**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND RURAL AFFAIRS**

**Draft Budget 2021-22 Appendix A**

 **Equality and Human Rights**

**Screening Template**

July 2021

**DAERA Equality** and **Human Rights**

# Screening Template

DAERA has a statutory duty to screen. This includes our strategies and plans, policies, legislative developments; and new ways of working such as – the introduction, change or end of an existing service, grant funding arrangement or facility. This screening template is designed to help business areas consider the likely equality and human rights impacts of their proposed decisions on different groups of customers, service users, staff and visitors.

Before carrying out an equality screening exercise it is important that you have received the necessary training and know the current effective guidance first (see HPRM (Trim) link below for Guidance Document). To find out about the training needed, contact - equalitydiversitypublicappointments@daera-ni.gov.uk. All screening exercises must be supported by evidence and Quality Assured by Equality Unit prior to being cleared at Grade 3 level.



The accompanying Screening Guidance note provides straightforward advice on how to carry out equality screening exercises. Detailed information about the Section 75 equality duties**[[1]](#footnote-1)** and what they mean in practice is available on the Equality Commission’s website.

Please note: Only plain English**[[2]](#footnote-2)** should be used in all sections of this document.

The screening template has 4 sections to complete. These are:

**Section A** - asks you to provide details about the policy / decision that is being screened.

**Section B** - has 4 key questions that require you to outline the likely impacts on equality groups, and all supporting evidence.

**Section C** - has 4 key questions in relation to obligations under the Disability Discrimination Order and the Human Rights Act.

**Section D** - is the formal record of the screening decision.

Section A

Details about the policy / decision to be screened – In plain English

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| Title of policy / decision to be screened:-      Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Draft Budget 2021-22. |

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| Brief description of policy / decision to be screened:-      On 18 January 2021 DoF published a Draft Budget document for 2021-22 which set out the Northern Ireland Executive’s proposed spending plans across all departments. This policy relates to DAERA’s Draft Budget for 2021-22 included in the Minister of Finance’s Statement to the Assembly on 18 January 2021. The Department has been allocated a Draft Budget opening Resource DEL baseline of £544.2m, with a further £1.8m anticipated in respect of Confidence and Supply funding; and an opening Capital DEL baseline of £95.5m. DAERA’s Draft Budget includes welcome confirmation of replacement Farm Payments as well as additional funding to take forward DAERA’s crucial work following our exit from the EU and the Green Growth strategy. These opening baselines may be subject to revision as part of the Final Budget process.  |

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| Aims and objectives of the policy / decision to be screened:-      DAERA’s purpose is “Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape, valued by everyone.” In pursuit of this purpose, DAERA’s strategic objectives have been designed to align with the purpose of the Department and relevant PfG Outcomes whilst also covering the Department’s regulatory, governance and resource management responsibilities. We are central to protecting our natural environment, supporting sustainable economic growth in our agri-industries and championing our rural communities. We are also an exemplar organisation committed to making a difference to the citizens we serve. The Department has a wide range of responsibility, including the agri-food industry, waste, fisheries, the environment and rural sector. The work of the Department touches the lives of everyone in Northern Ireland on a daily basis and our 3,000 staff play a key role in supporting the agri-food sector, our environment and the economy. The UK left the EU on 31 January 2020 and during the Transition Period the Department continued to focus resources on ensuring that necessary plans were in place to prepare for the changes from 1 January 2021 and take advantage of opportunities presented by exiting the EU to grow our presence globally. The COVID-19 outbreak has however created exceptional challenges for all of society and the economy and we are all working hard to lessen the negative impacts this has on our society as a whole. DAERA will continue to work safely and diligently to ensure that we can deliver our essential services to the people of Northern Ireland. The aim of the DAERA budget for 2021-22 is to:* take cognisance of competing pressures and the impacts of not meeting these pressures; and
* maximise each Business Area’s ability to support the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs is discharging his legal responsibilities, delivery of core services and delivery on departmental aims and objectives for stakeholders and for staff.

An equality screening has been carried out to seek to assess if there will be any potential impacts of a flat-cash scenario on any of the Section 75 Groups. Individual business areas will be required to consider any equality implications within specific areas. At this stage, it is only possible to consider any high-level potential impacts but no significant impact is considered across all of the Section 75 categories. As detailed in the in the DAERA Further Details on Draft Budget 2021-22, confirmation has been obtained of replacement Pillar 1, Pillar 2 and Common Market Organisation (CMO) funding of £315.6 million and Fisheries funding of £3.1 million. While this provides a significant degree of certainty – particularly in relation to Direct Payments - it is disappointing that the £315.6 million allocated by HMT falls short of the £330 million in the Manifesto Commitment. This is because £14.4 million projected EU Funding for next year has been netted off the Manifesto Commitment by HMT.However, the loss of this funding in the 2021-22 financial year will not impact on the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme, which will continue to run to completion in 2023. The 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme has been subject to separate screening, a copy of which can be found on the DAERA website.It is anticipated that the opening Draft Budget will impact Section 75 groups in the following ways: *Environment*Northern Ireland’s environment is one of its most important assets and is crucial to every person, affecting health and wellbeing, the economy and particularly rural tourism, facilitating outdoor recreation and social interaction. In line with the current PfG Outcome on the environment, work continues to improve waste prevention, reuse and recycling to meet the 2035 target of 65% of municipal waste to be recycled and a reduction of waste to landfill to 10% or less. Funding will also continue to be invested in order to help stimulate these sectors, raise awareness and enact behaviour change which will help Northern Ireland to move to a low carbon circular economy. The Minister announced his plans for Green Growth to the Assembly in June 2020, including plans to plant 18 million trees by 2030 to help tackle climate change and address other environmental challenges. This initiative is the first Green Growth Foundation Programme and further Programmes are expected to follow on waste, agriculture and natural environment as well as with other departments on clean energy for power, transport and heat. Programmes in this area will be subject to their own screening. *EU Exit funding*Following the UK’s exit from the EU, DAERA is required to undertake a range of responsibilities and functions that are being repatriated from Brussels as agriculture, the environment, fisheries, forestry and rural development are all devolved matters. This represents a unique opportunity to develop a new dynamic for key stakeholders across the food, agricultural and environmental spectrum to work with the Northern Ireland government to chart a new way forward with common purpose. This will allow DAERA to ensure that as new policies are developed they adequately provide for all citizens of Northern Ireland including all Section 75 categories. *Direct Payments*This budget will allow Direct Payment to farmers to continue in the 2021-22 financial year assisting farm businesses to improve economic and environmental performance, provide a level of stabilisation in the event of market disturbances and deliver more efficient and effective operation of the market. Schemes in this area are subject to their own screening. DAERA has made a commitment, that as part of the development of Northern Ireland Future Agricultural Policy Framework, to engage closely with stakeholders to ensure that as this area develops it carefully considers and adapts to the requirements of Section 75 categories in providing equal opportunity across categories. *Rural Development Programme*The 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme (RDP) will continue to run to completion in 2023 and as previously stated will not be affected by the shortfall in EU Replacement Funding in the draft budget. The RDP focuses on addressing a number of common priorities including fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas, restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry, promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift toward a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy and promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas. Programmes funded in this area include:* LEADER which is a European Community Initiative for assisting rural communities in improving the quality of life and economic prosperity in their local area. Decisions on projects are made by local people about their own areas based on the premise that they are the ones who know best what their local area needs and what projects will best fill that need.
* The Forest Expansion Scheme which has supported 1,133 hectares and 267 hectares have been planted under the Environmental Farming Scheme Native Woodland option; and
* The Environmental Farming Scheme designed to provide support to farmers for carrying out positive environmental management on their farms. The scheme is targeted at specific environmental needs, primarily related to biodiversity and water quality.

Further details on where funding has been allocated can be found in the ‘Further Details on Draft Budget 2020-21 Outcome for DAERA’ on the Department’s website. Each of the programmes under the RDP will provide direct benefits and promote equal opportunity across all Section 75 categories. The 2014-2020 RDP has been subject to separate screening, a copy of which can be found on the DAERA website.*Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation.*DAERA has ensured that funding is continuing to be delivered to Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation (TRPSI). This Programme covers a range of initiatives that are needed in rural areas to support community development and cohesion; develop youth entrepreneurial and employment opportunities; provide equitable transport opportunities; access to health services; assist farmers and support positive mental and physical health. Funding delivered to this area will continue to benefit all Section 75 categories. It will aim to promote equality across a number of sections and will work to promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group. TRPSI has been subject to separate screening, a copy of which can be found on the DAERA website.*Rural Business Community Fund*This is the replacement programme for EU RDP Priority 6 (LEADER and Rural Tourism) funding called ‘Rural Business and Community Investment Programme’. The aim/objective is to create a sustainable rural community where people can work and live, complementing any future Green Growth Strategy. It will aim to promote equality across a number of sections and will work to promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group. In particular this will have a positive impact for those with Disabilities through interventions in a rural halls improvement scheme there will be better disability access and facilities. This has been evidenced through the rural policy framework working groups on the deficiencies of access and facilities for disabled people in small rural halls. Separate screening has been performed for all individual pilots and the draft Rural Policy Framework and these have been published on the DAERA website.*Project Stratum*The funding will provide access to high speed broadband to citizens that previously had little or no access to broadband. The deficiencies in the lack of broadband have been particularly highlighted during Covid-19 where many rural dwellers had no access to broadband and suffered greatly from work, social and children’s education point of view. Roughly 79,000 citizens mainly rural still have little or no access to broadband, it is hoped that this project will help make significant inroads to this figure. As Project Stratum is being led by the Department for the Economy (DfE) it is subject to their screening process. This 2021-22 Draft Budget Allocation policy is an overarching departmental policy which has been informed by information provided from across all of the DAERA’s business areas. As a result there is the potential for this policy and the out workings of such to be affected by those policies in each of the Department’s individual business areas.  |

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| **On whom will the policy / decision impact?**Consider the internal and external impacts (both actual or potential) Staff       service users      rural community     other public sector organisations     voluntary / community groups / trade unions     others, please specify      |

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| Are there linkages to other NI Departments / NDPBs? *Under the new Programme for Government there is an emphasis on shared responsibility between departments & this should be considered when answering this question.*The pathway to success with our purpose and vision for the future relies on partnership, mutual understanding and shared goals that can only come about through effective stakeholder engagement. DAERA has a strong history of partnership working with people from other Departments, Arms-Length Bodies, Local Councils, organisations and sectors. We will continue with our engaging, collaborative approach to successfully address the issues we currently face and turn these into opportunities to make us all stronger and robust for generations to come. We must also build our global networks and engagement platforms across key policy areas such as the environment, trade, education, science and rural affairs. We must look outwards and learn from good practice across the world, building on their successes and learning from their experiences.To support the achievement in these areas a number of key targets have been identified to ensure that the Department is working towards achieving its goals.  DAERA is central to protecting our natural environment, supporting sustainable economic growth in our agri-industries, championing our rural communities and enhancing the quality of life for all of the 1.8 million people who live here. We are also an exemplar organisation committed to making a difference to everyone we serve.  |

Section B

**Available evidence**

What evidence or information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy? Set out all evidence below along with details of the different groups you have met and or consulted with to help inform your screening assessment.

| **Section 75 category**  | **Details of evidence or information and engagement** |
| --- | --- |
| **Religious belief**  | Negligible adverse differential impacts have been identified for this Section 75 group.In respect of individual schemes and programmes further and specific evidence can be found in individual Business area’s Equality Screening documents, including the [Equality Impact Assessment of the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme.](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dard/2014-2020-rdp-final-eqia-report.pdf)2018 DAERA Equality Indicators ReportJust over two fifths (42%) of farmers in Northern Ireland were Catholic, with half (51%) stating their religion as Protestant or another Christian denomination. The remainder (6%) were of 'other' or no religion. Catholics were much more likely than Protestants to farm on very small farms, with 85% of Catholics farming small farms compared to 68% of Protestants, and only 2% having large farms compared to 10% of Protestant farmers. Catholic farmers were also more likely to be engaged in cattle and sheep farming in Less Favoured Areas, with over three quarters (77%) engaged in this type of farming activity compared to less than half (45%) of Protestant farmers. In contrast, a much higher proportion of Protestant (16%) than Catholic (5%) farmers were dairy farmers, and twice as many Protestant (25%) as Catholic (12%) farmers were lowland cattle and sheep farmers.  |
| **Political opinion**  | Negligible adverse differential impacts have been identified for this Section 75 group.In respect of individual schemes and programmes further and specific evidence can be found in individual Business area’s Equality Screening documents, including the [Equality Impact Assessment of the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme.](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dard/2014-2020-rdp-final-eqia-report.pdf)2011 Census of Northern Ireland2018 DAERA Equality Indicators ReportInformation 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.Overall, 44% of farmers reported their identity as British only, 26% as Irish only and 23% as Northern Irish only, with 8% stating another identity or a combination of more than one identity. However, the religious profile varied across farm characteristics, with the proportions stating a British only identity increasing with farm size, from 40% of those in very small farms to 65% of those in large farms. A much higher proportion of those stating an Irish only or Northern Irish only identity farmed on very small farms (85% and 81% respectively) than those stating a British only identity (69%). In contrast, the proportion of those stating a British only identity farming on large farms (9%) was more than double that of those who stated Irish only (2%) or Northern Irish only (4%) identities. High proportions of dairy farmers (62%) and those engaged in mixed farming (63%) stated a British only identity. More than three quarters of those describing their identity as Irish only (77%) and two-thirds of those with a Northern Irish only (68%) identity were engaged in cattle and sheep farming in Less Favoured Areas, compared to less than half (48%) of farmers of British only identity. In contrast, those stating a British only identity were much more likely to be engaged in farming cattle and sheep in lowland areas, dairy farming, or other types of farming activity, than those stating an Irish only or Northern Irish only identity. Farmers with an Irish only identity were almost twice as likely to farm in Severely Disadvantaged Areas (55%) than farmers with a British only identity (28%). The proportion of those with a Northern Irish identity farming in Severely Disadvantaged Areas was also very high at 48%. On the other hand, the proportion of those describing themselves as British only who farmed in lowland areas (39%) was more than twice that of those with an Irish only identity (15%) and much higher than those with a Northern Irish only identity (24%). |
| **Racial group**  | Negligible adverse differential impacts have been identified for this Section 75 group.In respect of individual schemes and programmes further and specific evidence can be found in individual Business area’s Equality Screening documents, including the [Equality Impact Assessment of the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme.](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dard/2014-2020-rdp-final-eqia-report.pdf)2011 Census of Northern Ireland2018 DAERA Equality Indicators ReportThe 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.  |
| **Age**  | Negligible adverse differential impacts have been identified for this Section 75 group.In respect of individual schemes and programmes further and specific evidence can be found in individual Business area’s Equality Screening documents, including the [Equality Impact Assessment of the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme.](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dard/2014-2020-rdp-final-eqia-report.pdf)2011 Census of Northern Ireland – [Population Estimates – Single year of Age](https://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/Theme.aspx?themeNumber=74&themeName=Population)2016 [EU Farm Structure Survey Northern Ireland](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/daera/17.18.088%20EU%20Farm%20Structure%20Survey%202016%20V2.pdf)2018 DAERA Equality Indicators ReportThe mean age of the NI population is 37.59. 57.61% of NI residents aged 16-72 were economically active. The average age of farmers in Northern Ireland was 59 years. Only 8% of farmers were aged under 40 years, and more than a third (36%) were aged 65 years or older. There was little variation in the age profile of farmers by farm size, although farmers of very small farms (which account for three-quarters of all farms in Northern Ireland) had a slightly older age profile than those of larger farms. There was also little variation in age across farming activity type. However, farmers engaged in cattle and sheep farming, general cropping and horticulture had the oldest age profiles, while pig and poultry farmers had the youngest age profiles. Poultry farmers were around twice as likely to be aged under 40 than other farmers. There was virtually no difference in age profile across land types. However, farmers aged under 40 were slightly more likely to farm in Severely Disadvantaged Areas than older farmers. |
| **Marital status**  | Negligible adverse differential impacts have been identified for this Section 75 group.In respect of individual schemes and programmes further and specific evidence can be found in individual Business area’s Equality Screening documents, including the [Equality Impact Assessment of the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme.](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dard/2014-2020-rdp-final-eqia-report.pdf)2018 DAERA Equality Indicators ReportAlmost three quarters (73%) of farmers were married, with the proportion of married farmers increasing with farm size; 84% of farmers of large farms were married, compared to 71% of farmers of very small farms. Conversely, twice as many farmers (18%) of very small farms were single as farmers of medium sized (9%) or large farms (9%). Across farm activity types, a very high proportion of pig farmers (88%) and farmers engaged in horticulture (88%) in 2010-11 were married. Lowland farmers were slightly more likely to be married (77%) than farmers in Disadvantaged (73%) or Severely Disadvantaged (71%) Areas. |
| **Sexual orientation** | Negligible adverse differential impacts have been identified for this Section 75 group.In respect of individual schemes and programmes further and specific evidence can be found in individual Business area’s Equality Screening documents, including the [Equality Impact Assessment of the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme.](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dard/2014-2020-rdp-final-eqia-report.pdf)2011 Census of Northern Ireland[Sexual Identity, UK: 2016](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/sexuality/bulletins/sexualidentityuk/2016)In 2016, just over 1 million (2%) of the UK population aged 16 and over identified themselves as lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB). The population aged 16 – 24 were the age group most likely to identify as LGB in 2016 (4.1%). More males (2.3%) than females (1.6%) identified themselves as LGB in 2016.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>). |
| **Men & women generally** | Negligible adverse differential impacts have been identified for this Section 75 group.In respect of individual schemes and programmes further and specific evidence can be found in individual Business area’s Equality Screening documents, including the [Equality Impact Assessment of the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme.](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dard/2014-2020-rdp-final-eqia-report.pdf)2016 EU Farm Structure Survey Northern Ireland2018 DAERA Equality Indicators ReportOnly 9% of principal farmers were female. Female farmers were more likely than their male counterparts to farm on very small farms - 87% of women farmers had small farms compared to 75% of male farmers. Farmers engaged in 'Other types' of farming (such as running specialist horse farms) were twice as likely to be women as were farmers engaged in other activity types. A higher proportion of female (86%) than male farmers (78%) were engaged in cattle and sheep farming, and a much lower proportion (4% of female compared to 12% of male farmers) were dairy farmers. Female farmers were also more likely to farm in Less Favoured Areas. Forty-four percent of women farmers farmed in Severely Disadvantaged Areas compared to 39% of male farmers. Some of the gender differences in farm characteristics may be partly due to the differing age profiles of male and female farmers. Female farmers had an older age profile than their male counterparts, with 4% of female farmers aged under 40, compared to 8% of male farmers, and 45% of female farmers aged 65 or over, compared to 35% of male farmers. |
| **Disability** | Negligible adverse differential impacts have been identified for this Section 75 group.In respect of individual schemes and programmes further and specific evidence can be found in individual Business area’s Equality Screening documents, including the [Equality Impact Assessment of the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme.](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dard/2014-2020-rdp-final-eqia-report.pdf)2011 Census of Northern Ireland2018 DAERA Equality Indicators ReportIn Northern Ireland it is estimated that 22% of the population have some form of disability; amongst farmers this figure is slightly higher, with 26% reporting they suffer from some form of disability.Almost a third (30%) of farmers stated that they had a long-term illness or disability which limited their daily activities, with the incidence of disability inversely related to farm size. The proportion of farmers of very small farms stating that their activities were limited a lot (16%) was twice that of farmers of large farms (8%). Farmers in disadvantaged areas (16%) were slightly more likely than lowland farmers (12%) to state that their activities were limited. Some of the differences in farm characteristics by disability may be partly due to the variation in age profiles of those with and without disabilities. The incidence of those reporting that their activities were limited either a little or a lot rises steeply with age. |
| **Dependants** | Negligible adverse differential impacts have been identified for this Section 75 group.In respect of individual schemes and programmes further and specific evidence can be found in individual Business area’s Equality Screening documents, including the [Equality Impact Assessment of the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme.](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dard/2014-2020-rdp-final-eqia-report.pdf)2018 DAERA Equality Indicators ReportTwo fifths (40%) of all farm households contained children under 18 years old, elderly disabled people, or both. Households of medium sized farms were slightly more likely than smaller or larger farms to contain dependants as were the households of farmers engaged in pig, poultry or mixed farming. Farm households in Disadvantaged Areas (41%) were slightly more likely than those in lowland areas (38%) to contain dependants.  |

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| **No evidence held? Outline how you will obtain it: Not Applicable.**Copies of previously completed screening decisions can be found at the link below. This will be updated as future screening documents are completed.[DAERA's Equality Scheme | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (daera-ni.gov.uk)](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/daeras-equality-scheme) |

1. **What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories? What is the level of impact?**

| **Section 75 category**  | **Details of likely impact** | **Level of impact? Minor/Major/None** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Religious belief** | The DAERA Draft Budget 2021-22 has the purpose of delivering sustainability at the heart of a living, active, working environment valued by everyone. Given the strategic nature of the budget allocations in delivering this purpose in a fair and balanced way to benefit all, potential impacts on Section 75 groups have been considered and relevant screening documents can be found in the attached link. | See individual assessments in the following link:[DAERA's Equality Scheme | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (daera-ni.gov.uk)](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/daeras-equality-scheme) |
| **Political opinion**  | As above. | As above. |
| **Racial group**  | As above. | As above. |
| **Age** | As above. | As above. |
| **Marital status**  | As above. | As above. |
| **Sexual orientation** | As above. | As above. |
| **Men and women generally**  | As above. | As above. |
| **Disability** | As above. | As above. |
| **Dependants**  | As above. | As above. |

As the 2021-22 Draft Budget allocation represents a standstill position given the overall Budget Settlement for Northern Ireland, the majority of funding for DAERA has been allocated to programmes and schemes already established within the Department. These schemes have been subject to Equality assessments.

Where DAERA identifies any potential impacts as future schemes are developed these will also be subject to screening.

As part of the Draft Budget 2021-22, DAERA now has confirmation of replacement Pillar 1, Pillar 2 and Common Market Organisation (CMO) funding of £315.6 million. While this provides a significant degree of certainty – particularly in relation to Direct Payments - it is disappointing that the £315.6 million allocated by HMT falls short of the £330 million in the Manifesto Commitment. This is because £14.4 million projected EU Funding for next year has been netted off the Manifesto Commitment by HMT. However, this shortfall funding in the 2021-22 financial year will not impact on Direct Payments or the 2014-2020 RDP which will continue to run to completion in 2023. The 2014-2020 RDP has been subject to separate screening, a copy of which can be found on the DAERA website.

In some instances certain schemes may impact different categories in different ways. For example rural and poverty issues tend to be a key concern among the elderly populations as almost one-third of the rural elderly in Northern Ireland exist on very low incomes. Research also suggests the wider dispersion of services inherent in rural areas coupled with often restrictive public transport means that typically older people can be faced with barriers, in accessing services leading to further increased isolation and access poverty and deprivation and disadvantage tend to be particularly prevalent in the Northern Ireland border region.

This process ensures that as a Department we are striving to ensure equality of opportunity for each of the Section 75 categories, that as a Department we better promote this opportunity and work to ensuring polices not only better promote but also positively impact on good relations between people of different religious beliefs, political opinions and racial groups.

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

| **Section 75 category**  | **If Yes, provide details**  | **If No, provide reasons** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Religious belief** | The DAERA Draft Budget 2021-22 has the purpose of delivering sustainability at the heart of a living, active, working environment valued by everyone. Given the strategic nature of the budget allocations in delivering this purpose in a fair and balanced way to benefit all, potential impacts on Section 75 groups have been considered and relevant screening documents can be found in the link below.[DAERA's Equality Scheme | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (daera-ni.gov.uk)](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/daeras-equality-scheme) |  |
| **Political opinion**  | As above. |  |
| **Racial group**  | As above. |  |
| **Age** | As above. |  |
| **Marital status** | As above. |  |
| **Sexual orientation** | As above. |  |
| **Men and women generally**  | As above. |  |
| **Disability** | As above. |  |
| **Dependants** | As above. |  |

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

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| **Good relations category**  | **Likely impact?**  | **Level of impact? Minor/Major/None**  |
| **Religious belief** | The DAERA Draft Budget 2021-22 has the purpose of delivering sustainability at the heart of a living, active, working environment valued by everyone. Given the strategic nature of the budget allocations in delivering this purpose in a fair and balanced way to benefit all, potential impacts on Section 75 groups have been considered and relevant screening documents can be found in the attached link. | See individual assessments in the following link:[DAERA's Equality Scheme | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (daera-ni.gov.uk)](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/daeras-equality-scheme) |
| **Political opinion**  | As above. | As above. |
| **Racial group** | As above. | As above. |

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Good relations category** | **If Yes, provide details**  | **If No, provide reasons** |
| **Religious belief** | The DAERA Draft Budget 2021-22 has the purpose of delivering sustainability at the heart of a living, active, working environment valued by everyone. Given the strategic nature of the budget allocations in delivering this purpose in a fair and balanced way to benefit all, potential impacts on Section 75 groups have been considered and relevant screening documents can be found in the link below.[DAERA's Equality Scheme | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (daera-ni.gov.uk)](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/daeras-equality-scheme) |  |
| **Political opinion**  | As above. |  |
| **Racial group**  | As above. |  |

Section C

DAERA also has legislative obligations to meet under the Disability Discrimination Order and Human Rights Act Questions 5 -9 relate to these two areas.

Consideration of Disability Duties

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

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| **Explain your assessment in full** No opportunities have been identified at this stage. The Draft Budget provides funding irrespective of disabilities. |

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

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| **Explain your assessment in full** No opportunities have been identified at this stage. The Draft Budget does not directly increase opportunities to increase participation by disabled people. |

Consideration of Human Rights

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

Consideration of Human Rights (cont)

|  |
| --- |
| 8. **Please explain any adverse impacts on human rights that you have identified** No adverse impacts identified. |

|  |
| --- |
| 9. **Please indicate any ways which you consider the policy positively promotes human rights** Not applicable. |

**Monitoring Arrangements**

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.*

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**  |  **Good Relations** | **Disability Duties** |
| Data will be held on scheme applicants and grant awards. | DAERA will monitor scheme impacts on good relations through engagement with industry stakeholders. | Data will be held on scheme applicants and grants awards. |

Section D – Summary Sheet

Formal Record of Screening Decision

|  |
| --- |
| **Title of Proposed Policy / Decision being screened**       Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Draft Budget 2021-22 |

I can confirm that the proposed policy / decision has been screened for –

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 🗹 | equality of opportunity and good relations |
| 🗹 | disabilities duties; and |
| 🗹 | human rights issues |

On the basis of the answers to the screening questions, I recommend that this policy / decision is –

\***place an X in the appropriate box below**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [ ]  | \***Screened In** – Necessary to conduct a full EQIA |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 🗹 | \***Screened Out** – No EQIA necessary (no impacts) Provide a brief note here to explain how this decision was reached:* Please note that a ‘screened out’ decision **must** be accompanied by a sound rationale and relevant empirical evidence to show the basis upon which a screened out decision has been reached.

The Draft Budget 2021-22 represents a standing still position in comparison to the Final Budget 2020-21 and as a consequence, there are no new major areas of funding or reductions which would result in new positive or negative impacts. Equality assessments and rural needs screening for the key business areas impacted will be undertaken by relevant Business Areas within the Department once final decisions based on their allocations are taken and any mitigating actions can be considered. Copies of previously completed screening decisions can be found at the link below. This will be updated as future screening documents are completed.[DAERA's Equality Scheme | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (daera-ni.gov.uk)](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/daeras-equality-scheme) |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [ ]  | \* **Screened Out -** Mitigating Actions (minor impacts)Provide a brief note here to explain how this decision was reached: * Describe clearly the mitigating actions and / or policy changes that will now be introduced
* Explain how these actions will address the inequalities:
 |

**DAERA Equality** and **Human Rights**

# 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 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  |

**Formal Record of Screening Decision** (cont.)

***Have you issued this document to Equality Unit prior to obtaining Grade 3 signature?***

|  |
| --- |
| **Screening assessment completed by (Staff Officer level or above) -** |
| Name: Lynda Lowe | Grade: Grade 7 |
|  | Date:      04 June 2021 |
| Branch:      Financial Planning |

|  |
| --- |
| Signature: please insert a scanned image of your signature below |

|  |
| --- |
| **Screening decision approved by (must be Grade 3 or above) -** |
| Name: Brian Doherty | Grade: Grade 3 |
|  | Date: 16 July 2021 |
| Branch: Central Services & Contingency Planning Group |

|  |
| --- |
| Signature: please insert a scanned image of your signature below |

Please save the final signed version of the completed screening form in the HPRM container below as soon as possible after completion and forward the HPRM link to Equality Branch at equalitydiversitypublicappointments@daera-ni.gov.uk. 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: equalitydiversitypublicappointments@daera-ni.gov.uk

Tel: 028 7744 2027

**August 2019**

**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

1. ECNI ‘Section 75 of the NI Act 1998: A Guide for Public Authorities’ April 2010. [www.equalityni.org](http://www.equalityni.org) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Should be easily understood by a 12 year old. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)