# A4 DAERA Logo process.png

**Equality & Disability Duties**

**Screening Template**

**DAERA Budget 2023-24 Allocations**

# **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**

DAERA Budget 2023-24 Allocations.

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

This policy relates to DAERA’s Budget allocation for 2023-24 which was included in the Secretary of State for NI’s Written Ministerial Statement on NI Finances 2023-24 on 27 April 2023.

[Written statements - Written questions, answers and statements - UK Parliament](https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2023-04-27/hcws748)

This advised that DAERA’s budget allocation was £579.8m Resource DEL and £115.7m Capital DEL.

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

To allow time to make decisions on individual Department’s priorities, the Budget 2023-24 allocations are presented at an overall departmental outcome level.

Departments are required to screen proposed funding allocations in line with equality commission guidance and should an EQIA be required, this will be published to support the consultation process.

The purpose of this paper is to set out the Department’s assessment of the equality impacts of the Budget on spend proposals for the 2023-24.

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 whilst also covering the Department’s regulatory, governance and resource management responsibilities. The Department is central to protecting our natural environment, supporting sustainable economic growth in our agri-industries and championing our rural communities. It is also an exemplar organisation committed to making a difference to the citizens it serves.

DAERA 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 NI on a daily basis and over 3,000 staff play a key role in supporting the agri-food sector, the environment and the economy. DAERA will continue to work safely and diligently to ensure that it can deliver essential services to the people of NI.

**Green Growth**

On 21 October 2021 the Executive agreed the draft Green Growth Strategy which outlines its vision for a low carbon, nature rich society and sustainable economy by 2050. DAERA is leading this work on the Executive’s behalf. It is a cross cutting area that has been prioritised in the Building Forward – Consolidated Covid-19 Recovery Plan published in August 2021. Green Growth seeks to adopt a holistic approach to tackling the climate crisis by balancing climate action with environmental and economic needs in a way that benefits all our people.

NI’s environment is perhaps its most important asset. The local and global impacts of climate change along with other key pressures on local water quality, air quality and biodiversity are the challenges facing NI and the wider world. Growing public and media awareness, particularly following the Conference of Parties (COP) 26, has focused attention on environmental issues. Actions are underway now to address these challenges and reverse the decline in environmental quality, deliver against national and international commitments and build the sustainable future the Green Growth Strategy envisions.

DAERA will lead on or significantly contribute to priorities as follows:

* protecting and enhancing biodiversity and the natural environment, supporting sustainable practices and resource use in the energy, agri-food, fishing and forestry sectors and ensuring human, animal and plant health;
* creating economic opportunity through tackling climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions (including energy decarbonisation);
* reducing and reusing the waste we produce by improving the services and infrastructure; and
* enhancing and improving the existing water and wastewater network and infrastructure to ensure service delivery and sustainable environmental management.

In addition the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 received Royal Assent on 6 June 2022. This Act sets a target of an at least 100% reduction in net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 (i.e., net zero emissions by 2050) for Northern Ireland compared to baseline, along with interim targets including an at least 48% reduction in net emissions by 2030. DAERA must also, by June 2024, review and potentially set updated 2030 and 2040 interim emissions reduction targets to ensure that they are in line with the 2050 net zero target.

**Agriculture, Agri-Environment and the Wider Rural Economy**

DAERA is uniquely placed to promote prosperity across NI by supporting a competitive, regionally balanced economy and sustainable environment. It is essential that DAERA remains equipped to support the agri-food sector which is vital to the local economy. This is a sector that has an annual turnover of £5 billion and supports well in excess of 100,000 jobs either directly or indirectly.

The UK’s departure from the EU provided an unprecedented level of regional discretion and flexibility with regard to future agricultural support in NI. This is the most significant change in policy affecting the agricultural sector in over 40 years.

It represents a unique opportunity to develop a new dynamic for key stakeholders across the food, agricultural and environmental spectrum to work with the NI Executive to chart a new way forward with common purpose. DAERA launched a new Future Agricultural Policy Framework for NI in August 2021 and a consultation on Future Agricultural Policy Proposals for NI in December 2021. Based on the four key outcomes of increased productivity, environmental sustainability, improved resilience and a responsive supply chain, it charts the way forward for a future agricultural policy which better meets NI’s needs now that it has exited the EU. These four outcomes are synergistic and improvement in one outcome can provide a positive effect on one or more of the other outcomes. On 24 March 2022 Minister Poots announced 54 policy decisions on Future Agricultural Policy for Northern Ireland and further details are in the following link:

[Future Agricultural Policy Decisions for Northern Ireland | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (daera-ni.gov.uk)](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/future-agricultural-policy-decisions-northern-ireland)

In 2021 the Department also produced a new draft Bovine Tb Strategy and undertook a public consultation on the detail. On 24 March 2022 Minister Poots

launched a new long term bovine Tuberculosis (bTB) Eradication Strategy for Northern Ireland and further details are in the following link.

[Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication Strategy for Northern Ireland (daera-ni.gov.uk)](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/daera/21.22.237%20Bovine%20TB%20Eradication%20Strategy%20for%20NI%20Final%20V5.PDF)

The UK Chancellor announced the outcome of the Spending Review on 27 October 2021 which set out the overall quantum of resource available to UK Departments for 2022-25. This Spending Review confirmed ring-fenced funding of £327.2m for agriculture, agri-environment and the wider rural economy as well as £3.1m for fisheries funding for 2023-24. This is National funding designed to replace the equivalent EU funds which have now ceased.

**Rural Development**

DAERA is also responsible for both the policy and delivery aspects of rural development. It has an important role in strengthening the social and economic infrastructure of rural areas and communities and this is taken forward through a range of key programmes. The Department has developed a Rural Policy Framework (RPF) for NI in consultation with key rural stakeholders and Minister poots launched this on 25 March 2022. The RPF will form the basis of the Rural Business and Communities Investment Programme which will ultimately replace the EU Rural Development Programme. Further details on the RPF are in the following link

[Rural Policy Framework for Northern Ireland - Full Version (daera-ni.gov.uk)](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/daera/Rural%20Policy%20Framework%20for%20NI%20-%20Full%20Version%20%28March%202022%29.PDF)

**Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL)**

The breakdown of DAERA’s Resource DEL funding is set out below.

| **Description** | **£'m** |
| --- | --- |
| Opening Baseline  |  233.3  |
| Agriculture, Agri-Environment, Wider Rural Economy & Fisheries |  330.3  |
| Other HMT Funding |  20.8  |
| Other Technical Adjustments |  (1.1) |
| 1.5% Reduction |  (3.5) |
| **Total** |  **579.8**  |

The Department also has two new statutory obligations that are being prioritised within the opening baseline. These are for the Office of Environmental Protection (£0.5m) and Mobuoy Remediation (£0.4m). These proposed internal budget allocations are to be used to fund existing activities and are in essence incremental allocations to 2022-23.

**Capital DEL**

The proposed breakdown of DAERA’s £115.7m Capital DEL funding is set out below.

| **Description** |  **£'m**  |
| --- | --- |
|  |
| **Green Growth** |   |  |
| Green Growth - Agri-Food (excluding Farm Business Improvement Scheme (FBIS)) |  20.0  |  |
| Green Growth - Agri-Food (FBIS) |  7.0  |  |
| Green Growth - Challenge / Innovation Fund |  11.9  |  |
| Green Growth - Forestry and Nature (excluding Rural Development Programme (RDP) Forestry) |  3.7  |  |
| Green Growth - Forestry and Nature (RDP Forestry) |  0.8  |  |
| Green Growth - Blue Economy |  3.4  |  |
| Green Growth - Decarbonisation of DAERA Estate |  0.7  |  |
| **Green Growth Total** |  **47.5**  |  |
| **Programmes** |   |  |
| RDP Environmental Farming Scheme |  5.1  |  |
| Rural Business Community Investment Fund |  1.0  |  |
| INTERREG |  0.3  |  |
| Tackling Rural Poverty & Social Isolation (TRPSI) |  4.0  |  |
| Household Waste |  1.0  |  |
| Loughs Agency |  1.0  |  |
| **Programmes Total** |  **12.4**  |  |
| **IT Systems**  |   |  |
| Digital Transformation |  17.4  |  |
| NI Food Animal Information System (NIFAIS) |  3.3  |  |
| Information Management System for Laboratories in AFBI, NIEA and DAERA (ISLAND) |  4.5  |  |
| **IT Systems Total** |  **25.2**  |  |
| **Research and Development** |   |  |
| Agri Food & Biosciences Institute (AFBI) |  20.4  |  |
| Collaborative and Other Research  |  1.1  |  |
| **Research and Development Total** |  **21.5**  |  |
| **Recurring Capital** |   |  |
| AFBI Research Vessel  |  3.5  |  |
| NI Environment Agency (NIEA) Plant, Vehicles & Equipment |  0.5  |  |
| **Recurring Capital Total** |  **4.0**  |  |
| **Other Capital** |   |  |
| Complementary Fund - Whitespots Country Park |  0.7  |  |
| HM Treasury - Points of Entry |  4.4  |  |
| **Other Capital Total** |  **5.1**  |  |
| **Total** |  **115.7**  |  |

To allow for slippage during the year, it is proposed that there will be an overcommitment of up to £20m across the above areas and replacement assets across DAERA. This will be managed to ensure that the Department maximises spend but does not exceed the funding available.

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

**If so, explain how.**

The proposed Resource DEL and Capital DEL allocations in the above tables either directly or indirectly support the following three major policy proposals in the Department:

* Green Growth;
* Future Agricultural Policy; and
* Rural Policy Framework.

It is expected that overall Section 75 categories, and the people of NI in general, will benefit from the Draft Green Growth Strategy. Green Growth will help support delivery of the UK Government’s ambitious long-term target for the reduction of UK net greenhouse emissions by 100% (compared to a 1990 baseline) to be achieved by 2050, known as the ‘UK Net Zero target’. NI must contribute to UK net zero under the UK Climate Change Act 2008. As per Northern Ireland greenhouse gas inventory 1990 – 2019 statistical bulletin Agriculture (26%), transport (20%) and residential (14%) are the largest sectors in terms of emissions in Northern Ireland (2019) and will therefore be the most impacted.

The opportunities and benefits brought about by reducing emissions in these sectors may in turn impact differently across section 75 categories for example:

* Agriculture the highest emitting industry is a largely male dominated sector. Therefore a higher number of males are likely to benefit than females from agricultural transition opportunities such as reskilling.
* In urban areas the projected decrease in vehicle exhaust emissions, as we increase the use of electric and hydrogen power in transport, will bring benefit those with disabilities related to respiratory conditions through improved air quality.
* Poverty in NI has been found to correlate with racial group. People from minority ethnic groups tend to be in lower paid employment despite many having high qualifications and skills. Green Growth sets a pathway for a clean environment and green jobs. It would be expected that people from minority ethnic groups would benefit from new green job creation and reskilling opportunities in areas such as low emission vehicles and infrastructure, the production of energy efficient products and lighting, energy monitoring systems, and wind and renewables.
* Through a move to cleaner sources of heat, carbon emissions will be reduced along with energy costs, helping to tackle fuel poverty as well as reducing associated health problems.
* The inclusive, Just Transition approach incorporated within Green Growth would be expected to benefit those of all sexual orientations that may experience barriers to participation.
* The importance of environmental education is explicitly recognised in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Young people would be expected to specifically benefit from increased awareness and environmental education initiatives associated with Green Growth.

The constraints and opportunities brought about by reducing emissions in each sector may in turn impact differently across age, gender, race etc. While much of the impact is as yet unknown, it is acknowledged that there will be a need to develop and employ measures which mitigate potential impacts and provide level opportunities for all. DAERA will work, through its Green Growth approach, with the other departments, currently working on new policies in, energy, housing, transport, waste, environment and others to promote a Just Transition of these sectoral policies.

The Agricultural Policy Programme is DAERA’s overarching strategic programme for future agricultural policy development. At this stage it is not yet possible to specify the likely impact of future policies as part of this Programme. However the future portfolio of policy proposals has the potential to impact positively all people in NI and potentially deliver benefit to all Section 75 categories generally as it seeks to contribute to a sustainable agricultural industry through the operation of voluntary schemes. Section 75 issues will be kept under review as the workstreams evolve towards scheme implementation, and equality screening will be undertaken as required on all related future policies/schemes as part of the normal policy development and implementation processes

The Rural Policy Framework for NI aims to create a sustainable rural community where people can work and live. The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI have the potential to have a minor positive impact on equality of opportunity for: age (in particular young and elderly people); gender (in particular on women); disability; and dependents given the needs which have been identified in relation to these groups.

Further details on these equality considerations are set out in the following links:

[Equality Impact Assessment for the Draft Green Growth Strategy.pdf (daera-ni.gov.uk)](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/consultations/daera/Equality%20Impact%20Assessment%20for%20the%20Draft%20Green%20Growth%20Strategy.pdf)

[Screening flowchart and template (daera-ni.gov.uk)](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/consultations/daera/Equality%20and%20Disability%20Duties%20Screening%20template.pdf)

[Rural Policy Framework for Northern Ireland Consultation | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (daera-ni.gov.uk)](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/rural-policy-framework-northern-ireland-consultation)

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**Who initiated or wrote the policy?**

The Secretary of State for NI announced DAERA’s Resource DEL and Capital DEL allocations for 2023-24 in his Written Ministerial Statement on NI Finances 2023-24 on 27 April 2023.

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

The DAERA Permanent Secretary as Accounting Officer is due to make decisions on how the funding is allocated within the Department. These decisions will be implemented by: Business areas within the Department; its Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs); and other Arms Length Bodies (ALBs). This process is facilitated by Finance Division, which manages and reports on budgets.

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**Implementation factors**

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

**If yes, they are:**

* **Financial** – As set out in the above tables these proposals are to be taken forward within £579.8m Resource DEL and £115.7m Capital DEL in 2023-24.
* **Legislative** – In the absence of a NI Assembly the funding will be considered by the Westminster Parliament in the Budget Bill in 2023-24.

**Main stakeholders affected**

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

* DAERA Staff, Farmer and Land Owners, Other Public Sector Organisations, Business Groups, Community and Voluntary Sector, Rural and Environment Bodies, Local Government, Trade Unions, Other Statutory Bodies and Members of the Public.

**Other policies with a bearing on this policy**

**The DAERA Plan to 2050 - *Sustainability for the Future***

This Plan published in May 2021 notes the following strategic priorities:

* To enhance our food, forestry, fishery and farming sectors using efficient and environmentally sustainable models which support economic growth;
* To protect and enhance our natural environment now and for future generations whilst advocating its value to and wellbeing for all;
* To champion thriving rural communities that contribute to prosperity and wellbeing; and
* To be an exemplar, people focused organisation, committed to making a difference for the people we serve.

Budget 2023-24 has a significant role in delivering against these priorities and underpins our Departmental purpose of *‘Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone’.*

**Green Growth**

Green Growth is an over-arching, multi-decade Strategy which sets out the long-term vision and a solid framework for tackling the climate crisis by balancing climate action with the need for a clean, resilient environment and economy. It has been developed by all Ministers and Government departments working together, in collaboration with external stakeholders from local government, the private sector, voluntary and community sectors and others. The cross-cutting strategy will be delivered through a series of Climate Action Plans, which will set out the actions to meet sector-specific greenhouse gas emission targets to deliver a cleaner environment rich in biodiversity; delivering a more efficient use of resources within a circular economy; and green jobs.

The Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (Act) sets a target of an at least 100% reduction in net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 (i.e., net zero emissions by 2050) for Northern Ireland compared to baseline, along with interim targets including an at least 48% reduction in net emissions by 2030. DAERA must also, by June 2024, review and potentially set updated 2030 and 2040 interim emissions reduction targets to ensure that they are in line with the 2050 net zero target.

The Act also sets other sectoral targets and DAERA is to develop and publish sectoral plans for the agriculture sector, fisheries sector and waste management sector.

There is a legal requirement on all Northern Ireland departments to exercise their functions, as far as is possible to do so, in a manner consistent with the achievement of the targets of the Act and carbon budgets set under it.

In addition DAERA is required to produce 5-year climate action plans (CAP) to set out the policies and proposals that Northern Ireland departments will implement to meet the corresponding carbon budget as well as set out how the emissions reduction targets will be achieved.

**Environment Strategy**

The Environment Strategy will set out NI’s environmental priorities for the coming decades and will be a key pillar of Green Growth. It will be used to form the basis for a coherent and effective set of interventions that can deliver real improvements in the quality of the environment.

**Future Agricultural Policy Proposals for NI**

Based on the four key outcomes of increased productivity, environmental sustainability, improved resilience and an effective functioning supply chain, it charts the way forward for a future agricultural policy which better meets Northern Ireland’s needs. The move from the previous support regime, largely based on the EU requirements under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), to a new policy agenda will need to happen over a number of years in order to deliver a managed and orderly transition. This progression will be well sign-posted to provide greater certainty and clarity to farm businesses and land managers.

**Rural Policy Framework**

The Rural Policy Framework provides an opportunity to take stock to ensure that the needs of rural communities continue to be appropriately addressed following EU Exit. The Framework supports the NI Executive’s vision for rural areas by promoting a fair and inclusive rural society where rural dwellers enjoy the same quality of life as all others in the region.

**Who owns them?**

DAERA leads on its Strategic Plan, Environment Strategy, Future Agricultural Policy Proposals for NI, and Rural Policy Framework.

DAERA is co-designing the Green Growth Strategy and Delivery Framework on behalf of the NI Executive.

**Available evidence**

Evidence to help inform the screening process may take many forms. Public authorities should ensure that their screening decision is informed by relevant data. The Commission has produced this guide to [signpost to S75 data](https://www.equalityni.org/ECNI/media/ECNI/Publications/Employers%20and%20Service%20Providers/Public%20Authorities/S75DataSignpostingGuide.pdf).

What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories.

*Please ensure all data used is the most current and up to date available. You should verify this by contacting the Departmental Statisticians.*

In preparing this screening the latest available information in the 2021 Census and Employment Monitoring Report No. 31 was considered. However, given that the proposed Resource DEL and Capital DEL allocations either directly or indirectly support the three major policy proposals of Green Growth, Future Agricultural Policy and Rural Policy Framework, the data used by those equality assessments have been presented here to ensure consistency.

**Religious belief** evidence/information:

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

The Equality Commission’s Fair Employment Monitoring Report No. 29 Fair Employment Monitoring Report No.29 (equalityni.org) indicated that in 2018, that 50.7% of the (monitored) private sector workforce are from a Protestant background and 49.3% from a Catholic background. The most recent Labour Relation Report Labour Force Religion Report 2017 (executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk) shows that in four out of 13 industrial sectors, there were more Protestant employees, with the biggest disparity in agriculture, forestry and fishing, where 65% of employees were Protestant and 35% Catholic. Differences are also often reflected across geographical areas e.g. Belfast, the North of NI and the West & South of NI, working age economic activity rates were higher among Protestants than Catholics in 2017. In Outer Belfast, working age economic activity rates were higher among Catholics than Protestants, while in the East of NI 74% of both Protestants and Catholics were economically active.

The 2011 Census recorded that in rural communities, 53% 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.

2018 DAERA Equality Indicators Report

Just 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.

Equality covers a breadth of areas and grounds in Northern Ireland. In 2016 The Equality Commission survey ECNI - Equality Awareness Survey - A Question of Attitude (equalityni.org) investigated what people really thought were the equality issues that were particularly important to them. Religion (28%) was the most important issue with race (19%) and age (19%) reported as joint second in importance followed by gender (18%), political opinion (16%) and sexual orientation (16%).

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**Political Opinion** evidence/information:

**2011 Census of Northern Ireland**

**2018 DAERA Equality Indicators Report**

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.

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%).
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**Racial Group** evidence/information:

**2011 Census of Northern Ireland**

**2018 DAERA Equality Indicators Report**

The 2011 Census of Northern Ireland 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.
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**Age** evidence/information:

**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 Report**

The 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.

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**Marital Status** evidence/information:

**2018 DAERA Equality Indicators Report**

Almost 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.

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**Sexual Orientation** evidence/information:

**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.

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

**2016 EU Farm Structure Survey Northern Ireland**

**2018 DAERA Equality Indicators Report**

Only 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.
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**Disability** evidence/information:

**2011 Census of Northern Ireland**

**2018 DAERA Equality Indicators Report**

In 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.

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**Dependants** evidence/information:

**2018 DAERA Equality Indicators Report**

Two 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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**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?

The NICS recognises the importance of equality, diversity and inclusion. We operate in an increasingly diverse community, and we understand that the people who provide and use our services have diverse characteristics and different experiences, needs and aspirations. Understanding, valuing and effectively managing these differences can result in greater participation, and help bring about success at an individual, team and organisational level.

DAERA promotes equality and good relations across all aspects of its business: in its policies, information and service provision for customers, visitors and staff. DAERA works to ensure that all of its services are accessible, and delivered in ways which meet the needs of its diverse customers.

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

***Religious belief***

Green Growth

All Government departments involved in the development and implementation of the Draft Green Growth Strategy have a duty to ensure all programmes and services provided are open to all applicants regardless of their religious belief. Therefore DAERA does not anticipate any major difference in needs, experience or priorities according to religious belief.

In Northern Ireland potential equality impacts regarding religious belief and political opinion can be complex. For example in terms of farm size within the agricultural sector, the 2018 DAERA Equality Indicators reported that 85% of Catholics farm smaller farms compared to 68% of Protestants. The potential impact of some Green Growth initiatives relating to greening agricultural policy will depend on farm size and farm enterprise type which can be related to the religious belief of the farmer.

DAERA will use and gather evidence to examine needs, experience and priorities of those of different religious beliefs and were necessary consider and employ mitigation measures to promote equality of opportunity.

Further evidence will be gathered where there are gaps and potential impacts of Green Growth initiatives on the needs, experience and priorities of those of differing religious beliefs. For example emissions reduction requirements will impact certain industries/employment sectors which may be over/underrepresented by a particular religious belief. This may also be reflected in geographical location in NI.

Future Agricultural Policy

In response to 2018 stakeholder engagement on Northern Ireland Future Agricultural Policy Framework with stakeholders representing the wider farming, food and environmental sectors, the Department received 21 comments relating to:

1. farmers needed to be viewed as equal partners in the food supply chain;
2. fairness was important;
3. horticulture needed to be included; and
4. support

should be proportionate to the environmental benefit produced. There was some concern raised about the potential for inclusion of a qualification requirement for grants. No specific responses indicated that the future agricultural policy framework would create any inequality in respect of religious belief.

During the pre-engagement stage for the consultation on Future Agricultural Policy Proposals for Northern Ireland, stakeholder input was sought on needs, experiences and priorities in relation to equality and no issues were raised in relation to religious belief.

Rural Policy Framework

The Rural Policy Framework has provided an opportunity to take stock to ensure that the needs of rural communities continue to be appropriately addressed. The Framework supports the Northern Ireland Executive’s vision for rural areas by promoting a fair and inclusive rural society where rural dwellers enjoy the same quality of life as all others in the region.

The draft Rural Policy Framework for NI aims to create a sustainable rural community where people can work and live. 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 proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI are neutral as regards religious belief.

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***Political Opinion***

Green Growth

Draft Green Growth Strategy development embraces an inclusive approach welcoming all political opinions. In Northern Ireland potential equality impacts regarding political opinion and religious belief can be complex. Inclusive engagement and collaboration will ensure all policy interventions and related programmes apply to everyone regardless of their political opinion.

The Draft Green Growth Strategy aims to deliver a carbon neutral society and as such will impact certain high carbon sectors such as agriculture, transport and energy. In Northern Ireland some industries/employment sectors and geographical areas, may be over/underrepresented by particular religious beliefs which are in general may be associated with political opinion of the workforce. For example in terms of geographical area and national identity, which in Northern Ireland may be linked to political opinion, farmers with an Irish only identity were almost twice as likely to farm in Severely Disadvantaged Areas (SDA) (55%) than farmers with a British only identity (28%). The impact of Green Growth initiatives would be expected to differ in SDAs compared to Less Disadvantaged Areas. DAERA will examine impacts such as this further via rural proofing.

Future Agricultural Policy

In response to the 2018 stakeholder engagement on the Northern Ireland Future Agricultural Policy Framework from stakeholders representing the wider farming, food and environmental sectors the Department received one comment in relation to political opinion that indicated that future agricultural policy should ensure that it does not disproportionately discriminate against one community over the other (nationalist and unionist).

During the pre-engagement stage for the consultation on Future Agricultural Policy Proposals for Northern Ireland, stakeholder input was sought on needs, experiences and priorities in relation to equality and no issues were raised in relation to political opinion.

Rural Policy Framework

The Rural Policy Framework has provided an opportunity to take stock to ensure that the needs of rural communities continue to be appropriately addressed. The Framework supports the Northern Ireland Executive’s vision for rural areas by promoting a fair and inclusive rural society where rural dwellers enjoy the same quality of life as all others in the region.

The draft Rural Policy Framework for NI aims to create a sustainable rural community where people can work and live. 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 proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI are neutral as regards political opinion.

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***Racial Group***

Green Growth

DAERA acknowledge the importance of assessing impacts, needs and priorities of all racial groups, this will be gained through engagement with organisations who represent minority groups. Consideration will be given to how best to encourage multi-cultural engagement to explore, understand, and respect our shared aim of an improved environment through net zero and green growth approaches.

Opportunities for encouraging engagement from under-represented groups will be considered as part of Strategy development. The needs of those who experience barriers in accessing information on, or participating in, the development or implementation of the Strategy due to alternative language requirements, must be addressed.

The impact of climate change on the needs, priorities and experiences of each racial group will need further consideration. For example in terms of the minority travelling community the Out of Sight Out of Mind Travellers Accommodation in NI Full Report.pdf reports that the standard services (electricity, water, heating, drainage, sanitation, waste disposal) are not adequately available in practice on some Travellers’ sites.

The Vital-Signs-Northern-Ireland-2018.pdf (communityfoundationni.org) report highlights extreme levels of mortality with this community having a pressing need for adequate accommodation, including serviced sites, transit sites and housing. Travellers using sites have a high reliance on diesel engines and generators. Therefore their energy and heating needs would be directly impacted by a change in the cost and availability of fossil fuels.

Green Growth provides an opportunity to develop good quality green jobs which may help reduce low grade employment and poverty within minority ethnic groups.

Future Agricultural Policy

In response to the 2018 stakeholder engagement on Northern Ireland Future Agricultural Policy Framework from stakeholders representing the wider farming, food and environmental sectors, the Department did not receive any responses to indicate that the future agricultural policy framework would create any inequality in respect of racial group.

During the pre-engagement stage for the consultation on Future Agricultural Policy Proposals for Northern Ireland, stakeholder input was sought on needs, experiences and priorities in relation equality and no issues were raised in relation to racial group.

The need for further evidence relating to potential impacts on the needs, experience and priorities in relation to racial group will be reviewed as each of the workstreams evolve towards implementation.

Rural Policy Framework

The Rural Policy Framework has provided an opportunity to take stock to ensure that the needs of rural communities continue to be appropriately addressed. The Framework supports the Northern Ireland Executive’s vision for rural areas by promoting a fair and inclusive rural society where rural dwellers enjoy the same quality of life as all others in the region.

The draft Rural Policy Framework for NI aims to create a sustainable rural community where people can work and live. Statistics from the 2011 census show the make-up of the rural community to be 99.4% white and 0.6% other ethnic groupings. The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI are neutral as regards racial group

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***Age***

Green Growth

The Draft Strategy is of relevance to all ages, and its development and implementation will be open to all ages to become involved in. It will benefit all citizens of Northern Ireland. DAERA acknowledges the importance of engaging with all ages in the development and future implementation of the Draft Green Growth Strategy.

Potential needs of older people such as the ability of older people to access, understand and participate in online communications are acknowledged. NI: IN PROFILE Key statistics on Northern Ireland (nisra.gov.uk) found that 11% of adults have never used the internet - internet use declines markedly with age and around half of those aged 70 and over used the internet in the last three months

Usage of Online Channels to Access Public Services in NI 2019-20 (nisra.gov.uk) report that in 2019/20 the age group with the lowest proportion using online channels to access public services is 65 years+ (40%). Similar to in 2018 this was significantly lower than all other age groups. The impact of Covid 19 on online access and usage will be examined when evidence becomes available. People aged 50-64 (71%) and 18-24 year olds (80%) are also less likely to have accessed public services online showing a significant difference from the other groups. A similar proportion of, 25-34 year olds (86%) and 35-49 year olds (86%) have accessed public services online. Increased use of forms of electronic communication can adversely impact on those who are not familiar or comfortable with this technology, and including older people and those in marginalised communities (the so-called ‘digital divide’). DAERA will work with organisations experienced in communicating with older people to ensure their voices are heard and considered in strategy development and implementation. Incorporation of this feedback will help ensure the needs, priorities and experiences of this sector 75 category are used to address and mitigate against highlighted issues such as reduced mobility. Older people and those with mobility problems generally rely on a future transport system that is accessible to all. The drive towards sustainable transport must accommodate these concerns. DAERA are committed to inclusive engagement and acknowledge the wealth of knowledge older people can bring to enhance strategy development. Consideration will be given to how best to engage with older people and organisations which represent their interest to capture and utilise the views of older people. UNCEF highlight in their Are-climate-change-policies-child-sensitive-2020\_0.pdf (unicef.org) report that despite their disproportionate vulnerability, children are consistently overlooked in the design and content of climate policies and related processes. Representing approximately one-third of the global population, and facing an increasingly uncertain and unstable future, it is impossible to overstate children’s stake in effective climate policies and action.

Given the long term nature of achieving net zero it is essential that young people are involved throughout Draft Green Growth Strategy development in order to be able to support its implementation and future development. We will ensure young people, are involved throughout the process as they will be responsible for delivering the changes needed for a sustainable future. Young people will be engaged with by making best use of existing youth communication channels and groups and innovative approaches.

For example DAERA continues to work in partnership with the Education Authority (EA), experts in youth engagement to help access the needs and priorities for young people in relation to Green Growth. The Draft Green Growth Strategy may provide opportunities to improve young people’s awareness of environmental issues such as climate change and carbon literacy through enhanced environmental education. The increase in green technologies, renewable energy, sustainable product design etc will provide new and reskilling development opportunities. The transformation required to achieve a carbon neutral society will require sustainable consumer and lifestyle choices which will be led by young people through their understanding, support and ownership of initiatives such as the Draft Green Growth Strategy and Climate Action Plan.

The NI Youth Assembly, consisting of 90 young people aged from 13 to 17, has potential to be a key platform for DAERA youth engagement and Draft Green Growth Strategy engagement.

We may request age as part of Green Growth engagement and consultations for statistical analysis purposes and therefore implementation of policy and communications strategy may target specific age groups.

Future Agricultural Policy

In response to the 2018 stakeholder engagement on the Northern Ireland Future Agricultural Policy Framework from stakeholders representing the wider farming, food and environmental sectors the Department received a number of responses that included concerns about age discrimination if qualification requirements were introduced for grants and a request to support age proofing.

During the pre-engagement stage for the consultation on Future Agricultural Policy Proposals for Northern Ireland, stakeholder input was sought on needs, experiences and priorities in relation to equality and no issues were raised in relation to age.

The need for further evidence relating to potential impacts on the needs, experience and priorities in relation to age will be reviewed as each of the workstreams evolve towards implementation.

Rural Policy Framework

The Rural Policy Framework has provided an opportunity to take stock to ensure that the needs of rural communities continue to be appropriately addressed. The Framework supports the Northern Ireland Executive’s vision for rural areas by promoting a fair and inclusive rural society where rural dwellers enjoy the same quality of life as all others in the region.

The Rural Policy Framework for NI aims to create a sustainable rural community where people can work and live. 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+.

NI is the 2nd youngest UK region (median age 38.7) after London (35.3). Evidence from the Working Groups feeding into the Rural Policy Framework for NI indicated that support is needed to facilitate young people into employment in rural areas. There are concerns that young people are moving away from rural areas due to a lack of employment and training opportunities; a lack of affordable housing; and connectivity issues. If young people move out of rural areas, there is a negative impact on the sustainability of those rural communities.

According to the GEM UK: Northern Ireland Report 2017 the Total Early-Stage Entrepreneurial Activity (TEA) in NI in 2017 was 6.5% compared to the UK average of 8.7%. Those aged between 25-34 years old in NI were most entrepreneurial. Opportunity also exists to tap into the entrepreneurial potential of 18-24-year olds. There is a need to make enterprise and entrepreneurship visible to the existing and potential talent pool in rural areas including graduates. Just under 30% of the non-entrepreneurial working age population perceive good start-up opportunities locally. The UK rate, which is almost 40%, continues to be significantly higher than that for NI.

A need has been identified by the Working Groups feeding into the development of the Rural Policy Framework for NI to target young people with training to develop their entrepreneurial skills. This could involve tying into education at a young age or addressing barriers such as childcare and other caring responsibilities etc. Linkages could also be improved between the education and private sector to facilitate young people in accessing employment and training opportunities including apprenticeships and more specialised training. In addition, there is a need for succession planning in the voluntary and community sector with young people encouraged to take up volunteering activity.

Within the Framework, it was identified that there is an ageing rural population with increased caring responsibilities which can exacerbate the risk of loneliness and exclusion. In particular NISRA noted that in NI in 2018/19 people without internet access or access to a car were more likely to be “more often lonely” than those with access, highlighting two key challenges for rural dwellers. People in the 75+ and 55-64 age groups were “more often lonely”.

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***Marital status***

Green Growth

The NI 2011 census showed that around 48% of the population were married or in a civil partnership, and 36% were single.

At this stage in the development of Draft Green Growth Strategy there is no evidence available to suggest the Strategy will have any foreseeable impact on equality of opportunity on stakeholders as a result of their marital status. DAERA acknowledge there may be barriers to participation related to marital status such as dependent care. Mitigation measures will be considered to reduce the impact of identified barriers.

Future Agricultural Policy

In response to the 2018 stakeholder engagement on Northern Ireland Future Agricultural Policy Framework from stakeholders representing the wider farming, food and environmental sectors, the Department did not receive any responses to indicate that the future agricultural policy framework would create any inequality in respect of marital status.

During the pre-engagement stage for the consultation on Future Agricultural Policy Proposals for Northern Ireland, stakeholder input was sought on needs, experiences and priorities in relation to equality and no issues were raised in relation to marital status.

The need for further evidence relating to potential impacts on the needs, experience and priorities in relation to marital status will be reviewed as each of the workstreams evolve towards implementation.

Rural Policy Framework

The Rural Policy Framework has provided an opportunity to take stock to ensure that the needs of rural communities continue to be appropriately addressed. The Framework supports the Northern Ireland Executive’s vision for rural areas by promoting a fair and inclusive rural society where rural dwellers enjoy the same quality of life as all others in the region.

The draft Rural Policy Framework for NI aims to create a sustainable rural community where people can work and live. 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. The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI are neutral as regards marital status.

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***Sexual orientation***

Green Growth

All Government departments involved in the development and implementation of the Draft Green Growth Strategy have a duty to ensure all programmes and services provided are open to all applicants regardless of their sexual orientation. Therefore DAERA does not anticipate any major difference in needs, experience or priorities according to sexual orientation.

At this stage in the development of Draft Green Growth Strategy there is no evidence available to suggest the Strategy will have any foreseeable impact on equality of opportunity on stakeholders as a result of their sexual orientation. DAERA acknowledge there may be barriers to participation related to sexual orientation. Mitigation measures will be considered to reduce the impact of barriers that may be subsequently identified. Opportunities for encouraging engagement from underrepresented groups will be considered as part of Strategy development.

Future Agricultural Policy

In response to the 2018 stakeholder engagement on Northern Ireland Future Agricultural Policy Framework from stakeholders representing the wider farming, food and environmental sectors, the Department did not receive any responses to indicate that the future agricultural policy framework would create any inequality in respect of sexual orientation.

During the pre-engagement stage for the consultation on Future Agricultural Policy Proposals for Northern Ireland, stakeholder input was sought on needs, experiences and priorities in relation equality and no issues were raised in relation to sexual orientation category.

The need for further evidence relating to potential impacts on the needs, experience and priorities in relation to sexual orientation will be reviewed as each of the workstreams evolve towards implementation.

Rural Policy Framework

The Rural Policy Framework has provided an opportunity to take stock to ensure that the needs of rural communities continue to be appropriately addressed. The Framework supports the Northern Ireland Executive’s vision for rural areas by promoting a fair and inclusive rural society where rural dwellers enjoy the same quality of life as all others in the region.

The draft Rural Policy Framework for NI aims to create a sustainable rural community where people can work and live. 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. The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI are neutral as regards people of different sexual orientation.

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***Men and Women Generally***

Green Growth

In terms of Men and Women’s contribution to the NI economy NISRA reported that over the past 10 years there have been consistently more economically inactive women than men in Northern Ireland. https://www.nisra.gov.uk/labour-force-survey-women-northern-ireland-2020. The most common reason for inactivity among women was family and home commitments. Given the complexity of Green Growth its impact on the employment of men and women, through initiatives such as the creation of ‘green jobs’ is not clear at this stage.

Traditionally certain sectors of Northern Ireland’s economy have been characterised by relatively higher representation by gender such as the agri-food sector. Actions need to transform these sectors to low or zero carbon are significant and will impact a higher number of males who are employed in this sector Annual Report Tables 2019 | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk) estimates than with the agriculture food and fishery sector 16,000 males and 3,000 females are employed.

Available evidence shows that females in NI are half as likely to be entrepreneurs as males. Innovations and entrepreneurism are key enablers to achieve the aims of Green Growth and the importance of providing adequate support to these enablers, particularly women is acknowledged. The Treasury commissioned ‘Alison Rose Review of Female Entrepreneurship (2019)’ identified 3 areas of opportunities to help female entrepreneurs including: increasing the funding directed towards them; greater family care support; and making entrepreneurship more accessible to women and increasing support locally, through relatable and accessible mentors and networks. The UK government is aiming to increase the number of female entrepreneurs by half by 2030, equivalent to nearly 600,000 additional female entrepreneurs. This need has been identified by DAERA Rural Policy Framework Working Groups and will be addressed by measures such as targeting females with training to develop their entrepreneurial skills.

A wide range of climate change actions will be taken via Green growth and other related strategies, to phase out high carbon activities for example, phasing out of petrol and diesel cars and vans; a move away from natural gas and oil boilers and lowering use of fossil fuels for power. DAERA acknowledge further information and evidence is needed to assess the impact of these measures.

Inclusion of gender-differentiated needs, priorities, and solutions will incorporated into the development of the Draft Green Growth Strategy. This will be a key part of DAERA’s co-design process ensuring effective mitigation, adaptation, and resilience measures are included to enhance equality.

Gender mainstreaming has been embraced internationally as a strategy towards realising gender equality and will be embedded in the development of the Draft Green Growth Strategy. It involves the integration of a gender perspective into the preparation, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, regulatory measures and spending programmes. A gender responsive policy ensures that the needs of all citizens, women and men, are equally addressed.

Future Agricultural Policy

In response to the 2018 stakeholder engagement on Northern Ireland Future Agricultural Policy Framework from stakeholders representing the wider farming, food and environmental sectors, the Department did not receive any responses to indicate that the future agricultural policy framework would create any inequality in respect of men and women generally.

During the pre-engagement stage for the consultation on Future Agricultural Policy Proposals for Northern Ireland, stakeholder input was sought on needs, experiences and priorities in relation equality and no issues were raised in relation to men and women generally.

The need for further evidence relating to potential impacts on the needs, experience and priorities in relation to men and women generally will be reviewed as each of the workstreams evolve towards implementation.

Rural Policy Framework

The Rural Policy Framework has provided an opportunity to take stock to ensure that the needs of rural communities continue to be appropriately addressed. The Framework supports the Northern Ireland Executive’s vision for rural areas by promoting a fair and inclusive rural society where rural dwellers enjoy the same quality of life as all others in the region.

The draft Rural Policy Framework for NI aims to create a sustainable rural community where people can work and live. Statistics from the 2011 census show the make-up of the rural community to be 50% men and 50% women.

Innovations and entrepreneurial accomplishments of rural women are imperative to the future progress and viability of rural areas. The Treasury commissioned ‘Alison Rose Review of Female Entrepreneurship (2019)’ identified 3 areas of opportunities to help female entrepreneurs including: increasing the funding directed towards them; greater family care support; and making entrepreneurship more accessible to women and increasing support locally, through relatable and accessible mentors and networks. The government is aiming to increase the number of female entrepreneurs by half by 2030, equivalent to nearly 600,000 additional female entrepreneurs.

Therefore, a need has been identified by the Working Groups feeding into the development of the Rural Policy Framework for NI to target females with training to develop their entrepreneurial skills. Women also need assistance as they tend to be more disproportionately affected by caring responsibilities which can block small business start-up.

The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI have the potential to have a minor positive impact on equality (in particular on women) given the need which has been identified in relation to this group and the likelihood of being targeted in any future schemes.

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***Disability***

Green Growth

While those with a disability tend to be under-represented within the workforce as a whole, the benefits attaching to the Strategy should be experienced by all sections of the community, irrespective of health status, while measures designed to reduce poverty and promote social inclusion should benefit those with a disability, and including those suffering the long-term impact of COVID-19.

DAERA is committed to the fulfilment of the two disability duties as set out under Section 49A of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995 and continues to work hard to ensure that there is disability equality in everything we do; across all aspects of our business, in how we treat our customers and our staff, and all those who use our services. The DAERA Disability Action Plan 20.21.096 DAERA Disability Action Plan 2019-2024 Final.PDF (daera-ni.gov.uk) sets out how the Department proposes to fulfil the duties under Section 49A of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 in relation to its functions, for the period 2019-2024. The action plan has two strategic priorities i.e. to promote positive attitudes towards people with disabilities; and to encourage participation by people with disabilities

in public life.

As part of the action plan, DAERA now has Equality Unit representative sitting on the NICS Disability Staff Network to ensure uniformity across all Departments.

Green Growth and Climate Action Division will promote identified opportunities on its working groups, steering groups, committees or similar within the disability sector and where relevant, work with the sector and NICSHR and Commissioner for Public Appointments for Northern Ireland (CPANI) to encourage uptake of these opportunities.

Future Agricultural Policy

In response to the 2018 stakeholder engagement on Northern Ireland Future Agricultural Policy Framework from stakeholders representing the wider farming, food and environmental sectors, the Department did not receive any responses to indicate that the future agricultural policy framework would create any inequality in respect of disability.

During the pre-engagement stage for the consultation on Future Agricultural Policy Proposals for Northern Ireland, stakeholder input was sought on needs, experiences and priorities in relation to equality and no issues were raised in relation to disability.

The need for further evidence relating to potential impacts on the needs, experience and priorities in relation to disability will be reviewed as each of the workstreams evolve towards implementation.

Rural Policy Framework

The Rural Policy Framework has provided an opportunity to take stock to ensure that the needs of rural communities continue to be appropriately addressed. The Framework supports the Northern Ireland Executive’s vision for rural areas by promoting a fair and inclusive rural society where rural dwellers enjoy the same quality of life as all others in the region.

The Rural Policy Framework for NI aims to create a sustainable rural community where people can work and live. Statistics from the 2011 census show that 40% of rural households contain at least one person with a long term health problem or disability.

A need was identified by the Working Groups feeding into the development of the Rural Policy Framework for NI to target improving the mental and emotional wellbeing of those living in rural areas. In particular, thematic pillar 3: Health and Wellbeing to reduce loneliness and social exclusion in rural areas, to minimise the impacts of rural isolation and to promote the health and wellbeing of rural dwellers and associated priority areas for intervention seeks to do this.

The Working Groups found that the levels of reported (and anecdotal) poor mental and emotional wellbeing are increasing in rural communities. It was identified that there is a need for timely access to support services in relation to mental and emotional wellbeing within rural communities when in a crisis. Whilst such issues affect wider society, matters are exacerbated further for rural dwellers due to poor transport and access to services and this can also impact on people’s ability to access employment and training opportunities.

The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention (in particular under Thematic Pillar 3: Health and Wellbeing) identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI have the potential to have a minor positive impact on equality for disability given the need which has been identified in relation to this group. The need is also likely to be greater following on from the impacts of COVID-19.

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***Dependants***

Green Growth

At this stage in the development of Draft Green Growth Strategy there is limited evidence available to suggest the Strategy will impact on stakeholders as a result of their dependants.

DAERA acknowledge there may be barriers to participation related to people having dependants, particularly for women who statistically are less economically active due to dependant and home commitments. Mitigation measures will be considered to reduce the impact of identified barriers. Measures designed to reduce poverty and promote social inclusion should benefit those with dependants. Opportunities for encouraging engagement from those with dependants will be considered as part of Strategy development.

Future Agricultural Policy

In response to the 2018 stakeholder engagement on Northern Ireland Future Agricultural Policy Framework from stakeholders representing the wider farming, food and environmental sectors, the Department did not receive any responses to indicate that the future agricultural policy framework would create any inequality in respect of dependants.

During the pre-engagement stage for the consultation on Future Agricultural Policy Proposals for Northern Ireland, stakeholder input was sought on needs, experiences and priorities in relation to equality and no issues were raised in relation to dependants.

The need for further evidence relating to potential impacts on the needs, experience and priorities in relation to dependants will be reviewed as each of the workstreams evolve towards implementation.

Rural Policy Framework

The Rural Policy Framework has provided an opportunity to take stock to ensure that the needs of rural communities continue to be appropriately addressed. The Framework supports the Northern Ireland Executive’s vision for rural areas by promoting a fair and inclusive rural society where rural dwellers enjoy the same quality of life as all others in the region.

The draft Rural Policy Framework for NI aims to create a sustainable rural community where people can work and live. Statistics from the 2011 census show the make-up of rural households to be 37% with dependants and 63% without.

A need was identified by the Working Groups feeding into the development of the Rural Policy Framework for NI to target the lack of services such as access to affordable, good quality and consistent childcare which was also available beyond early years provision. Access to such services are needed in rural areas to facilitate parents in gaining employment. A lack of such services can also increase isolation and negatively impact on child development (i.e. poor language skills and low levels of physical activity resulting in obesity among children), which can in turn lead to poor academic performance.

It was also identified that groups at particular risk of loneliness and exclusion include carers (of all ages), especially in the context of an ageing rural population with a growing number of ageing carers which often entails one generation of older people caring for the generation above them. Carers face a number of challenges and obstacles and may need extra support to facilitate access to employment.

The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI have the potential to have a minor positive impact on equality for dependants given the need which has been identified in relation to this group and the likelihood of being targeted in any future schemes.

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**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?**

Please provide details of the likely policy impacts and determine the level of impact for each S75 categories below i.e. either minor, major or none.

**In General**

The Resource DEL and Capital DEL allocations for 2023-24 in the above tables either directly or indirectly support the following three major policy areas in the Department:

* Green Growth;
* Future Agricultural Policy; and
* Rural Policy Framework.

The likely policy impacts of these on each of the Section 75 equality categories are set out below.

In terms of the 1.5% reduction, DAERA proposes to take steps to generate £3.2m in running cost reductions. This would be part of ongoing work to generate efficiencies in operational costs and includes investing in our infrastructure and technology. The benefits of working from home are already being realised with for example reduced travel and subsistence costs. Following our exit from the EU, CAP disallowance in 2023-24 is likely to be reduced and this will free up an element of that budget to help fund the two new statutory obligation pressures relating to the Office of Environmental Protection and Mobuoy Remediation. DAERA also proposes to generate additional savings in the budgets for Strategic Environment Programmes (SEP), Forest Service Subsidy, General Admin Expenditure (GAE) and Animal Welfare Funding to Councils to help manage additional inescapable statutory obligation and contractual pressures that are projected to rise as the year progresses. Implementing these four savings would not have any differential impact on any of the Section 75 groupings provided: there is a continued increase in additional carrier bag levy receipts to cover the SEP; there is a sustained increase in income from timber receipts to cover the Forest Service Subsidy; GAE savings identified in 2022-23 are sustained; and councils use their own funding to cover the Animal Welfare funding as it is their statutory responsibility to undertake this work. Therefore, due to the nature of these savings, they are not projected to have any impacts on Section 75 equality categories.

In 2023-24 the Department is also taking forward the alignment of Higher Education fees with levels paid at other Higher Education Institutions. This would generate £0.3m of additional income. The likely policy impacts of this proposal on each of the Section 75 equality categories has already been assessed as part of the screening document in the following link:

[Equality Screening of 2020 Agriculture (Student Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020.DOCX (live.com)](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.daera-ni.gov.uk%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Fpublications%2Fdaera%2FEquality%2520Screening%2520of%25202020%2520Agriculture%2520%2528Student%2520Fees%2529%2520%2528Amendment%2529%2520Regulations%2520%2528Northern%2520Ireland%2529%25202020.DOCX&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK)

Details on other Equality Screenings that have already taken place and which will inform the expenditure to be taken forward in 2023-24 are set out in the following links:

[Equality Screening 2022 | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (daera-ni.gov.uk)](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/equality-screening-2022)

[Equality screening 2021 | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (daera-ni.gov.uk)](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/equality-screening-2021)

[Equality screening 2020 "screened out" | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (daera-ni.gov.uk)](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/equality-screening-2020-screened-out)

[Equality screening 2019 "screened out" | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (daera-ni.gov.uk)](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/equality-screening-2019-screened-out)

[Equality screening of policies and decisions for 2018 | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (daera-ni.gov.uk)](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/equality-screening-policies-and-decisions-2018)

[Equality screening of policies and decisions for 2017 | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (daera-ni.gov.uk)](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/equality-screening-policies-and-decisions-2017)

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

Green Growth

Further details on the Strategy’s delivery programmes and proposed actions with the climate plan will be needed to detail likely impacts. The Draft Green Growth Strategy and Climate Action Plan’s emission reduction measures will impact industrial sectors very differently. Major changes are expected to include the adoption of new technology, innovative production methods, an increase in the sustainability of products, increased utilisation of Artificial Intelligence and changes in the type and quantity of labour required. These changes will in turn impact each sector’s employees in different ways. Four out of 13 industrial sectors in NI have higher numbers of Protestant employees, with the biggest disparity in agriculture, forestry and fishing, where 65% of employees were Protestant and 35% Catholic Labour Force Religion Report 2017 (executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk). Differences are also often reflected across geographical areas e.g. Belfast, the North of NI and the West & South of NI, working age economic activity rates were higher among Protestants than Catholics in 2017. In Outer Belfast, working age economic activity rates were higher among Catholics than Protestants, while in the East of NI 74% of both Protestants and Catholics were economically active. Therefore the likely impact on those of different religions beliefs is likely to be major.

Future Agricultural Policy

The future agricultural policy proposals for Northern Ireland are considered to

have no differential impact on the Religious Belief category. This category should not be affected however the policy proposals are subject to public consultation and should any issues be raised in relation to Religious Belief they will be considered.

Rural Policy Framework

The draft Rural Policy Framework for NI aims to create a sustainable rural community where people can work and live. 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 proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI are neutral as regards religious belief and therefore are considered to have no impact on the equality of opportunity as regards religious belief.

DAERA will use and gather evidence to examine needs, experience and priorities of those of different religious beliefs and where necessary consider and employ mitigation measures to promote equality of opportunity.

**What is the level of impact?**

Green Growth - Major

Future Agricultural Policy - None

Rural Policy Framework - None

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

Green Growth

As above, given the correlation with Religious belief and Political opinion in NI.

Future Agricultural Policy

Equality Commission monitoring guidelines for public authorities suggest that community background/religion is a reasonable proxy indicator for the unionist/nationalist divide. Applying this principle to the likely impact of the future agricultural policy proposals for Northern Ireland under consideration suggests that, as detailed under Religious Belief, there should not be a differential impact on those of differing political opinion. The policy proposals are subject to public consultation and should any issues be raised in relation to Political Opinion they will be considered.

Rural Policy Framework

The draft Rural Policy Framework for NI aims to create a sustainable rural community where people can work and live. 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.

The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI are neutral as regards political opinion and therefore are considered to have no impact on the equality of opportunity as regards political opinion.

**What is the level of impact?**

Green Growth - Major

Future Agricultural Policy - None

Rural Policy Framework - None

**Details of the likely policy impacts on *Racial Group*:** (insert text here)

Green Growth

The Draft Green Growth Strategy is not unlawfully discriminatory and any residual potential impacts on people of different racial groups are judged at this stage to be minor. Through inclusive collaboration and collation of racial group evidence any potential impact can be identified and managed, as the strategy develops, by making appropriate changes to the strategy or by adopting appropriate mitigating measures.

DAERA acknowledges the importance of The Northern Ireland Affairs Committee inquiry to examine the experiences of minority ethnic and migrant people in Northern Ireland. The findings and recommendation of this inquiry will be used to update the likely impacts and equality assessments relating to Green Growth.

Future Agricultural Policy

The future agricultural policy proposals for Northern Ireland are considered to have no differential impact on Racial Group. However, the policy proposals are subject to public consultation and should any issues be raised in relation to Racial Group they will be considered.

Rural Policy Framework

The draft Rural Policy Framework for NI aims to create a sustainable rural community where people can work and live. Statistics from the 2011 census show the make-up of the rural community to be 99.4% white and 0.6% other ethnic groupings. The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI are neutral as regards racial group and therefore are considered to have no impact on the equality of opportunity as regards racial group.

**What is the level of impact?**

Green Growth - Minor

Future Agricultural Policy - None

Rural Policy Framework - None

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

Green Growth

Potential age related equality impacts are complex given the diversity, range and scale of proposed actions to achieve zero carbon on Northern Ireland’s economy, environment and society. As further details on delivery programmes and proposed actions with the climate plan which will emerge as a result of the implementation of the Draft Green Growth Strategy, more work will be needed to detail any Age related impacts.

The impacts of actions will often be experienced very differently by youth compared to the elderly and this equality impact will be further assessed and mitigation measures employed where appropriate as the strategy develops. It is likely the impact of the Draft Green Growth Strategy may have a major effect on people within different age groups, particularly in relation to ability to procure, adapt and utilise new technologies and products required to reduce greenhouse emissions; successfully secure alternative employment or reskill for carbon neutral jobs; or afford investment to increase the energy efficiency of their homes. The strategy is likely to require significant behavioural change and therefore has potential to impact significantly on people across different age groups in a disproportionate way.

Future Agricultural Policy

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs report (October

2018), ‘Equality Indicators for Northern Ireland Farmers’ states that the average age of farmers in Northern Ireland was 59 years. The future agricultural policy proposals for Northern Ireland are considered to have no differential impact on the ‘Age’ category. However, the policy proposals are subject to public consultation and should any issues be raised in relation to ‘Age’ they will be considered.

Rural Policy Framework

The draft Rural Policy Framework for NI aims to create a sustainable rural community where people can work and live. 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+.

NI is the second youngest UK region (median age 38.7) after London (35.3). Evidence from the Working Groups feeding into the Rural Policy Framework for NI indicated that support is needed to facilitate young people into employment in rural areas. There are concerns that young people are moving away from rural areas due to a lack of employment and training opportunities; a lack of affordable housing; and connectivity issues. If young people move out of rural areas, there is a negative impact on the sustainability of those rural communities.

According to the GEM UK: Northern Ireland Report 2017, the Total Early-Stage Entrepreneurial Activity (TEA) in NI in 2017 was 6.5% compared to the UK average of 8.7%. Those aged between 25-34 years old in NI were most entrepreneurial. Opportunity also exists to tap into the entrepreneurial potential of 18-24-year olds. There is a need to make enterprise and entrepreneurship visible to the existing and potential talent pool in rural areas including graduates. Just under 30% of the non-entrepreneurial working age population perceive good start-up opportunities locally. The UK rate, which is almost 40%, continues to be significantly higher than that for NI.

Previous initiatives relevant to young people funded by DAERA include:

* Tackling Rural Poverty Social Isolation (TRPSI) funded projects such as Prosper and Step Up to Sustainable Employment (SUSE). This initiative successfully assisted young unemployed and those in lower paid employment, into better jobs; and
* Rural Business Investment Scheme 2014-2020 delivered under Priority 6 of the Rural Development Programme in Northern Ireland. An analysis in January 2020 found that there are lower levels of youth, social enterprise and farm diversification engagement. The review showed that the highest percentage of beneficiaries were over 40 years old with 309 compared to less than 10 for those under the age of 25 years old.

A need has been identified by the Working Groups feeding into the development of the Rural Policy Framework for NI to target young people with training to develop their entrepreneurial skills. This could involve tying into education at a young age or addressing barriers such as childcare and other caring responsibilities etc. Linkages could also be improved between the education and private sector to facilitate young people in accessing employment and training opportunities including apprenticeships and more specialised training. In addition, there is a need for succession planning in the voluntary and community sector with young people encouraged to take up volunteering activity.

Within the Framework, it was identified that there is an ageing rural population with increased caring responsibilities which can exacerbate the risk of loneliness and exclusion. In particular NISRA noted that in NI in 2018/19 people without internet access or access to a car were more likely to be “more often lonely” than those with access, highlighting two key challenges for rural dwellers. People in the 75+ and 55-64 age groups were “more often lonely”.

Given the strategic nature of the Framework, any potential impacts on section 75 groups cannot be fully evaluated until a later stage. Following public consultation and subject to approval an Equality Screening exercise will be carried out in respect of the Rural Business and Community Investment Programme. The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI have the potential to have a minor positive impact on equality of opportunity for age (in particular young and elderly people) given the need which has been identified in relation to these groups and the likelihood of being targeted in any future schemes.

**What is the level of impact?**

Green Growth - Major

Future Agricultural Policy - None

Rural Policy Framework – Minor Positive

**Details of the likely policy impacts on *Marital Status*:** (insert text here)

Green Growth

At this stage in the development of Draft Green Growth Strategy there is no evidence available to suggest the Strategy will have any foreseeable impact on equality of opportunity on stakeholders as a result of their marital status.

The Draft Green Growth Strategy is not unlawfully discriminatory and any residual potential impacts on people of different marital status are judged at this stage to be minor. Through inclusive collaboration and collation of marital status evidence any potential impact, such as domestic energy costs, can be identified and managed, as the strategy develops, by making appropriate changes to the strategy or by adopting appropriate mitigating measures.

Future Agricultural Policy

The future agricultural policy proposals for Northern Ireland are considered to have no differential impact on the ‘Marital Status’ category. However, the policy proposals are subject to public consultation and should any issues be raised in relation to ‘Marital Status’ they will be considered.

Rural Policy Framework

The draft Rural Policy Framework for NI aims to create a sustainable rural community where people can work and live. 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.

The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI are neutral as regards people of different marital status and consequently there is no opportunity to promote equality of opportunity.

**What is the level of impact?**

Green Growth - Minor

Future Agricultural Policy - None

Rural Policy Framework - None

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

Green Growth

The Draft Green Growth Strategy is not unlawfully discriminatory and any residual potential impacts on people of different sexual orientation are judged at this stage to be minor. Through inclusive collaboration and collation of sexual orientation evidence any potential impact can be identified and managed, as the strategy develops, by making appropriate changes to the strategy or by adopting appropriate mitigating measures. Information and available evidence relating to sexual orientation inequalities in NI is currently somewhat limited.

Future Agricultural Policy

The future agricultural policy proposals for Northern Ireland are considered to have no differential impact on the ‘Sexual Orientation’ category. However, the policy proposals are subject to public consultation and should any issues be raised in relation to ‘Sexual Orientation’ they will be considered.

Rural Policy Framework

The draft Rural Policy Framework for NI aims to create a sustainable rural community where people can work and live. 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. The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI are neutral as regards people of different sexual orientation and consequently there is no opportunity to promote equality of opportunity.

**What is the level of impact?**

Green Growth - Minor

Future Agricultural Policy - None

Rural Policy Framework - None

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

Green Growth

Potential men and women related equality impacts are complex given the diversity, range and scale of proposed actions to achieve zero carbon on Northern Ireland’s economy, environment and society. The impacts of actions will often be experienced very differently by men compared to the impact on women due to factors such as sectoral employment and dependents. The Draft Green Growth Strategy and Climate Action Plan’s emission reduction measures will impact every aspect of our lives, family, employment, health, food, transport and consumer choice, each of which is experienced differently depending on gender. Equality impacts will be further assessed and mitigation measures employed where appropriate as the programmes, initiatives and actions arising from the Draft Green Growth Strategy develop.

DAERA is supportive of gender mainstreaming, which involves the integration of a gender perspective into the preparation, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, regulatory measures and spending programmes. A gender responsive policy ensures that the needs of all citizens, women and men, are equally addressed.

Future Agricultural Policy

The Department, considers that the policy proposals under consideration will

not have a differential impact based on gender. However the policy proposals

are subject to public consultation and should any issues be raised in relation

to gender they will be considered.

Rural Policy Framework

The draft Rural Policy Framework for NI aims to create a sustainable rural community where people can work and live. Statistics from the 2011 census show the make-up of the rural community to be 50% men and 50% women.

According to the GEM UK: Northern Ireland Report 2017, the Total Early-Stage Entrepreneurial Activity (TEA) in NI in 2017 was 6.5% compared to the UK average of 8.7%. Females in NI were half as likely to be entrepreneurs as males. An analysis in January 2020 of the Rural Business Investment Scheme 2014-2020 funded by DAERA and delivered under Priority 6 of the Rural Development Programme in Northern Ireland found that in line with wider research there was a disparity between male and female entrepreneurs. In relation to gender males benefitted most from the scheme with 76% of beneficiaries identified as male and 24% female.

Innovations and entrepreneurial accomplishments of rural women are imperative to the future progress and viability of rural areas. The Treasury commissioned ‘Alison Rose Review of Female Entrepreneurship (2019)’ identified 3 areas of opportunities to help female entrepreneurs including: increasing the funding directed towards them; greater family care support; and making entrepreneurship more accessible to women and increasing support locally, through relatable and accessible mentors and networks. The government is aiming to increase the number of female entrepreneurs by half by 2030, equivalent to nearly 600,000 additional female entrepreneurs.

Therefore, a need has been identified by the Working Groups feeding into the development of the Rural Policy Framework for NI to target females with training to develop their entrepreneurial skills. Women also need assistance as they tend to be more disproportionately affected by caring responsibilities which can block small business start-up.

The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI have the potential to have a minor positive impact on equality of opportunity for gender (in particular on women) given the need which has been identified in relation to this group and the likelihood of being targeted in any future schemes.

**What is the level of impact?**

Green Growth – Major

Future Agricultural Policy - None

Rural Policy Framework – Minor Positive

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

Green Growth

Potential disability related equality impacts are complex given the diversity, range and scale of proposed actions to achieve zero carbon on Northern Ireland’s economy, environment and society. The impacts of actions will often be experienced very differently by disabled people due to factors such as sectoral employment. NI: IN PROFILE Key statistics on Northern Ireland (nisra.gov.uk) reports that in 2021 one in five people in NI have a disability or limiting long-term illness.

People with a disability experience climate change impacts differently and more severely than others. Their ability to adapt to future changes in our lifestyles, employment, transportation and new technology, which will be required to achieve net zero, may vary significantly. Therefore it would be appropriate to conduct an equality impact assessment in order to better assess them. Equality impacts will be further assessed and mitigation measures employed where appropriate as the strategy develops.

Future Agricultural Policy

The future agricultural policy proposals for Northern Ireland are considered to

have no differential impact on the ‘Disability’ category. Category should not be

affected however the policy proposals are subject to public consultation and

should any issues be raised in relation to ‘Disability’ they will be considered.

Rural Policy Framework

The draft Rural Policy Framework for NI aims to create a sustainable rural community where people can work and live. Statistics from the 2011 census show that 40% of rural households contain at least one person with a long term health problem or disability.

A need was identified by the Working Groups feeding into the development of the Rural Policy Framework for NI to target improving the mental and emotional wellbeing of those living in rural areas. In particular, thematic pillar 3: Health and Wellbeing To reduce loneliness and social exclusion in rural areas, to minimise the impacts of rural isolation and to promote the health and wellbeing of rural dwellers and associated priority areas for intervention seeks to do this.

The Working Groups found that the levels of reported (and anecdotal) poor mental and emotional wellbeing are increasing in rural communities. It was identified that there is a need for timely access to support services in relation to mental and emotional wellbeing within rural communities when in a crisis. Whilst such issues affect wider society, matters are exacerbated further for rural dwellers due to poor transport and access to services and this can also impact on people’s ability to access employment and training opportunities.

Interventions suggested by the Working Groups and stakeholders that could be considered include:

* Reducing stigma around mental and emotional wellbeing issues via engagement; health and wellbeing programmes (e.g. social prescribing, social farming, walking trails, intergenerational programmes etc.); support groups; and outreach services;
* Social enterprises in rural communities which can create training and employment opportunities for a range of target groups including adults post-18 years exiting the special needs education environment, people on the autism spectrum and people dealing with / coping with life challenges (e.g. addictions, anxiety, depression); and
* Extra support for certain groups seeking access to employment such as those with disabilities.

A publication by the Centre for Mental Health –‘BRIEFING Covid-19 and the nation's mental health: May 2020’ highlighted the following:

* The COVID-19 pandemic is likely to lead to an increase in mental ill health in the UK, as a result of both the illness itself and the measures being taken to protect people from the virus;
* If the economic impact is similar to that of the post 2008 recession, then we could expect 500,000 additional people experiencing mental health problems, with depression being the most common;
* The economic impact is likely to affect different parts of the country differently and therefore the likely increased prevalence of mental illness will be unevenly distributed.

The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention (in particular under Thematic Pillar 3: Health and Wellbeing) identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI have the potential to have a minor positive impact on equality of opportunity for disability given the need which has been identified in relation to this group. The need is also likely to be greater following on from the impacts of COVID-19.

**What is the level of impact?**

Green Growth – Major

Future Agricultural Policy - None

Rural Policy Framework – Minor positive

**Details of the likely policy impacts on *Dependants*:** (insert text here)

Green Growth

The Draft Green Growth Strategy is not unlawfully discriminatory and any residual potential impacts on dependants are judged at this stage to be minor. Through inclusive collaboration and collation of dependent related evidence any potential impact can be identified and managed, as the strategy develops, by making appropriate changes to the strategy or by adopting appropriate mitigating measures. Currently one in three households in NI have a dependent child, with the most common reason for economic inactivity among women being cited as family and home commitments. It is likely that households with dependents will be impacted very differently to those without. For example in households with young children there may be an increased need: for climate literacy development in children, for affordable sustainable children’s clothing etc. In households with elderly dependents impacts may include the need to adapt to sustainable heating and electricity provision, to learn to use sustainable goods and service which are expected to become mainstream such as electric vehicles etc.

Future Agricultural Policy

The future agricultural policy proposals for Northern Ireland are considered to

have no differential impact on the ‘Dependants’ category. However, the policy proposals are subject to public consultation and should any issues be raised in relation to ‘Dependants’ they will be considered.

Rural Policy Framework

The draft Rural Policy Framework for NI aims to create a sustainable rural community where people can work and live. Statistics from the 2011 census show the make-up of rural households to be 37% with dependants and 63% without.

A need was identified by the Working Groups feeding into the development of the Rural Policy Framework for NI to target the lack of services such as access to affordable, good quality and consistent childcare which was also available beyond early years provision. Access to such services are needed in rural areas to facilitate parents in gaining employment. A lack of such services can also increase isolation and negatively impact on child development (i.e. poor language skills and low levels of physical activity resulting in obesity among children), which can in turn lead to poor academic performance.

It was also identified that groups at particular risk of loneliness and exclusion include carers (of all ages), especially in the context of an ageing rural population with a growing number of ageing carers which often entails one generation of older people caring for the generation above them. Carers face a number of challenges and obstacles and may need extra support to facilitate access to employment.

The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI have the potential to have a minor positive impact on equality of opportunity for dependants given the need which has been identified in relation to this group and the likelihood of being targeted in any future schemes.

**What is the level of impact?**

Green Growth – Major

Future Agricultural Policy - None

Rural Policy Framework – Minor positive

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

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:**

Green Growth

The Draft Green Growth Strategy will encourage collaborative partnerships between stakeholders at local, national and international level. This could involve for example groups consisting of business owners, environmentalists, research providers, facilitators and academics working together to solve problems. This may help to bring together people from diverse religious backgrounds to promote equality of opportunity.

**If No, provide reasons:**

Future Agricultural Policy

DAERA actively seeks opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity.

It is unlikely that there will be any facility with the future agricultural policy proposals for Northern Ireland to better promote equality of opportunity for those affected by the policies. However, the future implementation of the policy proposals will take cognisance of any inequality issues identified and evidenced by stakeholders during this consultation and where possible promote equality of opportunity.

Rural Policy Framework

The draft Rural Policy Framework for NI aims to create a sustainable rural community where people can work and live. The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI are neutral as regards religious belief and therefore are considered to have no impact on the equality of opportunity as regards religious belief.

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

Green Growth

The Draft Green Growth Strategy will encourage collaborative partnerships between stakeholders at local, national and international level. This could involve for example groups consisting of business owners, environmentalists, research providers, facilitators and academics working together to solve problems. This may help to bring together people from diverse political opinions to promote equality of opportunity.

**If No, provide reasons:**

Future Agricultural Policy

DAERA actively seeks opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity.

It is unlikely that there will be any facility with the future agricultural policy proposals for Northern Ireland to better promote equality of opportunity for those affected by the policies. However, the future implementation of the policy proposals will take cognisance of any inequality issues identified and evidenced by stakeholders during this consultation and where possible promote equality of opportunity.

Rural Policy Framework

The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI are neutral as regards people of different political opinion and consequently there is no opportunity to promote equality of opportunity.

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

Green Growth

The Draft Green Growth Strategy will encourage collaborative partnerships between stakeholders at local, national and international level. This could involve for example groups consisting of business owners, environmentalists, research providers, facilitators and academics working together to solve problems. This may help to bring together people from diverse backgrounds, cultures and opinions to promote equality of opportunity.

Stakeholder engagement opportunities, information and publicity relating to Draft Green Growth Strategy development and implementation should aspire to accommodate those who may have difficulties with standard language methods and formats.

**If No, provide reasons:**

Future Agricultural Policy

DAERA actively seeks opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity.

It is unlikely that there will be any facility with the future agricultural policy proposals for Northern Ireland to better promote equality of opportunity for those affected by the policies. However, the future implementation of the policy proposals will take cognisance of any inequality issues identified and evidenced by stakeholders during this consultation and where possible promote equality of opportunity.

Rural Policy Framework

The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI are neutral as regards people of different racial groups and consequently there is no opportunity to promote equality of opportunity

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

Green Growth

The Draft Green Growth Strategy will encourage collaborative partnerships between stakeholders at local, national and international level. This could involve for example groups consisting of business owners, environmentalists, research providers, facilitators and academics working together to solve problems. This may help to bring together people from diverse age ranges and promote equality of opportunity.

Engagement methods and information should ensure that those, particularly the elderly, without access to or adequate knowledge of new/digital technology are not disadvantaged and that information is available in plain English, easy read formats and is suitable for younger age groups.

Rural Policy Framework

The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI have the potential to promote equality of opportunity for people within this group. For example, young people and elderly people in rural areas have been identified as being in need and could potentially be targeted in future schemes.

**If No, provide reasons:**

Future Agricultural Policy

DAERA actively seeks opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity.

It is unlikely that there will be any facility with the future agricultural policy proposals for Northern Ireland to better promote equality of opportunity for those affected by the policies. However, the future implementation of the policy proposals will take cognisance of any inequality issues identified and evidenced by stakeholders during this consultation and where possible promote equality of opportunity.

***Marital Status* - If Yes, provide details:**

Green Growth

The Draft Green Growth Strategy will encourage collaborative partnerships between stakeholders at local, national and international level. This could involve for example groups consisting of business owners, environmentalists, research providers, facilitators and academics working together to solve problems. This may help to bring together people with a diverse marital status to promote equality of opportunity.

**If No, provide reasons**

Future Agricultural Policy

DAERA actively seeks opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity.

It is unlikely that there will be any facility with the future agricultural policy proposals for Northern Ireland to better promote equality of opportunity for those affected by the policies. However, the future implementation of the policy proposals will take cognisance of any inequality issues identified and evidenced by stakeholders during this consultation and where possible promote equality of opportunity.

Rural Policy Framework

The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI are neutral as regards people of different marital status and consequently there is no opportunity to promote equality of opportunity

***Sexual Orientation* - If Yes, provide details:**

Green Growth

The Draft Green Growth Strategy will encourage collaborative partnerships between stakeholders at local, national and international level. This could involve for example groups consisting of business owners, environmentalists, research providers, facilitators and academics working together to solve problems. This may help to bring together people from diverse sexual orientation to promote equality of opportunity.

**If No, provide reasons:**

Future Agricultural Policy

DAERA actively seeks opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity.

It is unlikely that there will be any facility with the future agricultural policy proposals for Northern Ireland to better promote equality of opportunity for those affected by the policies. However, the future implementation of the policy proposals will take cognisance of any inequality issues identified and evidenced by stakeholders during this consultation and where possible promote equality of opportunity.

Rural Policy Framework

The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI are neutral as regards people of different sexual orientations and consequently there is no opportunity to promote equality of opportunity.

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

Green Growth

The Draft Green Growth Strategy will encourage collaborative partnerships between stakeholders at local, national and international level. This could involve for example groups consisting of business owners, environmentalists, research providers, facilitators and academics working together to solve problems. This may help to bring together people from diverse genders and promote equality of opportunity.

Rural Policy Framework

The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI have the potential to promote equality of opportunity for people within this group. For example, women in rural areas have been identified as being in need and could potentially be targeted in future schemes.

**If No, provide reasons:**

Future Agricultural Policy

DAERA actively seeks opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity.

It is unlikely that there will be any facility with the future agricultural policy proposals for Northern Ireland to better promote equality of opportunity for those affected by the policies. However, the future implementation of the policy proposals will take cognisance of any inequality issues identified and evidenced by stakeholders during this consultation and where possible promote equality of opportunity.

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

Green Growth

The Draft Green Growth Strategy will encourage collaborative partnerships between stakeholders at local, national and international level. This could involve for example groups consisting of business owners, environmentalists, research providers, facilitators and academics working together to solve problems. This may help to bring together people from diverse abilities and promote equality of opportunity.

Positive actions can be highlighted within this strategy to ensure people with disabilities can participate in DAERA Green Growth and Climate Action related activities. For example Green Growth stakeholder related meetings, training or fact finding trips should be organised to ensure they are available to those with disabilities

Rural Policy Framework

The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI have the potential to promote equality of opportunity for people within this group. For example, promoting health and emotional wellbeing has been identified as a need within the Framework and it is likely that future schemes will target those in disabled groups, particularly under Thematic Pillar 3.

**If No, provide reasons:**

Future Agricultural Policy

DAERA actively seeks opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity.

It is unlikely that there will be any facility with the future agricultural policy proposals for Northern Ireland to better promote equality of opportunity for those affected by the policies. However, the future implementation of the policy proposals will take cognisance of any inequality issues identified and evidenced by stakeholders during this consultation and where possible promote equality of opportunity.

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

Green Growth

The Draft Green Growth Strategy will encourage collaborative partnerships between stakeholders at local, national and international level. This could involve for example groups consisting of business owners, environmentalists, research providers, facilitators and academics working together to solve problems. This may help to bring together people with and without dependants and promote equality of opportunity.

Positive actions can be highlighted within this strategy to ensure people with dependents can participate in DAERA Green Growth and Climate Action related activities. For example where possible locally based meetings relating to innovation will mean that the time away from home will be minimised facilitating elder and child care.

Rural Policy Framework

The proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI have the potential to promote equality of opportunity for people within this group. For example, future schemes could potentially target provision of support facilitating access to childcare and employment opportunities for those with caring responsibilities.

**If No, provide reasons:**

Future Agricultural Policy

DAERA actively seeks opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity.

It is unlikely that there will be any facility with the future agricultural policy proposals for Northern Ireland to better promote equality of opportunity for those affected by the policies. However, the future implementation of the policy proposals will take cognisance of any inequality issues identified and evidenced by stakeholders during this consultation and where possible promote equality of opportunity.

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*:**

Green Growth

Although good relations is not a key aim of the Draft Green Growth Strategy it is likely that the Strategy will have a positive impact on the good relations between people of different religious beliefs.

The Strategy will encourage inclusive stakeholder engagement and the development of collaborative partnerships at local, national and international levels. This could involve for example groups consisting of business owners, environmentalists, research providers, facilitators and academics working together to solve problems. This may help to bring together people from diverse religious backgrounds and political opinions.

Future Agricultural Policy

The future agricultural policy proposals for Northern Ireland are likely to have no impact on good relations between people of different religious belief. However, DAERA is proactive in improving good relations between people of different religious belief and will review any issues identified in light of responses to the consultation and consider these during the implementation stage of any proposals that are progressed in the future.

Rural Policy Framework

As the proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI are neutral as regards the impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, there is likely to be no impact.

**What is the level of impact?** Minor/Major/None

Green Growth – Minor

Future Agricultural Policy - None

Rural Policy Framework – None

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

Green Growth

Although good relations is not a key aim of the Draft Green Growth Strategy it is likely that the Draft Green Growth Strategy will have a positive impact on the good relations between people of different political opinions.

The Strategy will encourage inclusive stakeholder engagement and the development of collaborative partnerships at local, national and international levels. This could involve for example groups consisting of business owners, environmentalists, research providers, facilitators and academics working together to solve problems. This may help to bring together people from diverse religious backgrounds and political opinions.

Future Agricultural Policy

The future agricultural policy proposals for Northern Ireland are likely to have no impact on good relations between people of different political opinion. However, DAERA is proactive in improving good relations between people of different political opinion and will review any issues identified in light of responses to the consultation and consider these during the implementation stage of any proposals that are progressed in the future.

Rural Policy Framework

As the proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI are neutral as regards the impact on good relations between people of different political opinion, there is likely to be no impact.

**What is the level of impact?** Minor/Major/None

Green Growth – Minor

Future Agricultural Policy - None

Rural Policy Framework – None

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

Green Growth

Although good relations is not a key aim of the Draft Green Growth Strategy it is likely that the Draft Green Growth Strategy will have a positive impact on the good relations between people of different racial groups.

The Strategy will encourage inclusive stakeholder engagement and the development of collaborative partnerships at local, national and international levels. This could involve for example groups consisting of business owners, environmentalists, research providers, facilitators and academics working together to solve problems. This may help to bring together people from diverse racial groups.

Future Agricultural Policy

The future agricultural policy proposals for Northern Ireland are likely to have no impact on good relations between people of different racial group. However, DAERA is proactive in improving good relations between people of different racial group and will review any issues identified in light of responses to the consultation and consider these during the implementation stage of any proposals that are progressed in the future.

Rural Policy Framework

As the proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI are neutral as regards the impact on good relations between people of different racial groups, there is likely to be no impact.

**What is the level of impact?** Minor/Major/None

Green Growth – Minor

Future Agricultural Policy - None

Rural Policy Framework – 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:**

Green Growth

The Draft Green Growth Strategy is a multi-decade initiative. Within this extended timeframe it is reasonable to assume good relations between stakeholders of different religious beliefs, who have been involved in stakeholder engagement, partnership development and collaborative projects, will be developed and maintained.

**If No, provide reasons:**

Future Agricultural Policy

The future agricultural policy proposals for Northern Ireland are likely to have no impact on promoting good relations between people of different religious belief. However, DAERA is proactive in improving good relations between people of different religious belief and will review any issues identified in light of responses to the consultation and consider these during the implementation stage of any proposals that are progressed in the future.

Rural Policy Framework

Given that the proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI are neutral as regards to promoting good relations between people of different religious beliefs, there is likely to be no impact.

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

Green Growth

The Draft Green Growth Strategy is a multi-decade initiative. Within this extended timeframe it is reasonable to assume good relations between stakeholders of different political opinions, who have been involved in stakeholder engagement, partnership development and collaborative projects, will be developed and maintained.

**If No, provide reasons**

Future Agricultural Policy

The future agricultural policy proposals for Northern Ireland are likely to have no impact on promoting good relations between people of political opinion. However, DAERA is proactive in improving good relations between people of different political opinion and will review any issues identified in light of responses to the consultation and consider these during the implementation stage of any proposals that are progressed in the future.

Rural Policy Framework

Given that the proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI are neutral as regards to promoting good relations between people of different political opinion, there is likely to be no impact.

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

Green Growth

The Draft Green Growth Strategy is a multi-decade initiative. Within this extended timeframe it is reasonable to assume good relations between stakeholders of different racial groups, who have been involved in stakeholder engagement, partnership development and collaborative projects, will be developed and maintained.

**If No, provide reasons**

Future Agricultural Policy

The future agricultural policy proposals for Northern Ireland are likely to have no impact on promoting good relations between people of different racial group. However, DAERA is proactive in improving good relations between people of different racial group and will review any issues identified in light of responses to the consultation and consider these during the implementation stage of any proposals that are progressed in the future.

Rural Policy Framework

Given that the proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI are neutral as regards to promoting good relations between people of different racial groups, there is likely to be no impact

**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.

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

The three major policy areas of DAERA support the previous Executive’s PfG and its vision towards an inclusive society in which people of all ages and backgrounds are respected and cared for. A society which has no barriers to prevent people from living fulfilling lives.

As such, it is intended that all those within the Section 75 equality categories, including those who fall into more than one Section 75 equality category, will be included in co design and production of Departmental strategies with a view to delivering outcomes which positively impact those with multiple identities.

DAERA acknowledges the Equality Commission recommendations within the RacialEquality\_PolicySummary2014.pdf (equalityni.org). Particularly that attention should be paid to multiple identity issues within the delivery of public services and associated Government strategies and that the delivery of public services and associated information provision should be targeted at multiple identity individuals e.g. BME (Black and Minority Ethnic) women, BME people with disabilities etc.

DAERA acknowledges the complexities of social identity, for example where different identities can combine to define specific disadvantages in a marginalised community. DAERA strategies aspire to equality across the range of identities.

It is envisaged that there will be a significant number of beneficiaries from the

future agricultural policy proposals for Northern Ireland. At a farm population level any differential effect on people who fall into more than one Section 75 category is likely to be negligible. DAERA will review any issues identified in light of responses to the consultation and consider these during the implementation stage of any proposals that are progressed in the future

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?**

Green Growth

The project may provide some opportunity to better promote positive attitudes towards disabled people. Positive actions can be highlighted within this strategy to ensure people with disabilities can participate in DAERA Green Growth and Climate Action related activities. For example meetings, training or fact finding trips can be organised to ensure that participants with disabilities are fully accommodated.

Details of opportunities to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people have not been scoped at this stage. Potential areas for promotion may include Just Transition, inclusive co-design and opportunities presented through education.

Future Agricultural Policy

It is very unlikely that there will be any facility in any of the future agricultural policy proposals for Northern Ireland to promote positive attitudes towards people with disabilities but comments through the public consultation will be welcomed should stakeholders feel there is an opportunity to do so.

Rural Policy Framework

Yes - Thematic Pillar 3: Health and Wellbeing: To reduce loneliness and social exclusion in rural areas, to minimise the impacts of rural isolation and to promote the health and wellbeing of rural dwellers and associated priority areas for intervention provide an opportunity for DAERA to better promote positive attitudes towards disabled people. In particular groups which are likely to benefit are those living in rural areas who require support to improve their mental and emotional wellbeing. The need to target such groups is potentially going to be greater post COVID-19. However, given the strategic nature of the Framework, any benefits are unlikely to be fully realised until the development of the Rural Business and Community Investment Programme.

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

Green Growth

Details of opportunities to actively increase the participation by disabled

people have not been scoped at this stage. Potential areas for promotion may include Just Transition, inclusive co-design and opportunities for new green jobs, presented through education / re-skilling and upskilling programmes.

Future Agricultural Policy

It is very unlikely that there will be any facility in any of the future agricultural policy proposals for Northern Ireland to increase the participation by disabled people in public life but comments through the public consultation will be welcomed should stakeholders feel there is an opportunity to do so.

Rural Policy Framework

Yes - Thematic Pillar 3: Health and Wellbeing: To reduce loneliness and social exclusion in rural areas, to minimise the impacts of rural isolation and to promote the health and wellbeing of rural dwellers and associated priority areas for intervention provide an opportunity for DAERA to actively increase the participation by disabled people in public life. The Framework additionally will seek to address barriers to participation in public life such as difficulties in accessing transport, broadband, employment, training and social isolation etc. However, given the strategic nature of the Framework, any benefits are unlikely to be fully realised until the development of the Rural Business and Community Investment Programme.

**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.**

The proposed Resource DEL and Capital DEL allocations for 2023-24 in the above tables either directly or indirectly support the following three major policy proposals in the Department:

* Green Growth;
* Future Agricultural Policy; and
* Rural Policy Framework.

The Draft Green Growth Strategy supports the previous Executive’s PfG and its vision towards an inclusive society in which people of all ages and backgrounds are respected and cared for. A society which has no barriers to prevent people from living fulfilling lives. As the Draft Green Growth Strategy will be a multi-decade strategy, its first iteration will not contain sufficient qualitative or quantitative information to enable a meaningful Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) to be completed at this stage. However, the importance of achieving a Just Transition and complying with the equality screening process is fully recognised. It is vital to fully assess the impact and identify the opportunities to promote equality of opportunity and good relations. The recommendation from that screening was that a full EQIA on the Draft Green Growth Strategy should be conducted and consulted on in line with the TEO Equality Scheme and overarching ECNI (Equality Commission Northern Ireland) guidance. Subsequently an EQIA was prepared for consultation. This has now been completed as per the following link:

[Equality Impact Assessment for the Draft Green Growth Strategy.pdf (daera-ni.gov.uk)](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/consultations/daera/Equality%20Impact%20Assessment%20for%20the%20Draft%20Green%20Growth%20Strategy.pdf)

The effects at Northern Ireland level of the future agricultural policy proposals for Northern Ireland will not have an identifiable differential impact because of an individual’s religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender, disability or whether or not he/she has dependents.

In relation to the Rural Policy Framework, the screening exercise has established that it is unlikely for Section 75 categories to be adversely impacted upon as a result of the proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Framework. In regards to some groups there is a potential for minor positive impacts.

In terms of efficiencies, the likely policy impacts of the alignment of Higher Education fees with levels paid at other Higher Education Institutions on each of the Section 75 equality categories have already been screened out. Due to the nature of the other savings, they are not projected to have any impacts on Section 75 equality categories.

In light of the above, there is no need to undertake an EQIA as part of Budget 2023-24.

**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.**

In light of the above equality assessments of Green Growth, Future Agricultural Policy and Rural Policy Framework, this is not applicable in relation to the proposed Resource DEL and Capital DEL allocations for 2023-24 .

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

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? Yes / No (delete as appropriate)**

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

The screening exercise has established that it is unlikely for Section 75 categories to be adversely impacted upon as a result of the proposals including the thematic pillars and associated priority areas for intervention identified in the Rural Policy Framework for NI. In regards to some groups there is a potential for minor positive impacts. It is proposed that an Equality Screening exercise will be undertaken in respect of the individual schemes under the Rural Business and Community Investment Programme to be delivered under the Rural Policy Framework for NI, and where appropriate, full EQIAs will be carried out.

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

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:**

Green Growth

External participants in relevant Green Growth related initiatives will be asked to complete a Section 75 Monitoring Form which will allow full equality monitoring.

Future Agricultural Policy

The consultation was issued to a range of Section 75 groups. Comments from any and all of the Section 75 groups are welcome, especially if any group considers that it is significantly affected by the proposals.

Rural Policy Framework

Section 75 data monitoring will be carried out on any Rural Business and Community Investment Programmes to be delivered under the Rural Policy Framework for NI.

**Good Relations:**

Green Growth

External participants in Green Growth related initiatives will be asked to complete an evaluation of good relations pre and post participation.

Future Agricultural Policy

The consultation will issue to a range Section 75 groups. Comments from any of the Section 75 groups are welcome, especially if any group considers that it is significantly affected by the proposal.

Rural Policy Framework

Section 75 data monitoring will be carried out on any Rural Business and Community Investment Programmes to be delivered under the Rural Policy Framework for NI.

**Disability Duties:**

Green Growth

Data on external participants’ disabilities and adjustments made to Green Growth related initiatives will be recorded.

Future Agricultural Policy

The consultation will issue to a range Section 75 groups. Comments from any of the Section 75 groups are welcome, especially if any group considers that it is significantly affected by the proposal.

Rural Policy Framework

Section 75 data monitoring will be carried out on any Rural Business and Community Investment Programmes to be delivered under the Rural Policy Framework for NI.

**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 |

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

No adverse impacts identified.

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

 Green Growth

The transition to carbon neutrality can be a socially inclusive one, undertaken in an inclusive way. The Draft Green Growth Strategy provides opportunities for stakeholders and government to assess what changes mean in terms of reducing inequalities and positively promoting human rights along with maximising opportunities for vulnerable people, workers and communities. Through inclusive engagement and collaboration DAERA will ensure it hears the voices of all those recognised under Section 75 and particularly young people to ensure their voices shape a sustainable future.

Co-designed policy development and delivery has the potential to provide various opportunities to positively promote human rights. The potential to improve understanding of our environment through promoting the development and access to climate awareness and carbon literacy is just one example.

**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:** Roger Downey **Grade:** 5

**Branch:** Finance Director **Date:**  16 May 2023

**Signature:** 

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

**Name:** Brian Doherty **Grade:** Deputy Secretary (G3)

**Branch:** CSCPG **Date:** 16 May 2023

**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.