Single | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
|  | Widowed | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
|  | A Child or Children | 3 | 5 | 4 | 4 |
|  | Dependant Elderly Person | 2 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
|  | No Dependants | 5 | 8 | 5 | 3 |
| DEPENDANTS | Other Dependants (specify) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|  | Person with disability | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| DISABILITY | Yes | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|  | No | 11 | 14 | 11 | 10 |
| SEXUAL ORIENTATION | Both | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|  | Different Sex | 12 | 13 | 8 | 9 |
|  | Same Sex | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
|  | Protestant | 6 | 7 | 4 | 5 |
| RELIGIOUS BELIEFS | Catholic | 5 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
|  | Neither | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
|  | Unionist | 4 | 5 | 3 | 4 |
| POLITICAL OPINION | Nationalist | 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
|  | No Political Opinion | 5 | 6 | 6 | 2 |
|  | Blank | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |

**Religious belief** evidence/information:

* Consideration of the breakdown of rural statistical data in the 2011 census of Northern Ireland.

The 2011 Census of Northern Ireland found that 45 per cent of the population were either Catholic or brought up as Catholic, while 48 per cent belonged to or were brought up in Protestant, Other Christian or Christian-related denominations. A further 0.9 per cent belonged to or had been brought up in Other Religions and Philosophies, while 5.6 per cent neither belonged to, nor had been brought up in, a religion.

The Census further recorded that in rural communities, 52% of households recorded a head of household as following (or being brought up in) the Protestant or other Christian religious belief, with 45% following or being brought up in the Catholic belief. 3% recorded their religion as Other or None.

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**Political Opinion** evidence/information:

* Consideration of the breakdown of rural statistical data in the 2011 census of Northern Ireland
* Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey 2013

Information on political opinion was not collected in the Population Census 2011. Statistics from the 2011 Census show the make-up of the rural community (based on head of household) to be 45% Catholic, 52% Protestant and other Christian and 3% other or no religion.

The Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey 2013 found that 25% of the Northern Ireland population describe themselves as nationalist, 29% as unionist and 43% held neither political opinion. Information on political opinion was not collected in the Population Census 2011. However, as a question on National Identity was included responses were analysed against farm size, type and land characteristics as a proxy metric for political opinion. There is no specific data on rural communities.

There is no data on the political opinion of Social Farmers and the scheme is open to any all farmers who are currently or planning to be involved in Social Farming, regardless of their political opinion.

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**Racial Group** evidence/information:

* Consideration of the breakdown of rural statistical data in the 2011 census of Northern Ireland.

The 2011 Census of Northern Ireland (most recent as next is 2021) found that over 98% of the population, state their ethnic origin to be white. Non-white ethnic groups accounted for 1.7% of the total population. In addition under 1.3% of non-white minority ethnic groups of Black, Asian and Other live in rural area.

The proportion of farmers stating an ethnicity other than white was too small to examine differences by farm characteristics.

As with other categories, the scheme is open to anyone that meets the scheme criteria regardless of their racial group.

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**Age** evidence/information:

* Consideration of the breakdown of rural statistical data in the 2011 census of Northern Ireland.

Statistics from the 2011 census show the make-up of the rural community to be 22% aged under 15, 24% aged 16 – 34, 39% aged 35 – 64 and 14% aged 65+.

As with other categories above, this scheme is targeted at farmers who are currently or planning to be involved in Social Farming, regardless of age. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Marital Status** evidence/information:

* Consideration of the breakdown of rural statistical data in the 2011 census of Northern Ireland.

Statistics from the 2011 census show the make-up of the rural households to be 22.24% one person households, 48.67% married couple households, 0.03% same-sex civil partnership couple households, 4.58% cohabiting couple households, 11.05% lone parent households and 6.58% other types of households.

As with other categories, the scheme is open to any Social Farmer that meets the scheme criteria regardless of their marital status. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Sexual Orientation** evidence/information:

* Consideration of the breakdown of rural statistical data in the 2011 census of Northern Ireland.
* Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey 2013

Statistics from the 2011 census show the make-up of the rural households to be 22.24% one person households, 48.67% married couple households, 0.03% same-sex civil partnership couple households, 4.58% cohabiting couple households, 11.05% lone parent households and 6.58% other types of households.

There are no data on the number of lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB) persons in NI as no national census has ever asked people to define their sexuality. However, according to the 2013 NI Life and Times Survey (NILT), 96% of people in NI are heterosexual and 1% are homosexual (<http://www.ark.ac.uk/nilt/2013/Background/ORIENT.html>).

As with other categories, the scheme is open to any Social Farmer that meets the scheme criteria regardless of their sexual orientation. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Men & Women generally** evidence/information:

* Consideration of the breakdown of rural statistical data in the 2011 census of Northern Ireland.

Statistics from the 2011 census show the make-up of the rural community to be 50% men and 50% women.

As with other categories, the scheme is open to Social Farmers consisting of both men and women. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Disability** evidence/information:

* Consideration of the breakdown of rural statistical data in the 2011 census of Northern Ireland.

Statistics from the 2011 census show that 40% of rural households contain at least one person with a long term health problem or disability.

As with other categories, the scheme is open to any Social Farmer that meets the scheme criteria regardless of any disability. Social Farming, however does benefit vulnerable individuals living with poor mental health and / or learning disabilities by providing them with the opportunity to participate in farm activities in a non-clinical environment. It also strengthens existing skills and develops new capabilities which enhance independent living. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Dependants** evidence/information:

* Consideration of the breakdown of rural statistical data in the 2011 census of Northern Ireland.

Statistics from the 2011 census show the make-up of rural households to be 37% with dependants and 63% without.
As with other categories, the scheme is open to any Social Farmer that meets the scheme criteria regardless of whether members have dependants or not. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**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 of the needs, experiences and priorities for each of the Section 75 categories below:**

***Religious belief***
Data shows that there are fewer Catholics residing in rural areas than Protestants, however this scheme is open to groups from all across society and is aimed at improving farming facilities, reducing isolation and contributing to a reduction in poverty in these areas regardless of religious belief.

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***Political Opinion***

The majority of the Northern Ireland rural population state their political opinion as unionist, however this scheme is open to groups from all across society and is aimed at improving farming facilities, reducing isolation and contributing to a reduction in poverty in these areas regardless of political opinion.

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***Racial Group***

99.4% of the Northern Ireland population is white, however this scheme is open to all applicants who are currently or planning to be involved in Social Farming and is aimed at improving farming facilities, reducing isolation and contributing to a reduction in poverty in these areas regardless of racial group.

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***Age***

The scheme is open to groups from all across society and is aimed at improving farming facilities, reducing isolation and contributing to a reduction in poverty in these areas regardless of the age group who may benefit from the scheme.

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***Marital status***

Almost half the rural households in Northern Ireland are made up of married couples. This scheme is targeted at farmers who are currently or planning to be involved in Social Farming regardless of their marital status. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Sexual orientation***

Almost half the rural households in Northern Ireland are made up of married couples however this does not indicate the sexual orientation of the rural population. This scheme is targeted at farmers who are currently or planning to be involved in Social Farming regardlessof their sexual orientation.

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***Men and Women Generally***

There is an even split of men and women within the rural population of Northern Ireland. The scheme is open to farmers who are currently or planning to be involved in Social Farming regardlessof whether they are a man or woman.

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***Disability***

With 40% of rural households containing at least one person with a disability it is highly likely that disabled people will benefit from this scheme. Social Farming, however does benefit vulnerable individuals living with poor mental health and / or learning disabilities by providing them with the opportunity to participate in farm activities in a non-clinical environment. It also strengthens existing skills and develops new capabilities which enhance independent living.

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***Dependants***

The majority of rural households do not have dependents. This scheme is open to all farmers who are currently or planning to be involved in Social Farming regardlessof whether members have dependants or not. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**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.

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

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

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

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

**In favour of a ‘major’ impact**

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;
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;
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.
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?**

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

No impact on equality of opportunity – the scheme is open to all applicants who meet the scheme requirements regardless of religious belief. The scheme shall directly and indirectly benefit farmers who are currently or planning to be involved in Social Farming. The criteria for applications does not disadvantage any particular religious belief.

**What is the level of impact?**

None

**Details of the likely policy impacts on *Political Opinion:***

No impact on equality of opportunity – the scheme is open to all applicants who meet the scheme requirements regardless of political opinion. The scheme shall directly and indirectly benefit farmers who are currently or planning to be involved in Social Farming. The criteria for applications does not disadvantage any particular political opinion.

**What is the level of impact?**

None

**Details of the likely policy impacts on *Racial Group*:**

No impact on equality of opportunity – the scheme is open to all applicants who meet the scheme requirements regardless of racial group. The criteria for applications does not disadvantage any particular racial group.

**What is the level of impact?**

None

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

No impact on equality of opportunity – the scheme is open to all applicants who meet the scheme requirements regardless of age. The scheme shall directly and indirectly benefit farmers who are currently or planning to be involved in Social Farming. The criteria for applications does not disadvantage any particular age group.

**What is the level of impact?**

None

**Details of the likely policy impacts on *Marital Status*:**

No impact on equality of opportunity – the scheme is open to all applicants who meet the scheme requirements regardless of marital status. The criteria for applications does not disadvantage any particular group’s members’ marital status.

**What is the level of impact?**

None

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

No impact on equality of opportunity – the scheme is open to all applicants who meet the scheme requirements regardless of sexual orientation. The criteria for applications does not disadvantage any particular group’s members’ sexual orientation.

**What is the level of impact?**

None

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

No impact on equality of opportunity – the scheme is open to all applicants who meet the scheme requirements regardless of whether the members are men or women. The criteria for applications does not disadvantage any particular group’s members’ gender.

**What is the level of impact?**

None

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

Minor impact on equality of opportunity – the scheme is open to all applicants who meet the scheme requirements. Grant aid from this Scheme will be available to farmers who are currently or planning to be involved in Social Farming. Social Farming, however does benefit vulnerable individuals living with poor mental health and / or learning disabilities by providing them with the opportunity to participate in farm activities in a non-clinical environment. It also strengthens existing skills and develops new capabilities which enhance independent living.

**What is the level of impact?**

Major

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

No impact on equality of opportunity – the scheme is open to all applicants who meet the scheme requirements. The criteria for applications does not disadvantage any particular marital status of members.

**What is the level of impact?**

None

1. **Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories?** Yes

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

***Religious Belief* - If Yes, provide details:N/A**

**If No, provide reasons:**

The scheme is open to all applicants who meet the scheme requirements, regardless of religious belief.

***Political Opinion* - If Yes, provide details:N/A**

**If No, provide reasons:**

The scheme is open to all applicants who meet the scheme requirements, regardless of political opinion.

***Racial Group* - If Yes, provide details:N/A**

**If No, provide reasons:**

The scheme is open to all applicants who meet the scheme requirements, regardless of race.

***Age* - If Yes, provide details:N/A**

**If No, provide reasons: N/A**

The scheme is open to all applicants who meet the scheme requirements, regardless of age.

***Marital Status* - If Yes, provide details:N/A**

**If No, provide reasons**

The scheme is open to all applicants who meet the scheme requirements, regardless of marital status.

***Sexual Orientation* - If Yes, provide details:N/A**

**If No, provide reasons:**

The scheme is open to all applicants who meet the scheme requirements, regardless of sexual orientation.

***Men and Women generally* - If Yes, provide details:N/A**

**If No, provide reasons:**

The scheme is open to all applicants who meet the scheme requirements, consisting of both men and women.

***Disability* - If Yes, provide details:**

The scheme provides an opportunity for DAERA to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people as grant aid from this Scheme will be available to help farmers who are currently or are in the process of delivering a Social Farming service, which benefits vulnerable individuals living with poor mental health and / or learning disabilities by providing them with the opportunity to participate in farm activities in a non-clinical environment. It also strengthens existing skills and develops new capabilities which enhance independent living.

**If No, provide reasons:N/A**

***Dependants* - If Yes, provide details:N/A**

**If No, provide reasons:**

The scheme is open to all applicants who meet the scheme requirements, regardless of whether they have dependents or not.

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

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

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

No detrimental impact.

**What is the level of impact?** None

**Details of the likely policy impacts on *Political Opinion*:**

No detrimental impact.

**What is the level of impact?** None

**Details of the likely policy impacts on *Racial Group*:**

No detrimental impact.

**What is the level of impact?** None

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

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

***Religious Belief* - If Yes, provide details:**

**If No, provide reasons: N/A**

The number of applicants who are eligible to apply for this Scheme is very small – 10-12 applicants, all from various rural areas throughout Northern Ireland and there is very limited opportunities to come together.

***Political Opinion* - If Yes, provide details:**

**If No, provide reasons: N/A**

The number of applicants who are eligible to apply for this Scheme is very small – 10-12 applicants, all from various rural areas throughout Northern Ireland and there is very limited opportunities to come together.

**Racial Group - If Yes, provide details:**

**If No, provide reasons: N/A**

The number of applicants who are eligible to apply for this Scheme is very small – 10-12 applicants, all from various rural areas throughout Northern Ireland and there is very limited opportunities to come together.

**Additional considerations**

**Multiple identity**

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

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

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

While poverty and social isolation exist in both urban areas and rural areas it is recognised that those living in rural areas often experience poverty and social isolation, access to services differently due to issues relating to geographical isolation, lower population density and the dispersed nature of many rural settlements. Living in a rural area can also exacerbate the effects of poverty and social isolation and access to services for certain groups.

It is evident that Social Farming provides a realistic and viable alternative to health and social care in Northern Ireland and that service users can benefit significantly from participation, leading to improvements in quality of life. It is also apparent that Social Farming has a lot to offer the rural and wider community in terms of social and economic benefits.

Improvement in on-farm conditions and facilities for those engaged in Social Farming, both the farmers themselves and service users, will help to address barriers to development and aid recognition of these farms as places where users can enjoy a better quality of life and farmers can benefit from social interaction and remuneration.

DAERA’s support can therefore potentially lead to the promotion of equality of opportunity for all including people of multiple identities as it builds the capacity and capability of the rural population with the provision of a ‘fit-for-purpose’ Social Farming facility, which helps address social isolation, combat loneliness, enhance access to services and contribute to the quality of life of the participants and the Social Farmers.

DAERA also has legislative obligations to meet under the Disability Discrimination Order. Questions 5 – 6 relate to these.

Consideration of Disability Duties

1. **Does this proposed policy or decision provide an opportunity for DAERA to better *promote positive attitudes* towards disabled people?**

The scheme provides an opportunity for DAERA to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people as applicants are encouraged to consider including works to improve access issues to Social Farms.

6. **Does this proposed policy or decision provide an opportunity to actively *increase the participation* by disabled people in public life?**

It is envisaged that some of the refurbishment works will make the Social Farms more accessible to disabled people. This in turn has the potential to actively increase the participation of disabled people to attend the farm as a day care opportunity.

**Part 3. Screening decision**

 “Screened out” without mitigation or an alternative policy proposed to be adopted

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

As the scheme is open to all farmers who are currently or planning to be involved in Social Farming and who meet the scheme criteria, there is no impact on grounds of equality or human rights on any of the Section 75 groupings as all eligible applicants will be free to apply for grant funding regardless of their gender, disability, religious belief etc. All applicants that meet the eligibility criteria will obtain grant funding after an eligibility and assessment process.

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

N/A

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

N/A

All public authorities’ equality schemes must state the authority’s arrangements for assessing and consulting on the likely impact of policies adopted or proposed to be adopted by the authority on the promotion of equality of opportunity. The Commission recommends screening and equality impact assessment as the tools to be utilised for such assessments. Further advice on equality impact assessment may be found in a separate Commission publication: [A Practical Guide to Equality Impact Assessment](https://www.equalityni.org/ECNI/media/ECNI/Publications/Employers%20and%20Service%20Providers/PracticalGuidanceonEQIA2005.pdf?ext=.pdf)

**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? No (delete as appropriate)**

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

As the scheme is open to all rural applicants who meet the scheme criteria, there is no impact on grounds of equality or human rights on any of the Section 75 groupings as all eligible applicants will be free to apply for grant funding regardless of their gender, disability, religious belief etc.

**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  |  |
| Social need |  |
| Effect on people’s daily lives |  |
| Relevance to a public authority’s functions |  |
| **Total score** |  |

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?**

**If yes, please provide details.**

**Part 4. Monitoring**

Section 75 places a requirement on DAERA to have equality monitoring arrangements in place in order to assess the impact of policies and services etc; and to help identify barriers to fair participation and to better promote equality of opportunity. Please note the following excerpt from The Equality Commission for Northern Ireland in relation to monitoring:

*A system must be established to monitor the impact of the policy in order to find out its effect on relevant groups. The results of ongoing monitoring must be reviewed on an annual basis. The public authority is required to publish the results of this monitoring. And they must be included in the public authorities´ annual review on progress to the Equality Commission. The Equality Scheme must specify how and where such monitoring information will be published. It is therefore essential that monitoring is carried out in a systematic manner and that the results are widely and openly published.*

*If the monitoring and analysis of results over a two year period show that the policy results in greater adverse impact than predicted, or if opportunities arise which would allow for greater equality of opportunity to be promoted, the public authority must ensure that the policy is revised to achieve better outcomes for the relevant equality groups.*

Further advice on monitoring can be found at: [ECNI Monitoring Guidance for Public Authorities](https://www.equalityni.org/ECNI/media/ECNI/Publications/Employers%20and%20Service%20Providers/S75MonitoringGuidance2007.pdf?ext=.pdf)

Outline what data you will collect in the future in order to monitor the impact of this policy or decision on equality, good relations and disability duties.

**Equality:**

In conjunction with the issue of the Letter of Offer to successful applicants, they will be issued with a link to an Equality Monitoring Survey which will provide the Department with sensitive data such as racial or ethnic origin, political opinion or religious beliefs of the project beneficiaries to monitor potential adverse impacts of the scheme.

**Good Relations:**

In conjunction with the issue of the Letter of Offer to successful applicants, they will be issued with a link to an Equality Monitoring Survey which will provide the Department with sensitive data such as racial or ethnic origin, political opinion or religious beliefs of the project beneficiaries to monitor potential adverse impacts of the scheme.

**Disability Duties:**

In conjunction with the issue of the Letter of Offer to successful applicants, they will be issued with a link to an Equality Monitoring Survey which will provide the Department with sensitive data such as racial or ethnic origin, political opinion or religious beliefs of the project beneficiaries to monitor potential adverse impacts of the scheme.

**Part 5. Consideration of Human Rights**

1. **The Human Rights Act (HRA) 1998 brings the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) into UK law and it applies in N Ireland. Indicate below by deleting Yes/No as appropriate, any potential *adverse impacts* that the policy or decision may have in relation to human rights issues.**

See Annex A for brief synopsis on each of the Human Rights Articles & Protocols

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Right to Life | **Article 2** | No |
| Prohibition of torture, inhuman or degrading treatment  | **Article 3** | No |
| Prohibition of slavery and forced labour | **Article 4** | No |
| Right to liberty and security  | **Article 5** | No |
| Right to a fair and public trial | **Article 6** | No |
| Right to no punishment without law | **Article 7** | No |
| Right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence | **Article 8** | No |
| Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion | **Article 9** | No |
| Right to freedom of expression | **Article 10** | No |
| Right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association | **Article 11** | No |
| Right to marry and to found a family | **Article 12** | No |
| The prohibition of discrimination | **Article 14** | No |
| Protection of property and enjoyment of possessions | **Protocol 1Article 1** | No |
| Right to education | **Protocol 1Article 2** | No |
| Right to free and secret elections | **Protocol 1Article 3** | No |

8. **Please explain any adverse impacts on human rights that you have identified**

No adverse impact on human rights have been identified.

9. **Please indicate any ways which you consider the policy positively promotes human rights**

 The policy does not create any opportunity to promote human rights.

**Part 6 - Approval and authorisation**

# **Screening Checklist**

Before signing off this screening template please confirm that you have completed all the actions listed below.

I can confirm that all the actions listed below have been completed –

* I have explained any technical issues in plain English (easily understood by a 12 year old)
* I have used the most relevant, current & up to date data available
* I have added evidence and explained my assessments in full
* I have provided a brief note to justify my decision to ‘Screen In’ or ‘Screen Out’
* A copy of this screening template and the final decision has been sent to the Equality Unit for their consideration before it has been forwarded for sign-off

**Screening assessment completed by (Staff Officer level or above) -**

**Name:** Elizabeth McIlwaine **Grade:** DP

**Branch:** Rural Affairs Division (West)

**Date:** 28/05/2021

**Signature:**

**Screening decision approved by (must be Grade 3 /Deputy Secretary or above) -**

**Name:** FIONA McCANDLESS **Grade:** 3

**Branch:** Deputy Secretary RAFSET

**Date:** 4 June 2021

**Signature:**

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.

Please save the final signed version of the completed screening form in the CM container (AE2-19-11940) below as soon as possible after completion and forward the CM link to Equality Branch at equality@daera-ni.gov.uk. The screening template must be saved to the container in **HTML format** (not PDF) in order to comply with accessibility requirements. The screening form will be placed on the DAERA website and a link provided to the Department’s Section 75 consultees.

 

For more information about equality screening, contact –

DAERA Equality Unit

Equality, Diversity & Public Appointments Branch

Ballykelly House

111 Ballykelly Road

LIMAVADY
BT49 9HP

Email: equality@daera-ni.gov.uk

Tel: 028 7744 2027

**Annex A**

**Synopsis of Human Rights Act Articles & Protocols**

***Article 2***

 **E+W+S+N.I.*Right to life***

1. Everyone’s right to life shall be protected by law. No one shall be deprived of his life intentionally save in the execution of a sentence of a court following his conviction of a crime for which this penalty is provided by law.**E+W+S+N.I.**
2. Deprivation of life shall not be regarded as inflicted in contravention of this Article when it results from the use of force which is no more than absolutely necessary:**E+W+S+N.I.**

(a) In defense of any person from unlawful violence;

(b) In order to effect a lawful arrest or to prevent the escape of a person lawfully detained;

(c) In action lawfully taken for the purpose of quelling a riot or insurrection.

***Article 3***

 **E+W+S+N.I.*Prohibition of torture***

No one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

***Article 4***

**E+W+S+N.I.*Prohibition of slavery and forced labour***

1. No one shall be held in slavery or servitude.**E+W+S+N.I.**
2. No one shall be required to perform forced or compulsory labour.**E+W+S+N.I.**
3. For the purpose of this Article the term “forced or compulsory labour” shall not include:**E+W+S+N.I.**

(a) Any work required to be done in the ordinary course of detention imposed according to the provisions of Article 5 of this Convention or during conditional release from such detention;

(b) Any service of a military character or, in case of conscientious objectors in countries where they are recognised, service exacted instead of compulsory military service;

(c) Any service exacted in case of an emergency or calamity threatening the life or well-being of the community;

(d) Any work or service which forms part of normal civic obligations.

***Article 5***

 **E+W+S+N.I.*Right to liberty and security***

1. Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person. No one shall be deprived of his liberty save in the following cases and in accordance with a procedure prescribed by law:**E+W+S+N.I.**

(a) The lawful detention of a person after conviction by a competent court;

(b) The lawful arrest or detention of a person for non-compliance with the lawful order of a court or in order to secure the fulfilment of any obligation prescribed by law;

(c) the lawful arrest or detention of a person effected for the purpose of bringing him before the competent legal authority on reasonable suspicion of having committed an offence or when it is reasonably considered necessary to prevent his committing an offence or fleeing after having done so;

(d ) the detention of a minor by lawful order for the purpose of educational supervision or his lawful detention for the purpose of bringing him before the competent legal authority;

(e) The lawful detention of persons for the prevention of the spreading of infectious diseases, of persons of unsound mind, alcoholics or drug addicts or vagrants;

(f) The lawful arrest or detention of a person to prevent his effecting an unauthorised entry into the country or of a person against whom action is being taken with a view to deportation or extradition.

1. Everyone who is arrested shall be informed promptly, in a language which he understands, of the reasons for his arrest and of any charge against him.**E+W+S+N.I.**
2. Everyone arrested or detained in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 1(c) of this Article shall be brought promptly before a judge or other officer authorised by law to exercise judicial power and shall be entitled to trial within a reasonable time or to release pending trial. Release may be conditioned by guarantees to appear for trial.**E+W+S+N.I.**
3. Everyone who is deprived of his liberty by arrest or detention shall be entitled to take proceedings by which the lawfulness of his detention shall be decided speedily by a court and his release ordered if the detention is not lawful.**E+W+S+N.I.**
4. Everyone who has been the victim of arrest or detention in contravention of the provisions of this Article shall have an enforceable right to compensation.**E+W+S+N.I.**

***Article 6***

**E+W+S+N.I.*Right to a fair trial***

1. In the determination of his civil rights and obligations or of any criminal charge against him, everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial tribunal established by law. Judgment shall be pronounced publicly but the press and public may be excluded from all or part of the trial in the interest of morals, public order or national security in a democratic society, where the interests of juveniles or the protection of the private life of the parties so require, or to the extent strictly necessary in the opinion of the court in special circumstances where publicity would prejudice the interests of justice.**E+W+S+N.I.**
2. Everyone charged with a criminal offence shall be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law.**E+W+S+N.I.**
3. Everyone charged with a criminal offence has the following minimum rights:**E+W+S+N.I.**

(a) To be informed promptly, in a language which he understands and in detail, of the nature and cause of the accusation against him;

(b) To have adequate time and facilities for the preparation of his defense;

(c) To defend himself in person or through legal assistance of his own choosing or, if he has not sufficient means to pay for legal assistance, to be given it free when the interests of justice so require;

(d) To examine or have examined witnesses against him and to obtain the attendance and examination of witnesses on his behalf under the same conditions as witnesses against him;

(e) To have the free assistance of an interpreter if he cannot understand or speak the language used in court.

***Article 7***

**E+W+S+N.I.*No punishment without law***

1. No one shall be held guilty of any criminal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a criminal offence under national or international law at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the criminal offence was committed.**E+W+S+N.I.**
2. This Article shall not prejudice the trial and punishment of any person for any act or omission which, at the time when it was committed, was criminal according to the general principles of law recognised by civilised nations.**E+W+S+N.I.**

***Article 8***

**E+W+S+N.I.*Right to respect for private and family life***

1. Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence.**E+W+S+N.I.**
2. There shall be no interference by a public authority with the exercise of this right except such as is in accordance with the law and is necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security, public safety or the economic well-being of the country, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.**E+W+S+N.I.**

***Article 9***

**E+W+S+N.I.*Freedom of thought, conscience and religion***

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief, in worship, teaching, practice and observance.**E+W+S+N.I.**
2. Freedom to manifest one’s religion or beliefs shall be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of public safety, for the protection of public order, health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.**E+W+S+N.I.**

***Article 10***

**E+W+S+N.I.*Freedom of expression***

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers. This Article shall not prevent States from requiring the licensing of broadcasting, television or cinema enterprises.**E+W+S+N.I.**
2. The exercise of these freedoms, since it carries with it duties and responsibilities, may be subject to such formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary.**E+W+S+N.I.**

***Article 11***

 **E+W+S+N.I.*Freedom of assembly and association***

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and to freedom of association with others, including the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.**E+W+S+N.I.**
2. No restrictions shall be placed on the exercise of these rights other than such as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others. This Article shall not prevent the imposition of lawful restrictions on the exercise of these rights by members of the armed forces, of the police or of the administration of the State.**E+W+S+N.I.**

***Article 12***

**E+W+S+N.I.*Right to marry***

Men and women of marriageable age have the right to marry and to found a family, according to the national laws governing the exercise of this right.

***Article 14***

**E+W+S+N.I.*Prohibition of discrimination***

The enjoyment of the rights and freedoms set forth in this Convention shall be secured without discrimination on any ground such as sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status.

**Protocol 1**

***Article 1***

 **E+W+S+N.I.*Protection of property***

Every natural or legal person is entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of his possessions. No one shall be deprived of his possessions except in the public interest and subject to the conditions provided for by law and by the general principles of international law.

The preceding provisions shall not, however, in any way impair the right of a State to enforce such laws as it deems necessary to control the use of property in accordance with the general interest or to secure the payment of taxes or other contributions or penalties.

**Protocol 1**

***Article 2***

 **E+W+S+N.I.*Right to education***

No person shall be denied the right to education. In the exercise of any functions which it assumes in relation to education and to teaching, the State shall respect the right of parents to ensure such education and teaching in conformity with their own religious and philosophical convictions.

**Protocol 1**

***Article***

***3* E+W+S+N.I.*Right to free elections***

The High Contracting Parties undertake to hold free elections at reasonable intervals by secret ballot, under conditions which will ensure the free expression of the opinion of the people in the choice of the legislature