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

**Equality and Human Rights**

**Screening Template**

November 2017



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

# Screening Template

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section A

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

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| --- |
| Title of policy / decision to be screened:- The Nitrates Action Programme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019. |

|  |
| --- |
| Brief description of policy / decision to be screened:-.  The Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) (the Directive) aims to improve water quality by protecting water against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources. In particular, it promotes better management of animal manures, chemical nitrogen fertilisers and other nitrogen-containing material spread onto land.  The Directive is implemented in Northern under the Nitrates Action Programme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 (the 2014 NAP Regulations). The 2014 NAP Regulations are supported by the Phosphorus (Use in Agriculture) Regulations 2014 (The P Regulations). The 2014 NAP and P Regulations are an existing policy area. In accordance with the 2014 NAP Regulations, a review of the current Action Programme has been carried out by a joint DAERA/AFBI Scientific Working Group. As result of this review, the Department proposes to repeal the 2014 NAP and P Regulations and replace them with the Nitrates Action Programme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 (the 2019 NAP Regulations), to implement the Nitrates Action Programme for 2019 – 2022.  The 2019 Regulations will apply to all farms in Northern Ireland, as was the case with the 2014 NAP Regulations. The aim is to provide continued protection to the aquatic environment through the revision of the current action programme which aims to reduce nutrient pollution from agricultural sources. |

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| Aims and objectives of the policy / decision to be screened:- The new regulations repeal the existing provisions in place to implement the Nitrates Action Programme for 2014 – 2018 and implement the revised NAP for 2019 - 2022.  The new regulations will implement a revised Nitrates Action Programme for 2019 – 2022, which aims to reduce nutrient pollution from agricultural sources and provide continued protection to the aquatic environment. |

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| **On whom will the policy / decision impact?**  Consider the internal and external impacts (both actual or potential)  Staff – new guidance, monitoring and awareness to industry of the regulations    service users  rural community – improved water quality  other public sector organisations  voluntary / community groups / trade unions – Ulster Farmer Union, will be consulted as part of the process as representatives for the Agricultural industry.  others, please specify – These regulations will primarily affect Agricultural industry. |

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

Section B

**Available evidence**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Section 75 category** | **Details of evidence or information and engagement** |
| **Religious belief** | The 2011 census of Northern Ireland found that the population of Northern Ireland is 44.6% of Protestant belief, 43.7% of Roman Catholic belief and 11.7 % share neither belief.  The 2001 ‘Farmers and Families in Northern Ireland’ survey data[[3]](#footnote-3) indicates that amongst farmers 54% are of Protestant belief and 44% of Roman Catholic belief.  The proposed Regulations will implement a revised Nitrates Action Programme to protect and improve the water environment across Northern Ireland. This benefit will accrue to Northern Ireland as a whole regardless of an individual’s Religious belief.  The Department has not received any responses to the 2019 Nitrates Action Programme (NAP) consultation to indicate that the NAP Regulations create any inequality based on religious belief. |
| **Political opinion** | Comments at Religious belief above apply. |
| **Racial group** | The 2001 ‘Farmers and Families in Northern Ireland’ survey data indicates that the farming population is overwhelming white and there is no difference in racial group by size or type of farm. Due to historic land ownership patterns in Northern Ireland, land is passed down through generations. There is no difference in racial group by type or size of farm.  It is more likely that those from an ethnic minority may work on a farm to which the NAP Regulations may apply.  The proposed Regulations will implement a revised Nitrates Action Programme to protect and improve the water environment across Northern Ireland. This benefit will accrue to Northern Ireland as a whole regardless of an individual’s racial group.  The Department did not receive any responses to the 2019 Nitrates Action Programme (NAP) consultation to indicate that the NAP Regulations create any inequality based on racial group. |
| **Age** | The 2011 Census of Northern Ireland found that over 98% of the population state their ethnic origin as white.  According to the 2001 ‘Farmers and Families in Northern Ireland’ survey data (table 3.1.3), the age range of farmers in regards to the size of farm shows that 24% of farmers are in the age brackets 35-45 and 45-55, there is 16% under age 35 and again over 65. On larger farms there is a likelihood of at least two farmers being employed, often a father and son spanning two generations.  The 2016 EU Farm Structure Survey[[4]](#footnote-4) indicates that the median age for farmers in Northern Ireland was 58 years. In regards to the age brackets this survey indicates that only 6% are aged under 35, with 24% of farmers being in both the 45-54 and 55-64 age brackets. It should be noted that this data relates only to the principle farmer.  The proposed Regulations will implement a revised Nitrates Action Programme to protect and improve the water environment across Northern Ireland. This benefit will accrue to Northern Ireland as a whole regardless of an individual’s age.  The Department did not receive any responses to the 2019 Nitrates Action Programme (NAP) consultation to indicate that the NAP Regulations create any inequality based on age. |
| **Marital status** | The 2001 ‘Farmers and Families in Northern Ireland’ survey data[[5]](#footnote-5) showed that around 73% of all farmers are married and living with a partner.  The proposed Regulations will implement a revised Nitrates Action Programme to protect and improve the water environment across Northern Ireland. This benefit will accrue to Northern Ireland as a whole regardless of an individual’s marital status.  The Department did not receive any responses to the 2019 Nitrates Action Programme (NAP) consultation to indicate that the NAP Regulations create any inequality based on marital status. |
| **Sexual orientation** | Equality monitoring gathered from some agri-environment scheme participants indicate that 95% of those participants are heterosexual. However, it is important to note that there has never been a specific survey on the sexual orientation on farmers in Northern Ireland. Therefore there are no formal statistics available.  The 2001 ‘Farmers and Families in Northern Ireland’ survey indicated that it wasn’t thought possible to obtain this information through the survey.  The proposed Regulations will implement a revised Nitrates Action Programme to protect and improve the water environment across Northern Ireland. This benefit will accrue to Northern Ireland as a whole regardless of an individual’s sexual orientation.  The Department did not receive any responses to the 2019 Nitrates Action Programme (NAP) consultation to indicate that the NAP Regulations create any inequality based on sexual orientation. |
| **Men & women generally** | The 2018 Agricultural Census[[6]](#footnote-6) indicated that 92% of farmers where male.  In the same census it indicated 2,300 female farmers, of which 69.5% were recorded as part-time farmers. The census also indicated that 6,600 farmers’ spouses were working on the farm of which 71% are part-time.  The proposed Regulations will implement a revised Nitrates Action Programme to protect and improve the water environment across Northern Ireland. This benefit will accrue to Northern Ireland as a whole regardless of an individual’s gender.  The Department did not receive any responses to the 2019 Nitrates Action Programme (NAP) consultation to indicate that the NAP Regulations create any inequality based on gender. |
| **Disability** | The 2001 ‘Farmers and Families in Northern Ireland’ survey indicated that 26% of farm workers (27% of farmers) suffered from a long term illness or disability which limited their activities.  The proposed Regulations will implement a revised Nitrates Action Programme to protect and improve the water environment across Northern Ireland. This benefit will accrue to Northern Ireland as a whole regardless of disability.  The Department did not receive any responses to the 2019 Nitrates Action Programme (NAP) consultation to indicate that the NAP Regulations create any inequality based on having a disability.  Guidance material in relation to the regulations will be made available in different formats. |
| **Dependants** | The 2001 ‘Farmers and Families in Northern Ireland’ survey found that almost three-quarters of households supported by family farms included one or more dependent. It states that there was no indication of any significant difference by either type or size of farm.  The proposed Regulations will implement a revised Nitrates Action Programme to protect and improve the water environment across Northern Ireland. This benefit will accrue to Northern Ireland as a whole regardless of having dependants.  The Department did not receive any responses to the 2019 Nitrates Action Programme (NAP) consultation to indicate that the NAP Regulations create any inequality based on having dependants. |

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

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** | None, see available evidence. | None |
| **Political opinion** | None, see available evidence. | None |
| **Racial group** | None, see available evidence. | None |
| **Age** | None, see available evidence. | None |
| **Marital status** | None, see available evidence. | None |
| **Sexual orientation** | None, see available evidence. | None |
| **Men and women generally** | None, see available evidence. | None |
| **Disability** | None, see available evidence. | None |
| **Dependants** | None, see available evidence. | 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** |  | No, see available evidence. |
| **Political opinion** |  | No, see available evidence. |
| **Racial group** |  | No, see available evidence. |
| **Age** |  | No, see available evidence. |
| **Marital status** |  | No, see available evidence. |
| **Sexual orientation** |  | No, see available evidence. |
| **Men and women generally** |  | No, see available evidence. |
| **Disability** |  | No, see available evidence. |
| **Dependants** |  | No, see available evidence. |

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Good relations category** | **Likely impact?** | **Level of impact? Minor/Major/None** |
| **Religious belief** | None, the proposed regulations are continued policy implementing the Nitrates Directive in Northern Ireland. The policy is technical in nature, concerning management of manures and chemical fertilisers to protect the water environment. This is independent of any religious belief. | None |
| **Political opinion** | None, the proposed regulations are continued policy implementing the Nitrates Directive in Northern Ireland. The policy is technical in nature, concerning management of manures and chemical fertilisers to protect the water environment. This is independent of any political opinion. | None |
| **Racial group** | None, the proposed regulations are continued policy implementing the Nitrates Directive in Northern Ireland. The policy is technical in nature, concerning management of manures and chemical fertilisers to protect the water environment. This is independent of any racial group. | None |

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Good relations category** | **If Yes, provide details** | **If No, provide reasons** |
| **Religious belief** |  | No, the proposed regulations are continued policy implementing the Nitrates Directive in Northern Ireland. The policy is technical in nature, concerning management of manures and chemical fertilisers to protect the water environment.  This is independent of any religious belief. |
| **Political opinion** |  | No, the proposed regulations are continued policy implementing the Nitrates Directive in Northern Ireland. The policy is technical in nature, concerning management of manures and chemical fertilisers to protect the water environment.  This is independent of any political opinion. |
| **Racial group** |  | No, the proposed regulations are continued policy implementing the Nitrates Directive in Northern Ireland. The policy is technical in nature, concerning management of manures and chemical fertilisers to protect the water environment.  This is independent of any racial group. |

Section C

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

Consideration of Disability Duties

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

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| **Explain your assessment in full**  The proposed Regulations are a continuation of existing policy which is technical in nature to implement the Nitrates Directive in Northern Ireland and protect the water environment. This policy does not impact adversely on people with disabilities and there are no opportunities to promote positive attitudes as a result. |

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

|  |
| --- |
| **Explain your assessment in full**  The proposed Regulations are a continuation of existing policy which is technical in nature to implement the Nitrates Directive in Northern Ireland and protect the water environment. This policy does not impact adversely on people with disabilities and there are no opportunities to increase the participation of people with disabilities in public life as a result. |

Consideration of Human Rights

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

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

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

Consideration of Human Rights (cont)

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| --- |
| 8. **Please explain any adverse impacts on human rights that you have identified** The proposed Regulations are a continuation of existing policy which is technical in nature to implement the Nitrates Directive in Northern Ireland and protect the water environment. No adverse impact on human rights have been identified. |

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| 9. **Please indicate any ways which you consider the policy positively promotes human rights** The proposed Regulations are a continuation of existing policy which is technical in nature to implement the Nitrates Directive in Northern Ireland and protect the water environment. The policy does not create any opportunity to promote human rights. |

**Monitoring Arrangements**

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

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

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

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Equality** | **Good Relations** | **Disability Duties** |
| Equality Screening data is collected annually as part of the Agricultural Census, and every 3 years for the EU Farm Structure Survey this information is published on the Department’s website.  The Department also collects Section 75 monitoring data annually from the Single Application Form. | See comments under Equality.  The proposed Regulations apply across the farming industry and the policy does not adversely impact on any of the identified groups. | See comments under Equality.  The proposed Regulations apply across the farming industry and the policy does not adversely impact on people with disabilities.  The Department will also ensure that documentation and guidance in relation to the regulations are available in different formats. |

Section D – Summary Sheet

Formal Record of Screening Decision

|  |
| --- |
| **Title of Proposed Policy / Decision being screened** The Nitrates Action Programme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019. |

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

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

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

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

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | \***Screened Out** – No EQIA necessary (no impacts)  Provide a brief note here to explain how this decision was reached:   * The proposed Regulations are a continuation of policy which is technical in nature, implementing the Nitrates Directive in Northern Ireland. The aim of these regulations is to manage manures and chemical fertilisers to protect and improve the water environment. The impact and benefits of the Regulations will accrue to Northern Ireland as whole and therefore will have no adverse effect on any of the relevant groups, organisations or individuals. |

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

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

# Screening Checklist

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

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

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

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

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

**Yes. Cleared by Equality Unit on 20 March 2019.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Screening assessment completed by (Staff Officer level or above) -** | |
| Name: Siobhan Bowers | Grade: DP |
|  | Date: 20 March 2019 |
| Branch: Environmental Farming Branch | |

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Screening decision approved by (must be Grade 3 or above) -** | |
| Name: David Small | Grade: 3 |
|  | Date: 22 March 2019 |
| Branch: EMFG | |

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

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

Old Library Building  
County Hall  
Coleraine  
BT51 3HS

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

Tel: 028 7034 1253

**November 2017**



**Annex A**

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

***Article 2***

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

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

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

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

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

***Article 3***

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

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

***Article 4***

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

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

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

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

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

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

***Article 5***

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

***Article 6***

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

***Article 7***

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

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

***Article 8***

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

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

***Article 9***

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

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

***Article 10***

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

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

***Article 11***

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

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

***Article 12***

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

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

***Article 14***

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

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

**Protocol 1**

***Article 1***

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

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

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

**Protocol 1**

***Article 2***

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

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

**Protocol 1**

***Article***

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

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

1. ECNI ‘Section 75 of the NI Act 1998: A Guide for Public Authorities’ April 2010. [www.equalityni.org](http://www.equalityni.org) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Should be easily understood by a 12 year old. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [Farmers and Farm Families in Northern Ireland](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dard/farmers-and-farm-families-in-northern-ireland.pdf), Results of a Social Survey of Farmers and Farm Families conducted in 2001/02. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. [2016 EU Farm Structure Survey](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/daera/17.18.088%20EU%20Farm%20Structure%20Survey%202016%20V2.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. [Farmers and Farm Families in Northern Ireland](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dard/farmers-and-farm-families-in-northern-ireland.pdf), Results of a Social Survey of Farmers and Farm Families conducted in 2001/02. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. [The Agricultural Census in Northern Ireland 2018](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/daera/16.17.214%20The%20Agricultural%20Census%20in%20NI%202016%20final_0.PDF) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)