# A4 DAERA Logo process.png

**Equality & Disability Duties**

**Screening Template**

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

**Introduction**

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

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

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

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

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

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

A screening flowchart is provided overleaf.

Policy Scoping

* + Policy
  + Available data

Screening Questions

* Apply screening questions
* Consider multiple identities

Screening Decision: None/Minor/Major

Mitigate

Publish Template

Re-consider screening

Publish Template

for information

Publish Template

EQIA

Monitor

**‘None’**

Screened out

**‘Major’**

Screened in for EQIA

**‘Minor’**

Screened out with mitigation

Concerns raised with evidence

Concerns raised with evidence re: screening decision

**Part 1. Policy scoping**

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

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

**Information about the policy**

**Name of the policy**

Developing the UK Emissions Trading Scheme (UK ETS)

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

This is a revised policy (revisions are being made to an existing policy)

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

The UK ETS is a ‘cap and trade’ system designed to encourage large scale industrial emitters of greenhouse gases (GHG) to reduce their CO2 emissions. It contributes to obligations in the UK Climate Change Act 2008 committing the UK to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 100% of 1990 levels (net zero) by 2050, in addition to a similar target which has been established in the Climate Change Act (NI) 2022.The scheme works by setting a cap on the total amount of Greenhouse Gases (GHG) that can be emitted by installations covered by the scheme. Within the overall cap of GHG allowances, installations receive or buy emission allowances, which they can trade with one another as needed. Each year a company must surrender enough allowances to cover all of its emissions, otherwise heavy fines are imposed. If a company reduces its emissions, it can keep spare allowances to cover future needs or sell them. If an installation does not have sufficient allowances to offset all emissions, carbon allowances must be purchased to bridge the gap. This forms the basis of trading in carbon allowances and is subject to market forces. The overall Cap is reduced over time to incentivise emissions reduction. The scheme promotes carbon emissions reduction and investment in clean, low carbon technologies.

The amendments to the UK ETS outlined in the UK ETS Develop Government Response are in line with NI’s decarbonisation objectives. The UK ETS plays a significant role in contributing towards the achievement of NI’s net zero target by encouraging emissions reductions in the traded sector.

The Policy objectives for developing the UK Emissions Trading Scheme are as follows:

* Align the UK ETS to the legally binding 2050 net zero targets by implementing a revised net zero consistent cap trajectory from 2024. The net zero consistent cap will reset the total cap for the remainder of the first phase of the UK ETS (2024-2030);
* Review the approach to free allocation to improve the scheme’s approach to carbon leakage, ensuring the most appropriate and equitable approach to free allocation in the context of UK specific environment (including a NZ cap) in stages from 2024-2026;
* Setting the UK ETS cap to be consistent with net zero and doing this at the top of the net zero consistent range;
* Smoothing the transition to the net zero cap through releasing 53.5 million additional allowances from the reserve pots to the market between 2024-2027;
* Setting the Industry Cap (proportion of allowances available for issue to participants for free to mitigate against carbon leakage) at 40% of the overall cap;
* Putting aside 29.5 million allowances for future market management. This is equivalent to approximately 3% of the overall cap; and
* Phasing-out of aviation free allocation.

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

**If so, explain how.**

The amendments to the UK ETS outlined in the UK ETS ‘Develop’ Government response do not directly benefit individuals within the Section 75 categories. The amendments do not specify any persons who might fall under the section 75 categories. However, it is expected that these amendments to the UK ETS will benefit the population (including those in the Section 75 categories) for example, in adapting to climate change and contributing to a net zero emissions society by 2050 as required by the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022.

**Who initiated or wrote the policy?**

UK ETS Authority- UKG (DESNZ), Scottish Government, Welsh Government, DAERA

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

UK ETS Authority- UKG (DESNZ), Scottish Government, Welsh Government, DAERA

**Implementation factors**

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

Factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision are outlined in the “risks, limitations and assumptions” section of the Developing the UK Emissions Trading Scheme Impact Assessment (page 24-25 paragraphs 92 – 97 available at: [Developing the UK ETS: impact assessment (publishing.service.gov.uk)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1172508/developing-uk-ets-main-impact-assessment.pdf)). The factors identified include cost, timing, access to technology and carbon leakage considerations. No factors have been identified which would have specific relevance or impact on any Section 75 groups/categories.

**Main stakeholders affected**

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

**Staff -** Minimal and short lived impacts. Through consultation with regulatory and policy staff the impacts are anticipated to be short lived and minimal as the scope of the scheme remains unchanged. Staff will need to implement the policies that are created / deliver their objectives. No issues were raised with respect to any of the section 75 categories.

**Service users -** The proposed amendments to the scheme were the subject of extensive consultation with users, along with webinars describing and explaining the proposals (there are 16 UK ETS Operators based in Northern Ireland). Further webinars are planned before the operation of the amended scheme to allow for ease of transition. The sectors within scope of the scheme remain unchanged. A UK wide Impact Assessment, which includes an assessment of impacts on the Devolved Administrations, including NI, has been published alongside the Government Response. No issues were raised in relation to S75 categories.

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

* **What are they?**

N/A

* **Who owns them?**

N/A

**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.

Pre-Consultation

On 26 May 2022, a stakeholder engagement event related to the Developing the UK ETS took place in NI which explored the proposed changes to the UK ETS outlined in each chapter of the consultation document. NI was the only region in the UK to have a dedicated regional stakeholder event. No concerns regarding the proposals or their impact were raised either at, or subsequent to, this event. Moreover, no issues or concerns were raised during the NI pre-consultation workshop regarding the impact on any of the Section 75 groups.

Consultation

The “Developing the UK Emissions Trading Scheme (UK ETS)” joint consultation by the UK Government and Devolved Administration (including NI through DAERA), was issued on 25 March 2022 and closed on 17 June 2022. The purpose of this consultation was to seek input on a range of proposals to develop the UK ETS, with a view to increasing its climate ambition. The UK ETS Authority committed to implementing a net zero consistent cap for the scheme (no later than January 2024), reviewing Free Allocation policy and consideration of expansion of the scope of emissions trading into the waste and domestic maritime sectors for example.

It also included proposals to further increase the ambition of the scheme and improve its operational effectiveness. Additionally, the consultation included calls for evidence on a number of potential future opportunities for scheme development, including the incorporation of greenhouse gas removals (GGRs) into the UK ETS, and on the monitoring, reporting and verification requirements required to address greenhouse gas emissions in the land use and agriculture sectors. It is important to note that further consultation will be required on the proposed expansion of the scope of the scheme prior to implementation. Further consultation exercises are planned for the domestic maritime, energy from waste/waste incineration, non-pipeline transport of carbon dioxide to permanent geological storage, and greenhouse gas removal sectors. A further equality screening exercise will be undertaken at that point to assess any impacts on S75 groups as a result of these further proposed developments.

This consultation was aimed at, and of particular interest to individual companies and representatives of industrial, power, aviation, maritime, waste, greenhouse gas removals and agricultural sectors. However, any organisation or individual was welcome to respond.

90 responses were received to the proposals covered in the initial UK ETS Authority response[[1]](#footnote-1) and in total, over 300 organisations responded to, provided feedback and were spoken to in relation to the consultation. These respondents represented a wide range of stakeholders from energy, industrial and aviation sectors; non-government organisations (NGOs); academia; advocacy groups; and the UK Climate Change Committee. No issues or concerns were raised in the responses to the consultation regarding the impact of these regulations on any of the Section 75 groups.

Public Bodies – Employee Data

The Northern Ireland Quarterly Employment Survey (NISRA)[[2]](#footnote-2), published in March 2024, estimated that there were 817,780 employee jobs in December 2023, including 224,070 public sector employee jobs and 593,150 private sector employee jobs. Across all employee employment data reported for December 2023, the Northern Ireland public sector made up 27.4% of all employee jobs in December 2023, while the private sector made up 72.5%.

The amendments will only impact a small portion of public and private sector employees, it has not been possible to extract reported data which applies only to those staff. However, the evidence and information presented below, which has been taken from reports and surveys that look at the public sector as a whole, is considered to be indicative for the purposes of this screening document.

**Religious belief** evidence/information:

Religious belief includes all major religions, as well as the less widely practised ones. The [2021 Census (nisra.gov.uk)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/system/files/statistics/census-2021-main-statistics-for-northern-ireland-phase-1-statistical-bulletin-religion.pdf#:~:text=On%20Census%20Day%202021%20just%20under%20one%20person,%2811.5%25%29%3B%20Methodist%20%282.4%25%29%3B%20Other%20Christian%20denominations%20%286.9%25%29%3B%20and), published in September 2022, stated that the population of Northern Ireland is now 1.9 million, and identified the main religions in Northern Ireland to be: Catholic (42.3%); Presbyterian (16.6%); Church of Ireland (11.5%); Methodist (2.3%); Other Christian denominations (6.9%); and Other religions (1.3%). The two main religious groups are Roman Catholic and Protestant.

The Equality Commission’s [Fair Employment Monitoring Report No.31 (equalityni.org)](https://www.equalityni.org/femonrep31.aspx?t=1), covering the 2020 monitoring rounds, presents an aggregated summary of 3,807 valid monitoring returns from public and private sectors, of which 105 were public authorities. The report indicated that in 2020, the share of the total public sector workforce represented by members of the Roman Catholic community [50.1%] was more than the Protestant share [49.9%].

The UK Government and Devolved Administrations carried out a public consultation on “Developing the UK ETS” between 25 March and 17 June 2022. This was a technical consultation dealing with amendments to the UK ETS to align with UKG and DA net zero objectives.

No responses were received to the consultation which would indicate the potential for the policy to have a direct disproportionate impact on groups with protected characteristics as defined in Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. This is because the policy is not expected to incur a direct cost on these groups, even if it becomes more environmentally ambitious.

Senior Official agreement has been secured, under the terms of the Northern Ireland (Executive Formation etc) Act 2022, to the policy positions set out in the Government Response to this consultation.

No other data is available but it is unlikely that the policy will have any direct impact on Section 75 groups.

**Political Opinion** evidence/information:

In Northern Ireland, the best way to ascertain political opinion (i.e. mainly nationalist or unionist) is through the elections. The [Northern Ireland Assembly Elections on 5th May 2022](https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9549/) give us an overall picture of political opinion across Northern Ireland where Sinn Fein became the first nationalist party to win the most seats overall in a Northern Ireland election, with 29% first preference votes. The Democratic Unionist Party lost seats, becoming the second largest party in the Assembly, with 21% of the votes, while the Alliance party became the third-largest party, receiving 13.5% of the votes. Ulster Unionist Party received 11% of the votes, Social Democratic and Labour Party 9%, Traditional Unionist Voice 7.6%, and all other parties 8% of the votes.

The most recent elections, the Northern Ireland local government elections held on 18th May 2023, saw Sinn Fein replicate its result in the 2022 Assembly elections, with 144 seats (30.9% of first preference votes). This was ahead of the Democratic Unionist Party who maintained their 122 seats (23.3%). Alliance increased its representation by winning 67 seats (13.3%), an increase of 14. The Ulster Unionist Party won 54 seats (10.9%), the SDLP 39 seats (8.7%), with smaller parties and independents taking the remaining 36 seats.

No views or responses collected during the pre-consultation engagement and/or the public consultation identified political opinion as a factor that might be impacted by the amendments to the UK ETS.

**Racial Group** evidence/information:

The 2021 Census gives us a picture of the different racial groups living in Northern Ireland. With a population of 1.9 million, the main racial group is white (96.6%), with the remaining 3.4% made up of Indian (0.52%), Chinese (0.50%), Black African (0.42%), Irish Travellers (0.14%), etc.

There was no data available, that looks at racial groups within the public sector in Northern Ireland. However, Ethnic Equality Monitoring (EEM) will soon become mandatory across all public and private sectors in Northern Ireland through new legislation. [Guidance for Ethnic Equality Monitoring in the Public Sector (executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk)](https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/ofmdfm_dev/ethnic-equality-monitoring-mar-2023.pdf) was published in March 2023 so that all NICS Departments can begin introducing EEM ahead of this impending legal obligation.

Within the UK, the [Office of National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/governmentpublicsectorandtaxes/publicspending/articles/whoworksinthepublicsector/2019-06-04) wrote an article in June 2019 exploring the demographics of the people who work in the public sector. The public sector reports the ethnicity of employees to be around 88% white, and 12% from another ethnic background. Variation in this, however, can be seen in the largest public sector occupations. For example, the proportion of doctors from minority ethnic backgrounds is three times higher than the UK workforce average (36% compared with 12% respectively), while the proportion of primary school teachers (7%) and police officers (5%) is below average. Social workers and nurse auxiliaries have an above average proportion of workers identifying as having a black ethnic background.

No views or responses collected during the pre-consultation engagement and/or the public consultation identified race as a factor that might be impacted by the amendments to the UK ETS.

**Age** evidence/information:

There was no data available, that looks at working age within the public sector in Northern Ireland. The [Office of National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/adhocs/10663occupationatuklevelbysectorindustryageandethnicity) produced tables in 2019 showing the number of UK workers in the public sector, by age-group. Their figures show that the majority of working age people are between the ages of 25 to 49 followed by those aged 50 to 64. For example, if we look at people employed as health professionals, 935,034 were aged 25-49; 404,854 were aged 50-64; 60,658 were aged 16-24; and 35,821 were 65 plus.

The [2021 Census](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/system/files/statistics/census-2021-main-statistics-for-northern-ireland-phase-1-statistical-bulletin-demography-and-households.pdf) presents data on the different age groups of the Northern Ireland population. The largest age groups are represented by people between the ages of 15 to 39 (31.2%) and 40 to 64 (32.4%). The data also shows that the proportion of children aged 0 to 14 (19.2%) is only marginally greater than the proportion of older adults aged 65 and over (17.2%).

No other views or responses collected during the pre-consultation engagement and/or the public consultation identified age as a factor that might be impacted by the amendments to the UK ETS.

**Marital Status** evidence/information:

There was no data available, that looks at marital status, within the public sector in Northern Ireland. However, the [Office of National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/adhocs/15222economicactivitystatusandsectorofworkersbyethnicitydisabilitymaritalstatusandreligionuk2021to2022) published tables in 2022 showing the number of UK workers in the public sector (i.e. 7.7M), by marital status. The majority of people working in the public sector are either married (52.38%) or are single (36.62%). A small percentage are divorced, widowed or in a civil partnership.

No views or responses collected during the pre-consultation engagement and/or the public consultation identified marital status as a factor that might be impacted by the amendments to the UK ETS.

**Sexual Orientation** evidence/information:

There was no data available, that looks at sexual orientation of employees within the public sector in Northern Ireland. The only information available on this S75 group is held within the [2021 Census (nisra.gov.uk)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/census/2021-census) which found 90.04% of the population of Northern Ireland identified as Straight or heterosexual, 1.17% identified as Gay or Lesbian, 0.75% identified as bisexual, 0.17% identified as Other Sexual Orientation, and 4.58% of residences of Northern Ireland preferred not to say with 3.30% not stating what their sexual orientations is.

There is, therefore, no evidence to suggest that the amendments to the UK ETS, will have any foreseeable direct impact on individuals as a result of their sexual orientation (i.e. bisexual people; heterosexual people; gay or lesbian people).

No views or responses collected during the pre-consultation engagement and/or the public consultation identified political opinion as a factor that might be impacted by the amendments to the UK ETS.

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

In Northern Ireland the 2021 Census showed that 51% of the population was female and 49% male. This greater share in the female population is also witnessed in the public sector workforce where a majority of female employees (65.9%) was reported in the Equality Commission’s [Fair Employment Monitoring Report No.31 equalityni.org)](https://www.equalityni.org/femonrep31.aspx?t=1).

No views or responses collected during the pre-consultation engagement and/or the public consultation identified gender as a factor that might be impacted by the amendments to the UK ETS.

**Disability** evidence/information:  
There is no data available, that looks specifically at disability in the workplace within the public sector in Northern Ireland. However, a research paper produced by the University of Ulster in 2022 titled [‘Maximising potential: A review of labour market outcomes for people with disabilities in Northern Ireland’](https://www.ulster.ac.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/1275811/Disability-and-the-labour-market.pdf) reported that there are 245,000 people in Northern Ireland living with a disability and just over one in three (36%) of them are currently in employment. This compares to an 80% employment rate for people without disabilities.

No views or responses collected during the pre-consultation engagement and/or the public consultation identified disability as a factor that might be impacted by the amendments to the UK ETS.

**Dependants** evidence/information:

There is no data available, that looks specifically at individuals with caring responsibilities (i.e. have dependents) in the workplace within the public sector in Northern Ireland.

No views or responses collected during the pre-consultation engagement and/or the public consultation identified dependents as a factor that might be impacted by the amendments to the UK ETS.

**Needs, experiences and priorities**

Taking into account the information referred to above, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories, in relation to the particular policy/decision?

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

***Religious belief***

N/A

***Political Opinion***

N/A

***Racial Group***

N/A

***Age***

N/A

***Marital status***

N/A

***Sexual orientation***

N/A

***Men and Women Generally***

N/A

***Disability***

N/A

***Dependants***

N/A

**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.

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

N/A

**What is the level of impact?**

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.

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

N/A

**What is the level of impact?**

As for “Religious belief” above.

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

N/A

**What is the level of impact?**

As for “Religious belief” above.

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

N/A

**What is the level of impact?**

As for “Religious belief” above.

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

N/A

**What is the level of impact?**

As for “Religious belief” above.

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

N/A

**What is the level of impact?**

As for “Religious belief” above.

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

N/A

**What is the level of impact?**

As for “Religious belief” above.

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

N/A

**What is the level of impact?**

As for “Religious belief” above.

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

N/A

**What is the level of impact?**

As for “Religious belief” above.

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

No

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

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

N/A

**If No, provide reasons:**

No, the policy is intended to reduce carbon emissions from industrial installations. It is likely to benefit the population in general. DAERA has not identified any opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity in terms of religious belief through this policy.

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

N/A

**If No, provide reasons:**

No, the policy is intended to reduce carbon emissions from industrial installations. It is likely to benefit the population in general. DAERA has not identified any opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity in terms of political opinion through this policy.

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

N/A

**If No, provide reasons:**

No, the policy is intended to reduce carbon emissions from industrial installations. It is likely to benefit the population in general. DAERA has not identified any opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity in terms of racial group through this policy.

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

N/A

**If No, provide reasons:**

No, the policy is intended to reduce carbon emissions from industrial installations. It is likely to benefit the population in general. DAERA has not identified any opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity in terms of age through this policy.

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

N/A

**If No, provide reasons**

No, the policy is intended to reduce carbon emissions from industrial installations. It is likely to benefit the population in general. DAERA has not identified any opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity in terms of marital status through this policy.

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

N/A

**If No, provide reasons:**

No, the policy is intended to reduce carbon emissions from industrial installations. It is likely to benefit population in general. DAERA has not identified any opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity in terms of sexual orientation through this policy.

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

N/A

**If No, provide reasons:**

No, the policy is intended to reduce carbon emissions from industrial installations. It is likely to benefit population in general. DAERA has not identified any opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity in terms of men and women generally through this policy.

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

N/A

**If No, provide reasons:**

No, the policy is intended to reduce carbon emissions from industrial installations. It is likely to benefit population in general. DAERA has not identified any opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity in terms of disability through this policy.

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

N/A

**If No, provide reasons:**

No, the policy is intended to reduce carbon emissions from industrial installations. It is likely to benefit population in general. DAERA has not identified any opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity in terms of dependants through this policy.

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*:**

The UK Government and Devolved Administrations carried out a public consultation on “Developing the UK ETS” between 25 March and 17 June 2022. This was a technical consultation dealing with amendments to the UK ETS to align with UKG and DA net zero objectives.

No responses were received to the consultation which would indicate the potential for the policy to have a direct disproportionate impact on groups with protected characteristics as defined in Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. This is because the policy is not expected to incur a direct cost on these groups, even if it becomes more environmentally ambitious.

Senior Official agreement was secured, in May 2023, under the terms of the Northern Ireland (Executive Formation etc) Act 2022, to the policy positions to be set out in the Government Response to this consultation.

No other data is available but it is unlikely that the policy will have any direct impact on Section 75 groups and it is unlikely to impact on good relations between people with different religious beliefs.

**What is the level of impact?**

None

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

The UK Government and Devolved Administrations carried out a public consultation on “Developing the UK ETS” between 25 March and 17 June 2022. This was a technical consultation dealing with amendments to the UK ETS to align with UKG and DA net zero objectives.

No responses were received to the consultation which would indicate the potential for the policy to have a direct disproportionate impact on groups with protected characteristics as defined in Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. This is because the policy is not expected to incur a direct cost on these groups, even if it becomes more environmentally ambitious.

Senior Official agreement was secured, in May 2023, under the terms of the Northern Ireland (Executive Formation etc) Act 2022, to the policy positions to be set out in the Government Response to this consultation.

No other data is available but it is unlikely that the policy will have any direct impact on Section 75 groups and it is unlikely to impact on good relations between people with different political opinions.

**What is the level of impact?**

None

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

The UK Government and Devolved Administrations carried out a public consultation on “Developing the UK ETS” between 25 March and 17 June 2022. This was a technical consultation dealing with amendments to the UK ETS to align with UKG and DA net zero objectives.

No responses were received to the consultation which would indicate the potential for the policy to have a direct disproportionate impact on groups with protected characteristics as defined in Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. This is because the policy is not expected to incur a direct cost on these groups, even if it becomes more environmentally ambitious.

Senior Official agreement was secured, in May 2023, under the terms of the Northern Ireland (Executive Formation etc) Act 2022, to the policy positions to be set out in the Government Response to this consultation.

No other data is available but it is unlikely that the policy will have any direct impact on Section 75 groups and it is unlikely to impact on good relations between people from different racial groups.

**What is the level of impact?**

None

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

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

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

N/A

**If No, provide reasons:**

There is unlikely to be any impact on good relations between people. This is because the policy is intended to contribute to carbon emission reduction and therefore there aren’t opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious beliefs.

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

N/A

**If No, provide reasons**

There is unlikely to be any impact on political opinion. This is because the policy is intended to contribute to carbon emission reduction and therefore there aren’t opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different political opinions.

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

N/A

**If No, provide reasons**

There is unlikely to be any impact on Racial Group. This is because the policy is intended to contribute to carbon emission reduction and therefore there aren’t opportunities to better promote good relations between people from different racial groups.

**Additional considerations**

**Multiple identity**

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

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

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

There is unlikely to be any impact on people with multiple identities that fall into more than one Section 75 category. This is because the policy is intended to contribute to carbon emission reduction.

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

Consideration of Disability Duties

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

The UK Emissions Trading Scheme (UK ETS) replaced the UK’s participation in the EU ETS on 1 January 2021. This policy is about the government’s commitment to reducing carbon emissions as part of the commitment made in the Paris agreement to reach zero emissions by 2050. When the scheme was established, the Authority committed to increasing the climate ambition of the scheme and consulted on a number of proposals to strengthen the ETS and align it with net zero targets. DAERA, as part of the UK ETS Authority along with the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) (now the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ)) and the other Devolved Administrations carried out a public consultation on “Developing the UK ETS” between 25th March and 17th June 2022. It sought stakeholder views on proposals to develop the UK ETS (e.g. whether they are appropriate, proportionate and workable for participants) to ensure that it drives emissions reductions towards net zero targets and continues to demonstrate the UK’s leadership on Carbon Pricing.

It is a ‘cap and trade’ system designed to encourage large scale industrial emitters of greenhouse gases (GHG) to reduce their CO2 emissions.

The scheme works by setting a cap on the total amount of Greenhouse Gases (GHG) that can be emitted by installations covered by the scheme. The scheme promotes carbon emissions reduction and investment in clean, low carbon technologies.

Therefore, it does not provide an opportunity for DAERA to better promote positive attitudes towards people with a disability.

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

The UK Emissions Trading Scheme (UK ETS) replaced the UK’s participation in the EU ETS on 1 January 2021. This policy is about the government’s commitment to reducing carbon emissions as part of the commitment made in the Paris agreement to reach net zero emissions by 2050. When the scheme was established, the Authority committed to increasing the climate ambition of the scheme and consulted on a number of proposals to strengthen the ETS and align it with net zero targets. DAERA, as part of the UK ETS Authority along with the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) (now the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ)) and the other Devolved Administrations carried out a public consultation on “Developing the UK ETS” between 25 March and 17 June 2022. It sought stakeholder views on proposals to develop the UK ETS (e.g. whether they are appropriate, proportionate and workable for participants) to ensure that it drives emissions reductions towards net zero targets and continues to demonstrate the UK’s leadership on Carbon Pricing.

It is a ‘cap and trade’ system designed to encourage large scale industrial emitters of greenhouse gases (GHG) to reduce their CO2 emissions. The scheme works by setting a cap on the total amount of Greenhouse Gases (GHG) that can be emitted by installations covered by the scheme. The scheme promotes carbon emissions reduction and investment in clean, low carbon technologies.

Therefore, it does not provide an opportunity for DAERA to actively increase the participation by disabled people in public life.

**Part 3. Screening decision** (Please delete as appropriate)

“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 UK Emissions Trading Scheme (UK ETS) replaced the UK’s participation in the EU ETS on 1 January 2021. This policy is about the government’s commitment to reducing carbon emissions as part of the commitment made in the Paris agreement to reach zero emissions by 2050. When the scheme was established, the Authority committed to increasing the climate ambition of the scheme and consulted on a number of proposals to strengthen the ETS and align it with net zero targets. DAERA, as part of the UK ETS Authority along with the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) (now the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ)) and the other Devolved Administrations carried out a public consultation on “Developing the UK ETS” between 25 March and 17 June 2022. It sought stakeholder views on proposals to develop the UK ETS (e.g. whether they are appropriate, proportionate and workable for participants) to ensure that it drives emissions reductions towards net zero targets and continues to demonstrate the UK’s leadership on Carbon Pricing.

It is a ‘cap and trade’ system designed to encourage large scale industrial emitters of greenhouse gases (GHG) to reduce their CO2 emissions.

The scheme works by setting a cap on the total amount of Greenhouse Gases (GHG) that can be emitted by installations covered by the scheme. The scheme promotes carbon emissions reduction and investment in clean, low carbon technologies.

It is unlikely to have any impacts on people in terms of their equality of opportunity, their rights as people with a disability or their human rights under the Human Rights Act 1998.

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

N/A – screened out. No need identified for mitigation or consideration of an alternative policy.

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

N/A

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

**Mitigation**

When the public authority concludes that the likely impact is ‘minor’ and an equality impact assessment is not to be conducted, the public authority may consider mitigation to lessen the severity of any equality impact, or the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity or good relations.

**Can the policy/decision be amended or changed or an alternative policy introduced to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations?**

**No,** 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.

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

**N/A**

**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?**

Yes

**If yes, please provide details.**

The policy (including implementation timelines) is affected by timetables established by the UK ETS Authority which includes representatives from Scottish Government, Welsh Government, UK Government and DAERA acting as equal partners. All Authority partners must agree to the design of the policy before implementation across the UK.

**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:**

The policy to reduce carbon emissions does not impact on equality. Following any review of the UK Emissions Trading Scheme in future, if a need is identified DAERA will endeavour to collect data.

**Good Relations:**

The policy to reduce carbon emissions does not impact on good relations. Following any review of the UK Emissions Trading Scheme in future, if a need is identified DAERA will endeavour to collect data.

**Disability Duties:**

The policy to reduce carbon emissions does not impact on disabilityduties. Following any review of the UK Emissions Trading Scheme in future, if a need is identified DAERA will endeavour to collect data.

**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 1 Article 1** | No |
| Right to education | **Protocol 1 Article 2** | No |
| Right to free and secret elections | **Protocol 1 Article 3** | No |

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

No adverse impacts on human rights have been identified.

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

None have been identified.

**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 –

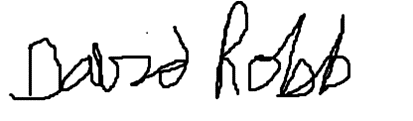
* I have explained any technical issues in plain English (easily understood by a 12 year old)
* I have used the most relevant, current & up to date data available
* I have added evidence and explained my assessments in full
* I have provided a brief note to justify my decision to ‘Screen In’ or ‘Screen 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:** David Robb **Grade:** Deputy Principal

**Branch:** Emissions Trading **Date:** 28/03/2024

**Signature:** please insert a scanned image of your signature

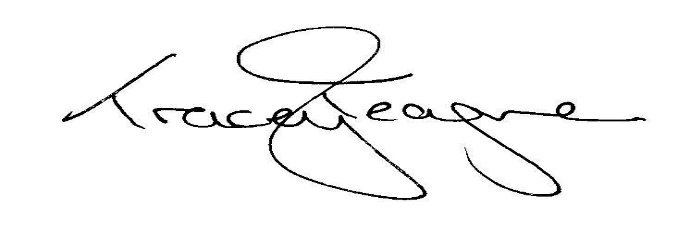
****

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

**Name:** Tracey Teague **Grade:** G3

**Branch:** CCSIG **Date: 3/4/24**

**Signature:** please insert a scanned image of your 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](mailto: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

Staff Engagement, Equality & Diversity Branch

Jubilee House

111 Ballykelly Road

LIMAVADY  
BT49 9HP

Email: [equality@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto: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

1. [developing-uk-ets-consultation-government-response.pdf (publishing.service.gov.uk)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1101633/developing-uk-ets-consultation-government-response.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [Quarterly Employment Survey statistical bulletin (nisra.gov.uk)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/system/files/statistics/publication-document-december-2023.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)