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

**Equality and Human Rights**

**Screening Template**

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

# Screening Template

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

Before carrying out an equality screening exercise it is important that you have received the necessary training first. To find out about the training needed, contact - equalitybranch@daera-ni.gov.uk. All screening exercises must be supported by evidence and cleared at Grade 3 level.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section A

Details about the policy / decision to be screened

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| --- |
| Title of policy / decision to be screened:- Rural Micro Capital Grant Scheme 2020 |

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| Brief description of policy / decision to be screened:-      The Rural Micro Capital Grant Scheme 2020 will provide micro capital grants (between £200 to £1,500) to community-led rural groups towards the cost of capital equipment, improvement of a capital asset or extending the useable life of a capital asset. Funding of £850,000 (£780k capital and £70k resource) will be provided through DAERA’s Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Programme budget 2020/21.  |

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| Aims and objectives of the policy / decision to be screened:-      The overall aim of this scheme is:- *“To contribute to reducing social isolation, access poverty and / or financial poverty within rural communities through the provision of a micro capital grant.”* The objectives of the scheme are:-**Objective 1:** Assist community-led, rural groups to address local issues of access poverty, financial poverty and social isolation.**Target 1.1:** To support at least 500 community-led, rural groups through the provision of a micro capital grant by 31 March 2021.**Objective 2:** To contribute to improving the lives of rural communities, and in particular the wellbeing of isolated individuals.**Target 2.1:** To contribute to improving the lives of an estimated 40,000 rural people (beneficiaries) by 31 March 2021.**Objective 3:** To demonstrate continued demand for the Scheme and from new groups in availing of the Rural Micro Capital Grant Scheme. **Target 3.1:** To support at least 60 **new** community-led, rural groups across the region through the provision of a micro capital grant by 31 March 2021. |

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

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| Are there linkages to other NI Departments / NDPBs? No. |

Section B

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Section 75 category  | Details of likely impact | Level of impact? Minor/Major/None |
| Religious belief | Neutral – therefore considered to have no impact on the equality of opportunity as regards religious belief | None |
| Political opinion  | Neutral – therefore considered to have no impact on equality of opportunity as regards political opinion | None |
| Racial group  | Neutral – therefore considered to have no impact on equality of opportunity as regards racial group | None |
| Age | Neutral – therefore considered to have no impact on equality of opportunity as regards age. | None |
| Marital status  | Neutral – therefore considered to have no impact on equality of opportunity as regards marital status | None |
| Sexual orientation | Neutral – therefore considered to have no impact on equality of opportunity as regards sexual orientation | None |
| Men and women generally  | Neutral – therefore considered to have no impact on equality of opportunity as regards men and women. | None |
| Disability | Neutral – therefore considered to have no impact on equality of opportunity as regards disability. | None |
| Dependents  | Neutral – therefore considered to have no impact on equality of opportunity as regards dependents. | None |

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Section 75 category**  | **If Yes, provide details**  | **If No, provide reasons** |
| **Religious belief** |  | This Scheme is neutral as regards people of different religious belief and consequently there is no opportunity to promote equality of opportunity.  |
| **Political opinion**  |  | This Scheme is neutral as regards people of different political opinion and consequently there is no opportunity to promote equality of opportunity.  |
| **Racial group**  |  | This Scheme is neutral as regards people of different racial groups and consequently there is no opportunity to promote equality of opportunity.  |
| **Age** |  | This Scheme is neutral as regards people of different age groups and consequently there is no opportunity to promote equality of opportunity.  |
| **Marital status** |  | This Scheme is neutral as regards people of different marital status and consequently there is no opportunity to promote equality of opportunity.  |
| **Sexual orientation** |  | This Scheme is neutral as regards people of different sexual orientation and consequently there is no opportunity to promote equality of opportunity.  |
| **Men and women generally**  |  | This Scheme is neutral as regards people of different gender and consequently there is no opportunity to promote equality of opportunity.  |
| **Disability** |  | This Scheme is neutral as regards people of different abilities and consequently there is no opportunity to promote equality of opportunity.  |
|  **Dependents** |  | This Scheme is neutral as regards people with dependents and consequently there is no opportunity to 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? What is the level of impact?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Good relations category**  | **Likely impact?**  | **Level of impact? Minor / Major / None**  |
| **Religious belief** | The Rural Micro Capital Grant Scheme is neutral as regards the impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group, so there is likely to be no impact.  | None |
| **Political opinion**  | As above | None |
| **Racial group** | As above | None |

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Good relations category** | **If Yes, provide details**  | **If No, provide reasons** |
| Religious belief | No | There is no opportunity in the Rural Micro Capital Grant Scheme to better promote good relations between people with different religious beliefs, political opinions or racial groups.  |
| Political opinion  | As above | As above |
| Racial group  | As above | As above |

**Available evidence**

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

For the RMCGS 2019, Equality Monitoring forms were issued electronically to all 718 successful applicants. 352 (49%) responded and these responses are summarized below (the number of responses are in brackets).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Section 75 category**  | **Details of evidence / information and engagement** |
| Religious belief  | Mostly members of the Protestant community (160) 45.45%Mostly members of the Catholic community (85) 24.15%Membership consisting of Protestants and Catholics (106) 30.11%Members of neither Protestant nor Catholic community (1) 0.28%  |
| Political opinion  | Mostly Nationalist (66) 18.75%Mostly Unionist (148) 42.05%Membership consisting of Protestants & Catholics (61) 17.33%No political preference (43) 12.22%Other 3 (0.85%) |
| Racial group  | White (351) 99.72%Mixed Race (1) 0.28% |
| Age  | Mostly 25 or under (94) 26.70%Mostly 26 - 65 (216) 61.36%Mostly Over 65 (42) 11.93% |
| Marital status  | Single, that is, never married or in civil partnership (87) 24.72%Married or in a civil partnership (239) 67.90%Divorced or legally dissolved civil partnership (1) 0.28%Widowed or a surviving partner from a same sex marriage (8) 2.27%Co-Habiting (3) 0.85%Other (14) 3.98% |
| Sexual orientation | Heterosexual / Straight (350) 99.43%Other (2) 0.57% |
| Men & women generally (organisation membership)  | Mostly Female (65) 18.47%Mostly Male (104) 29.55%Equal numbers of male and female (183) 51.99% |
| Disability | Majority of members have no disability (310) 88.07%Majority of Members have a disability (13) 3.69%No members with a disability (29) 8.24% |
| Dependents | A child (or children) (150) 42.61%A person with a disability (6) 1.70%A dependent elderly person (or persons) (24) 6.82%Other dependants (43) 12.22%No dependants (129) 36.65% |

The evidence presented above identifies that all Section 75 categories are availing of the Rural Micro Capital Grant Scheme, hence reflecting the neutrality of the Scheme.

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| **No evidence held? Outline how you will obtain it:** **N/A** |

Section C

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

Consideration of Disability Duties

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

|  |
| --- |
| No  |

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

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| --- |
| Yes – a number of funded projects will enhance participation in community activities by disabled people.  |

Consideration of Human Rights

7. The Human Rights Act (HRA) 1998 brings the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) into UK law and it applies in N Ireland. Indicate below (place an X in the appropriate box) any potential *adverse impacts* that the policy / decision may have in relation to human rights issues.

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

Consideration of Human Rights (cont.)

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

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| 9. **Please indicate any ways which you consider the policy positively promotes human rights** None |

**Monitoring Arrangements**

Section 75 places a requirement on DAERA to have equality monitoring arrangements in place in order to assess the impact of policies and services etc.; and to help identify barriers to fair participation and to better promote equality of opportunity.

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Equality**  |  **Good Relations** | **Disability Duties** |
| S75 data monitoring of the RMCGS will be carried out as outlined at 4 above for the RMCGS 2020.  | As aside | As aside |

Section D

Formal Record of Screening Decision

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| **Title of Proposed Policy / Decision being screened****Rural Micro Capital Grant Scheme 2020** |

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [x]  | equality of opportunity and good relations |
| [x]  | disabilities duties; and |
| [x]  | human rights issues |

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

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

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [x]  | \***Screened Out** – No EQIA necessary (no impacts)Provide a brief note here to explain how this decision was reached:* The screening exercise has established that it is highly unlikely for Section 75 categories to be adversely impacted on as a result of the Rural Micro Capital Grant Scheme 2020.
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|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [ ]  | \* **Screened Out -** Mitigating Actions (minor impacts)Provide a brief note here to explain how this decision was reached: * Describe clearly the mitigating actions and / or policy changes that will now be introduced
* Explain how these actions will address the inequalities:
 |

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

|  |
| --- |
| **Screening assessment completed by (Staff Officer level or above) -** |
| Name: Ronan McAteer | Grade: SO |
|  | Date: 21/9/2020 |
| Branch: Rural Affairs Division - West |

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| **Screening decision approved by (must be Grade 3 or above) -** |
| Name:  | Grade:  |
|  | Date:  |
| Branch: Rural Affairs Division - West |

Please save the final signed version of the completed screening form in the TRIM container below as soon as possible after completion and forward the TRIM link to Equality Branch at equalitybranch@daera-ni.gov.uk. The screening form will be placed on the DAERA website and a link provided to the Department’s Section 75 consultees.



For more information about equality screening, contact –

DAERA Equality Branch equalitybranch@daera-ni.gov.uk.

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1. ECNI ‘Section 75 of the NI Act 1998: A Guide for Public Authorities’ April 2010. [www.equalityni.org](http://www.equalityni.org) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)