# A4 DAERA Logo process.png

**Equality & Disability Duties**

**Screening Template**

**Climate Change**

**Act (Northern Ireland)**

**2022**

# **Screening flowchart and template**

# **(Source: 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**

The Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022

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

New policy in the form of primary legislation for Northern Ireland.

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

The Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 delivers on the New Decade New Approach (NDNA) commitments in regard to bringing forward local climate change legislation. The Act aims to set out a high level legislative framework for tackling climate change in Northern Ireland, through the setting of a net zero[[1]](#footnote-1) by 2050 target with associated interim net targets for the years 2040 and 2030 for overall greenhouse gases[[2]](#footnote-2) (GHG). By doing so, the Act is a local legislative driver for actions to reduce overall net GHG emissions across all sectors in Northern Ireland, and by meeting this net zero by 2050 target it is hoped it will end Northern Ireland’s contribution to global climate change.

The Act sets a duty for all Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) departments to collectively meet the net zero by 2050 target and the associated interim targets, and the five yearly carbon budgets. The carbon budgets are caps on the amounts of net GHGs allowed to be emitted in Northern Ireland over a five year period, and they are stepping stones to the interim and long term emissions reduction targets. The Act however, does not set out what the required NICS departments’ policies and actions are nor what they should look like, in order to meet these targets and the carbon budgets. Each NICS department within their remit is required to identify, develop and implement their appropriate policies and actions in order to meet their requirements and objectives under the Act.

The Act requires departments chosen policies and proposals to meet the emissions reduction targets and the carbon budgets to be published in five yearly consecutive Climate Action Plans (CAPs). The Act also requires the CAPs to set other specified environmental targets (annual GHG targets, and biodiversity targets, soil and air quality targets). In addition, the Act requires relevant departments to develop and publish sectoral plans, for their relevant sectors, and as specified in the Act. These must contain the relevant department’s plans for setting out how the emissions reduction targets under the Act will be achieved by the sector. The CAPs in addition are also required to contain proposals and policies for specified sectors which will meet the carbon budgets. Certain departments also have additional specified requirements and targets under the Act to be met through their associated sectoral plans e.g. Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) must ensure that at least 70% of waste is recycled by 2030. The Act also gives specified powers to certain departments to make future subordinate legislation such as those which will require public bodies to report on climate change, and also to create a carbon units accounting scheme if needed, etc. The Act also contains a reporting and independent oversight regimes on elements relating to the implementation of the Act.

Tackling climate change is a long term and a continually evolving challenge. The Act therefore aims to enable a progressive and adaptable framework over time for tackling climate change in Northern Ireland. It does this through various provisions, and by way of one example through the requirement of the publication of five yearly CAPs. By way of another example, there are powers to make subordinate legislation to amend the Act in light of independent expert advice, and/or changes due to significant developments in United Kingdom or international law or policy, scientific knowledge about climate change or technology relevant to climate change.

**This document is a high level screening document. It relates only to the Act** and not the carbon budgets, CAPs, sectoral plans, nor the polices and actions to be chosen and developed by the relevant departments to meet their requirements of the Act. Separate equality screening and impact assessments on these will be carried out as and when appropriate by the relevant departments. At the time of publication of this screening document, the first of the five year CAPs to deliver on the first carbon budget, is under development and is expected to be finalised and laid before the Assembly before the end of 2023. The first three carbon budgets for the years 2023-2027, 2028-2031 and 2031-2035 which are stepping stones to and must be consistent with meeting the emissions targets, are expected to be laid before the Assembly before the end of 2023. The sectoral plans required under the Act are also under development and are expected to be published along with the first CAP (i.e. before end of 2023). Equality screening and impact assessments for these as relevant and appropriate will be made available in due course.

The overall aim of the Act is also to achieve a greener and net zero GHG emissions sustainable economy and society in Northern Ireland through a just transition by setting statutory just transition requirements on departments. The Act also contains provisions which will contribute to increasing climate resilience and adaptability in Northern Ireland across all sectors. It also supplements Northern Ireland’s climate change requirements under the UK Climate Change Act 2008 including ensuring that Northern Ireland makes a contribution to the achievement of the UK-wide net zero by 2050 target.

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

**If so, explain how.**

Meeting the requirements of the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 will likely bring economic, social, and environmental benefits to all members of the Northern Ireland public including those within any Section 75 categories, through expected and many co-benefits. By way of example, the policies and actions required and chosen by departments to meet the Act’s emissions reduction targets could:

improve air quality (reducing GHGs can reduce the risk of smog and air pollution);

encourage and enable healthier ways of travelling (e.g. reducing carbon footprint by walking or cycling instead of taking the car);

introduce policies to make more comfortable and efficient homes and workplaces (e.g. better heating and insulation); and

better quality diets (e.g. result in behavioural change to buy more locally produced food with a low carbon footprint, and/or also encourage more plant based diets).

Depending on the policies and actions chosen and implemented by the relevant NICS departments to meet their requirements of the Act, other specific potential opportunities and benefits across Section 75 categories may also include such examples as (although the below list is not an exhaustive list):

the creation of new green jobs bringing opportunities for reskilling and retraining that is expected to benefit people of working age, people with disabilities and people from minority ethnic groups;

more energy efficient homes, reducing energy costs and helping to tackle fuel poverty will likely benefit groups such as the elderly population (aged 65+), disabled people, households with young or dependents and people in ethnic minority households; and

a move to cleaner sources of heat, electric vehicles and hydrogen power in public transport, as well as encouraging people to walk and cycle as an alternative mode of transport, will likely bring benefit to those with disabilities related to respiratory conditions through improved air quality.

The Act does not identify what policies or actions are required by departments, to deliver on their requirements under the Act. However, the Act does require that all NICS departments consider and apply the specified just transition principle set out in the Act. The required application by NICS departments of the just transition principle under the Act during policy development and related decisions will contribute to and ensure that the benefits of the chosen policies and actions to deliver on their requirements under the Act, are shared widely and equitably across Northern Ireland where possible. Also, it will contribute to ensuring where possible that the impacts and outcomes of these proposals, policies and plans are fair, leaving no one behind and providing equal opportunities for all, including those in Section 75 categories.

The NICS departments application and implementation of the Act’s statutory just transition principle will be overseen by the establishment of an independent Just Transition Commission who will also provide a just transition advisory role to the departments as required by the Act. As such, this will further enable and drive mitigation against unfair impacts, and enable the fair sharing of benefits across Section 75 categories and all sectors and peoples of Northern Ireland. The establishment under the Act of a Just Transition Fund for Agriculture will also benefit those Section 75 categories who depend on, and work in agriculture.

**Who initiated or wrote the policy?**

The DAERA Minister Edwin Poots MLA initiated the policy, and instructed his departmental officials to bring forward a Climate Change Bill for introduction to the Northern Ireland Assembly in order to deliver on the requirements of the NDNA in that regard. During the Bill’s legislative passage in the Assembly, prior to it being agreed to become an Act, a number of amendments were agreed (107 amendments) by the Assembly to the Bill as introduced. The agreed amendments to the Bill as introduced included those put forward by Members of the legislative Assembly, and also ministerial amendments by DAERA Minister Edwin Poots (drafted by NICS legislation drafting experts with input from his departmental officials).

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

All Northern Ireland departments are collectively responsible and have a duty to meet as specified the targets and objectives set within the Act that fall within their remit, including the net zero by 2050 target and associated interim targets. DAERA leads on the policy areas under the Act that falls within its remit. They are also the specified lead department under the Act on behalf of the Northern Ireland Executive/all other NICS departments in regards to coordinating reporting, drafting the five yearly CAPs, and bringing forward the majority of the secondary legislation, etc. which is required under the Act. Other Northern Ireland departments (The Executive Office, Department for the Economy, Department of Infrastructure, etc.) also have a range of separate specific duties and functions under the Act, such as development of specific sectoral plans by way of one example.

**Implementation factors**

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

Yes.

**If yes, are they (please delete as appropriate)**

**Financial –** There will be financial costs associated with the implementation of the Act, and costs will depend on the future emissions reduction pathways, policies, proposals and actions chosen by Northern Ireland as a whole to meet the objectives and targets of the Act.

The Act is required as a legislative driver to ensure appropriate, sufficient and timely action is undertaken to effectively tackle climate change and its impacts via a just transition. Without local legislation with embedded statutory GHG emissions reduction targets to provide a legal structure to drive and manage concerted local climate action there may be insufficient incentive and clarity for Northern Ireland to make the required transitions/actions, and attract the required green investment in a timely manner, so to achieve a net zero emissions and sustainable economy. In addition, in the absence of such local legislation with statutory targets, there is a risk to continuity of climate action as a result of the possibility that local policies, ambitions and commitments which tackle climate change and its challenges, could be rolled back or implementation stalled, or they could be changed negatively with a change in government administration.

Also, avoidable delays to action on tackling climate change may increase global climate change risk, increase uncertainty for businesses, investors and households locally, and lead to unnecessary costs to Northern Ireland in the future. It could also lead to Northern Ireland missing out on some potential benefits of climate change action, and sustainability and green investment that takes/will take place elsewhere in the UK. Unnecessarily delaying appropriate and timely climate change intervention also risks making those required actions more costly, the impact of which would be exacerbated by having less time over which to spread the elevated costs. Furthermore, without strong local legislative drivers on climate change in Northern Ireland, there is a risk that the statutory UK-wide net zero by 2050 target under the UK Climate Change Act 2008 will not be met through sufficient and timely Northern Ireland action. Therefore, although the existing financial factors exist in terms of the Act, they are not considered to detract from the aims of the Act.

**Legislative -** The policy is in the form of new primary climate change legislation for Northern Ireland. There will be legislative implications as there are stated requirements in the Act to bring forward new subordinate legislation by certain departments, and enabling clauses which allow other new subordinate legislation to be made if required. Also, there will be new further policy development requirements for various NICS departments due their duties and requirements set under the Act. It will also be for each NICS department to decide whether they need to bring forward further legislation, if there is not a specific requirement already by the Act, in order to carry out the implementation of their duties and to meet their requirements under the Act.

**other, please specify** The Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 will be a legislative driver for climate change action to both tackle climate change and address its impacts. Action to deliver on the requirements of the Act will be required across all areas of the economy and across all Northern Ireland sectors. Success in meeting the targets and aims of this Act may depend on some external factors in which Northern Ireland policy impacts and powers will have a level of limitation, such as, for example innovation progress and cost (e.g. new green technologies), level and nature of societal / behaviour changes, unilateral agreements and actions etc. Also, climate change is a global phenomenon and how other countries address climate change will contribute to the positive and or negative effects on Northern Ireland and its citizens, and it may also impact Northern Ireland’s level of success in meeting climate change aims and objectives of the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022.

**Main stakeholders affected**

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

Implementation of the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 will likely impact all sectors and everyone in Northern Ireland. Action to tackle climate change will be required across all sectors, and it may also require people behaviour change. However, the policies and actions chosen, developed and implemented by all of the NICS departments going forward to meet their requirements of the Act will determine where, and the level of, the exact impacts on Northern Ireland society, its sectors and its people.

At the time of publication of this document it is not known what policies and actions will be developed and/or chosen to be taken forward by the departments within their remit, to meet the requirements of this cross-cutting legislation. The Act does not specify what these policies and actions should be nor what they should look like. However, each department as relevant and as part of normal government processes, will identify the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that their particular chosen policy and action to meet their duties/requirements of the Act will impact upon, during their policy development. This also applies to the development of the carbon budgets, CAPs, sectoral plans, and any future subordinate legislation made under the Act.

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

* **What are they?** The UK Climate Act 2008, UK-wide legislation which extends to Northern Ireland, and which sets out the current legislative framework for the UK tackling climate change and addressing its impacts. The Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 being screened will supplement Northern Ireland’s requirements under the UK Act 2008.
* **Who owns them?** UK Government

**Available evidence**

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

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

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

The Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 sets a high level legislative framework to tackle climate change across Northern Ireland. It is the duty of all NICS departments as appropriate and within their remit, to meet the targets and requirements of the Act through the application of appropriate and timely policies and actions, including through the implementation of five yearly carbon budgets, five yearly CAPs, and sectoral plans. The Act itself however, does not specify what the departments’ policies and actions are nor what they should look like, so to meet their requirements under the Act. Due to this unknown, the evidence and data to inform the Section 75 categories for the Act itself is therefore currently limited. However, as part of normal government processes, NICS departments will as appropriate and as relevant, identify and consider Section 75 categories evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative, and including through public consultation) during the development of their chosen future policies and actions to meet their duties/requirements of the Act. This includes also, during the development of the future carbon budgets, CAPs, sectoral plans and any other future subordinate legislation made under the Act.

At the time of publication of this screening document, the first of the five year CAPs to deliver on the first carbon budget, is under development and is expected to be finalised and laid before the Assembly before the end of 2023. The first three carbon budgets for the years 2023-2027, 2028-2031 and 2031-2035 which are stepping stones to, and must be consistent with, meeting the emissions targets are expected to be laid before the Assembly before the end of 2023. The sectoral plans required under the Act are also under development and are expected to be published along with the first CAP (i.e. before end of 2023). Therefore, the relevant evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) on the Section 75 categories is currently being/or will shortly be collected and considered for these by the relevant departments.

**Consultation**

An eight week public consultation was carried out between December 2020 and February 2021 on a high level Discussion Document on a Climate Change Bill to part-inform what policy a Climate Change Act could contain prior to the development of the climate change legislation itself. The discussion document did not introduce any new policies nor did it provide such policy in a draft format, and therefore specific Section 75 data was not collected in that regard. It was recorded however, the majority of respondents to the consultation were aged between 40 and 59 (45% of responses received). However, DAERA did consult widely with the public, and representatives from all sectors, including representatives and groups from Section 75 categories. Respondents to the consultation were afforded opportunity to put forward any data or information they felt relevant and/or important for consideration in the future development of the policy of the climate change legislation. All details of responses were mapped, and considered by DAERA, and it part-informed the policy of the Act.

Due to the urgency and very challenging time constraints to deliver on the NDNA commitments in regard to bringing forward climate change legislation, it was not possible to carry out a further consultation on the draft legislation itself prior to its introduction to the Assembly so to collect further Section 75 data through that means. Also, a number of policy elements currently within the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 were brought forward as amendments by Members of the Legislative Assembly and they were Assembly-agreed (107 agreed amendments) during its legislative passage. Such amendments included provisions for the Just Transition Principle, Just Transition Commissioner and the Just Transition Fund for Agriculture requirements. It therefore, has not been possible for the DAERA to publically consult and gather Section 75 data on these particular policy elements of the Act which were inserted due to these agreed amendments. However, as stated above, departments will as appropriate and as relevant identify and consider Section 75 categories evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) for their particular chosen future policies and actions (to meet their duties of the Act) during their development, including as well during the development of carbon budgets, CAPs, sectoral plans and any other required subordinate legislation made under the Act. The relevant departments will as appropriate gather this Section 75 information through a public consultation means to inform these new policies development.

**Current GHG status**

The [Northern Ireland greenhouse gas inventory](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/northern-ireland-greenhouse-gas-inventory) for 2020 found the largest sectors in Northern Ireland in terms of GHG emissions were agriculture (27%), transport (16%) residential (14%) and energy supply (14%). These sectors will all require a marked reduction in emissions in order to meet the long term targets of the Act.

Agriculture was the biggest emitting sector in 2020 but it is also one of Northern Ireland’s most important industries with nearly 50% of all agri-food products produced in Northern Ireland consumed in the rest of the UK and, is therefore, a significant element of the local economy, with livestock, i.e. beef and dairy, dominating the sector. This is reflected in the high proportion of grassland in Northern Ireland and low proportion of cropland (79% compared to 4.4% respectively reported in the ‘[Agricultural Census in Northern Ireland – Results for June 2021](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/agricultural-census-northern-ireland-2021)’). The independent UK statutory Climate Change Committee (CCC) in providing expert and independent evidence and advice in their UK [6th Carbon Budget report](https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/sixth-carbon-budget/#downloads) and to DAERA in a [series of letters](https://www.theccc.org.uk/publicationtype/0-report/06-ni-reports/) have recognised the importance of the Agri-sector in Northern Ireland and the particularly difficult challenges this sector faces compared to other sectors in reducing GHGs, particularly in reducing methane emissions (a GHG) due to ruminant animals/livestock production. As such the CCC recommended, in their advised balanced pathway to net zero, that Northern Ireland methane emissions fall by 42% from 2020 to 2050.

**Religious belief** evidence/information:

The [2011 Census](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/2011-census-results-key-statistics-northern-ireland-report-11-december-2012.pdf) of Northern Ireland found that 45% of the population were either Catholic or brought up as catholic, while 48% belonged to or were brought up in Protestant, Other Christian or Christian-related denominations. A further 0.9% belonged to, or had been brought up in, other religions or philosophies, while 5.6% neither belonged to, nor had been brought up in, a religion.

The Equality Commission’s [Fair Employment Monitoring Report No.30 (equalityni.org)](https://www.equalityni.org/femonrep30) indicated that in 2019, 50.5% of the monitored workforce are from a Protestant background and 49.5% from a Roman Catholic background.

The most recent [Labour Force Survey Religion Report 2017 (executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk)](https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/execoffice/lfs-religion-report-2017.pdf) found that out of the 13 major industrial sectors, ‘agriculture, forestry and fishing’, had the highest proportion of Protestants employed (65%) compared to Catholics (35%). Differences are also often reflected across geographical areas e.g. Belfast, the North of Northern Ireland (NI) and the West & South of NI, working age economic activity rates were higher among Protestants than Catholics in 2017. In Outer Belfast, working age economic activity rates were higher among Catholics than Protestants, while in the East of Northern Ireland 74% of both Protestants and Catholics were economically active.

The 2011 Census recorded that in rural communities, 53% of households recorded a head of household as following (or being brought up in) the Protestant or other Christian religious belief, with 45% following or being brought up in the catholic belief. 3% recorded their religion as other or none.

A 2018 report published by DAERA on ‘[Equality Indicators for Northern Ireland Farmers](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/news/update-equality-section-75-indicators-farmers)’ found around half of farmers in NI are Protestant (51%) and just over two-fifths are Catholic (42%). The report found that a much higher proportion of Protestant farmers had large farms (10% compared to 2%), ran dairy farms (16% compared to 5%) and farmed lowland areas (41% to 15%). In contrast, Catholic farmers were much more likely than Protestant farmers to farm on very small farms (85% compared to 68%). Catholic farmers were also more likely to be engaged in cattle and sheep farming in Less Favoured Areas (77%), compared to 45% of Protestant farmers.

**Political Opinion** evidence/information:

Information on political opinion was not collected in the 2011 Census, but the latest [elections on 5th May 2022](https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9549/) gives us an overall picture of political opinion across Northern Ireland with Sinn Fein becoming the largest party with 29% first preference votes, followed by the Democratic Unionist Party with 21% of the votes, Alliance received 13.5% of the votes, Ulster Unionist Party 11%, Social Democratic and Labour Party 9%, Traditional Unionist Voice 7.6%, and all other parties 8% of the votes.

[NI: IN PROFILE Key statistics on Northern Ireland (nisra.gov.uk)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/NI%20IN%20PROFILE%20-%203%20March%202021_0.pdf) reports that two-fifths of adults identify as neither unionist nor nationalist.

Information on political opinion was not collected in the Population Census

2011. However, as a question on National Identity was included responses were analysed against farm size, type and land characteristics as a proxy metric for political opinion. Overall, 44% of farmers reported their identity as British only, 26% as Irish only and 23% as Northern Irish only, with 8% stating another identity or a combination of more than one identity. However, the religious profile varied across farm characteristics, with the proportions stating a British only identity increasing with farm size, from 40% of those in very small farms to 65% of those in large farms.

In Northern Ireland, political opinion is closely related to religious belief and national identity. A report published by DAERA in 2018 on ‘[Equality Indicators for Northern Ireland Farmers](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/news/update-equality-section-75-indicators-farmers)’ looked at national identity, as a useful proxy for political opinion. It found that for example, those who identified as British only were more likely to farm on large farms (9% compared to 2% Irish only), run dairy farms (62% compared to 13% Irish only), and engaged in cattle and sheep farming in lowland areas (56% compared to 15% Irish only). In contrast, a much higher proportion of those stating an Irish only identity farmed on very small farms (85% compared to 69% of British only), were engaged in cattle and sheep farming in Less Favoured Areas (77% compared to 48% British only), and farmed in Severely Disadvantaged Areas (55% compared to 28% British only). This also an example of where differences in religious beliefs can also be reflected in geographical location in Northern Ireland and as a result certain industries/employment sectors may be over/underrepresented by a particular religious belief.

**Racial Group** evidence/information:

The Northern Ireland 2011 Census found that over 98% of the population state their ethnic origin to be white. In rural areas, the population is almost entirely classified as white (99.4%). [NI: IN PROFILE Key statistics on Northern Ireland (nisra.gov.uk)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/NI%20IN%20PROFILE%20-%203%20March%202021_0.pdf) reports that survey figures indicate there are around 53,000 people living here in 2019 who were born in the rest of the EU (excluding UK and Ireland).

Poverty in Northern Ireland has been found to correlate with racial group. Research by Joseph Rowntree Foundation [Poverty in Northern Ireland 2022](https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/poverty-northern-ireland-2022) found that ‘in 2015-20, the poverty rate for people in households headed by someone from a minority ethnic group or of mixed ethnicity (32%) in Northern Ireland was almost double that of households headed by white people (18%). However, it should be noted that the dataset is limited due to very small numbers of minority ethnic individuals living in Northern Ireland. The report also states that poverty amongst ethnic minorities may be attributed to a lower employment rate for working-age people (58%) compared to (72%) for white people however, this is partly explained by a larger proportion of minority ethnic people being inactive due to being in full-time education or training than white people.

The Travelling Community are a marginalised group with somewhat limited information available. They are a minority native to the island of Ireland and according to the NI 2011 census represent 0.07 percent (i.e. 1,267 individuals) of the population in NI. However, the All Ireland Traveller Health Survey in 2010 [All-Ireland Traveller Health Study (www.gov.ie)](https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/b9c48a-all-ireland-traveller-health-study/?referrer=/blog/publications/all-ireland-traveller-health-study/) concluded, based on its own statistical research that at least 3,905 Travellers resided in Northern Ireland. More information will be required to assess the impact of climate change action on the unique travelling, accommodation and lifestyle of this community. However, as stated above, departments will as appropriate and as relevant identify and consider Section 75 categories evidence/information for their particular chosen future policies and actions (to meet their duties and requirements of the Act) during their development. This applies also during the development of the carbon budgets, CAPs, sectoral plans and any other future subordinate legislation made under the Act. As appropriate and where possible, evidence/information collection on the Travelling Community will also be gathered through public consultation processes.

**Age** evidence/information:

[The Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Public Attitudes Tracker](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/beis-public-attitudes-tracker-wave-33) which surveys UK households, in March 2020 found that around three-quarters (76%) of adults in the UK were concerned to some degree about climate change. [The Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report, May 2022 (DAERA) found](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-environmental-statistics-report-2022) that in 2021 to 2022, 82% of adults reported being very or fairly concerned about the environment; and when asked to consider the most important environmental issue to them from a list, climate change and ozone layer depletion came second after illegal dumping of waste and litter. The report also found those aged 16-34 were more likely than the older age categories to consider climate change as the greatest threat to our biodiversity.

There is some evidence to suggest that the elderly and the very young are among the least able to cope with the impacts of climate change. The elderly are particularly vulnerable to heatwaves and extremes of cold weather although this relationship is more significant in other parts of the world than here in Northern Ireland, due to our relatively mild climate. The [Office for National Statistics](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/causesofdeath/articles/dosummerheatwavesleadtoanincreaseindeaths/2019-10-07) in October 2019 looked at the impact of cold weather and heat waves, in England and Wales, and found a weak but significant relationship between temperature and mortality in both the summer and winter months. However, [UK government guidance published in 2022 on climate and health](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/climate-change-applying-all-our-health/climate-and-health-applying-all-our-health) recognises that the climate crisis impacts people differently, depending on their susceptibility, risk and ability to cope. For example, elderly populations, people living in care homes and those with underlying health conditions are more likely to suffer from the effects of extreme heat and cold. The guidance states that fuel poverty and poor housing can exacerbate these effects. Recent [statistics published on 5 August 2021, by the Department of Communities](https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/poverty-policy), found that 13% of people (approx. 241,000) in Northern Ireland live in absolute poverty before housing costs, 17% of whom are children and 14% are pensioners. [The House Condition Survey, 2016](https://www.nihe.gov.uk/Documents/Research/HCS-2016-Main-Reports/HCS-Main-Report-2016.aspx) (Housing Executive) estimated that approximately 22% (160,000) of households in Northern Ireland were in fuel poverty, and of these almost two-fifths (38%) of households headed by an older person (75 plus) were in fuel poverty. There are three factors which impact on fuel poverty: income, the cost of energy and the domestic energy efficiency of the home.

NISRA reports in [2019 estimates of the population aged 85 and over - summary (nisra.gov.uk)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/85AndOver-Summary2019.pdf), that the population aged 85 and over makes up 2.0 per cent of the Northern Ireland population. Females represent 65.1 per cent of the 85 and over population, with males making up the remaining 34.9 per cent. The majority of centenarians were female (274 or 85.6 per cent). The number of male centenarians in mid-2019 was 46 (14.4 per cent). The number of female centenarians has consistently outnumbered males over the decade.

The 2018-based population projections for NI [2018-based Population Projections for Northern Ireland | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/2018-based-population-projections-northern-ireland) show the continuing ageing of the Northern Ireland population. The population aged 65 and over is projected to increase by 56.2 per cent between mid-2018 and mid-2043. Likewise, the population aged 85 and over is projected to increase by 106.4 per cent over the same period. By mid-2028, there is projected to be more people aged 65 and over (385,500 people) than children (aged 0-15) (375,700 people) in Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland is projected to have the second largest population growth (5.7 per cent) between mid-2018 and mid-2043 across the UK. [NI: IN PROFILE Key statistics on Northern Ireland (nisra.gov.uk)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/NI%20IN%20PROFILE%20-%203%20March%202021_0.pdf) reports around 80,000 older people (65+) live on their own.

The Northern Ireland [2021 Census](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-population-and-household-estimates-for-northern-ireland) showed that around 30% of the population was 55 years or older and around 44% were under 35 years old. In terms of the agricultural sector, the average age of farmers in Northern Ireland is 59 with only 8% of farmers identified as head of business under 40 reported in DAERA’s ‘[Equality Indicators for Northern Ireland Farmers](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/news/update-equality-section-75-indicators-farmers)’, 2018.

**Marital Status** evidence/information:

The Northern Ireland 2011 census showed that around 48% of the population were married or in a civil partnership, and 36% were single. NISRA provide information on the number of marriages by type, age and location at [Marriage Statistics | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/marriage-statistics). The [Registrar General Northern Ireland Annual Report 2020 (nisra.gov.uk)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/births-deaths-and-marriages/registrar-general-annual-report) states 3,724 marriages were registered in 2020, equivalent to just under 1 every 2 hours. The 2011 Census also shows the make-up of the rural households to be 22.24% one person households, 48.67% married couple households, 0.03% same-sex civil partnership couple households, 4.58% cohabiting couple households, 11.05% lone parent households and 6.58% other types of households.

DAERA’s Equality Indicators Report [2018](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/equality-indicators-report) shows that almost three quarters (73%) of farmers were married, with the proportion of married farmers increasing with farm size; 84% of farmers of large farms were married, compared to 71% of farmers of very small farms. Conversely, twice as many farmers (18%) of very small farms were single as farmers of medium sized (9%) or large farms (9%). Lowland farmers were slightly more likely to be married (77%) than farmers in Disadvantaged (73%) or Severely Disadvantaged (71%) Areas.

Although climate change effects everyone, and all Northern Ireland sectors and people must contribute to reducing emissions, there is not available evidence to suggest that the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 will have any foreseeable direct impact on equality of opportunity in Northern Ireland as a result of marital status.

**Sexual Orientation** evidence/information:

The 2011 Census did not collect information on sexual orientation, and so there is lack of reliable and comprehensive data on the number of lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB) persons in Northern Ireland. However, according to the Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey 2019 ([NI Life and Times Survey - 2019 : ORIENT2 (ark.ac.uk)](https://www.ark.ac.uk/nilt/2019/Background/ORIENT2.html)): 90% of respondents identified as heterosexual; 2% as homosexual; 1% as bisexual; and the remaining population as other or unknown (7% of respondents did not answer the question). An [Office for National Statistics analysis](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/sexuality/articles/lesbiangayandbisexualpeoplesaytheyexperiencealowerqualityoflife/2017-07-05) in 2017 found that people who identify as lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) tend to rate their quality of life as lower than the UK average.

Although climate change effects everyone, and all Northern Ireland sectors and people must contribute to reducing emissions, there is not available evidence to suggest that the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 will have any foreseeable direct impact on equality of opportunity in Northern Ireland as a result of sexual orientation.

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

The [UK government](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-boost-to-advance-gender-equality-in-climate-action#:~:text=skills%20in%20Bangladesh.-,The%20UK%20has%20been%20urging%20countries%20around%20the%20world%20to,Action%20for%20Climate%20Justice%20(FACJ) has been urging countries around the world to put gender equality at the heart of climate action in line with the [Gender Action Plan COP25](https://unfccc.int/news/strengthened-5-year-action-plan-on-gender-adopted-at-cop25) agreed in 2019.

A recent report into ‘[Gender Inequality in Northern Ireland: Where are we in 2020?](https://wrda.net/2020/02/07/gender-inequality-in-northern-ireland-where-are-we-in-2020/)’ found that gender inequality is prevalent in all aspects of society in Northern Ireland and that it needs to be embedded at the core of all policy, legislative and budgetary decision making.

The ‘[New Decade, New Approach](https://www.rte.ie/documents/news/2020/01/new-decade-new-approach.pdf)’ (NDNA) agreement recognising the need for gender equality included a commitment to deliver four social inclusion, equality-based strategies, namely Anti-Poverty, Disability, Gender Equality and Sexual Orientation. The Gender Equality Strategy, currently under development, will bring focus to identifying and addressing the issues, barriers and disadvantages that undermine equality of opportunity in our community.

In Northern Ireland the 2021 Census showed that 51% of the population was female and 49% male. While the overall Northern Ireland workforce has a majority of females (52%), reported in the [2019 Fair Employment Monitoring Report No.30](https://www.equalityni.org/ECNI/media/ECNI/Publications/Delivering%20Equality/FETO%20Monitoring%20Reports/No30/MonReport30.pdf), there are differences between the public and private sector. The public sector has a large majority of females within its composition (65.8%) whereas just under half (45.7%) of the private sector workforce is female. The 2021 Census, shows that the current population of NI consists of 967,000 females and 936,200 males, however, the future workforce balance will be slightly male dominated as the current population split for ages 0-15 is 178,200 female with 187,200 male, a difference of 2.5%.

Considering the impact on rural communities and farming, a report by DAERA on ‘[Equality Indicators for Northern Ireland Farmers](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/news/update-equality-section-75-indicators-farmers)’, found males to predominate this sector, with only 9% of principal farming partners being female. The Northern Ireland Equality Commission breaks this data down further, looking at employment as well as employers in the agricultural sector, noting that ‘Agriculture and Fishing’ was one of the sectors in which women were least likely to be employed.

Despite making up half the working age population (16-64), nearly a third of working age women are not in the labour force, while this is the case for just over a fifth of working age men. [Women in Northern Ireland 2020.pdf (nisra.gov.uk)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/Women%20in%20NI%202020_0.pdf)

In a [report](http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/globalassets/documents/committees/2017-2022/agriculture-environment-and-rural-affairs/reports/2021-2022/climate-change-no2-bill/report-on-the-climate-change-no.-2-bill.pdf) published by the AERA committee, on 8th December 2021, following scrutiny of the Executive’s Climate Change Bill during its legislative passage through the assembly, a recommendation was made that ‘*relevant Departments should ensure that gender-proofing is carried out with regards to policies and strategies that are implemented in relation to Climate Change mitigation*’

**Disability** evidence/information:

A study published in June 2020 by [Jodoin et al, 2020](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3610193) has found that inclusive climate governance is needed now more than ever, as the twin crises of the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change interact and exponentially lead to an increase in inequalities facing the 14.1 million disabled people in the UK. [The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has stated](https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxlaw/disability_and_climate_change_emerging_issues_030222.pdf) that meaningful participation of disabled people in policy making at all levels leads to tailored climate action, which would enable better identification of risk reduction and adaptation measures to mitigate and minimise the adverse impacts of climate change on disabled people.

Research by Joseph Rowntree Foundation into [Poverty in Northern Ireland 2022](https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/poverty-northern-ireland-2022) found that just over one in five people were disabled in 2017-20, and around a third of families contain at least one disabled person. In 2017-20, just under a third of disabled people in Northern Ireland lived in poverty, 13% higher than non-disabled people living in poverty. This is driven partly by the additional costs associated with disability and ill-health, and partly by many disabled people facing barriers to accessing work. Those barriers mean that many disabled people and/or families where someone is disabled rely on benefits as a source of income, which at their current level will almost inevitably lead to higher poverty rates.

Poverty is one of the key components affecting the exposure of persons with disabilities to the impacts of climate change, and their financial limitations may make it more difficult coping with changes, for example financing a change to cleaner heating, using accessible public transport, purchasing electric cars, etc.

The Northern Ireland 2011 Census showed that around 12% of the population found their day to day activities to be limited a lot due to a disability and around 9% found their activities limited a little. Out of all households surveyed, 94,681 males reported their day-to-day activities were limited a lot compared to 108, 658 females a difference of 7%.

[NI: IN PROFILE Key statistics on Northern Ireland (nisra.gov.uk)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/NI%20IN%20PROFILE%20-%203%20March%202021_0.pdf) reports that one in five people have a disability or limiting long-term illness. With 12% of people claim Disability Living Allowance/Personal Independence Payment.

**Dependants** evidence/information:

The 2011 Census showed that 34% of NI households have dependent children (those aged 0-15 and person aged 16-18 who is a full time student and in a family with parent(s)). For households with dependent children, there is around 9% with one or more persons with a long term health problem or disability. For households without dependent children there is around 31% of those with one or more people with a long term health problem or disability.

[NI: IN PROFILE Key statistics on Northern Ireland (nisra.gov.uk)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/NI%20IN%20PROFILE%20-%203%20March%202021_0.pdf) reports that one in three households have a dependent child. The [Labour Force Survey - Women in Northern Ireland 2020 (nisra.gov.uk](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/labour-force-survey-women-northern-ireland-2020)) reports that over the past 10 years there have been consistently more economically inactive women than men. The most common reason for inactivity among women was family and home commitments. 76% of women with dependent children were economically active, compared with 92% of men with dependent children.

**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:**

**In General**

The NICS recognises the importance of equality, diversity and inclusion in an increasingly diverse community, and that the people who provide and use government and public services have diverse characteristics and different experiences, needs and aspirations.

Implementation of the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 will likely impact all sectors and everyone in Northern Ireland. Action to tackle climate change under the Act will be required across all sectors, and it may also require people behaviour change so to meet the targets of the Act. However, the policies and actions chosen, developed and implemented by all of the NICS departments going forward to meet their requirements of the Act will determine the needs, experiences and priorities of the Section 75 categories. At the time of publication of this document it is unknown what policies and actions will be developed and chosen to be taken forward by the departments within their remit, so to meet the requirements of this cross-cutting legislation. The Act does not specify what these should be, or look like. Therefore, information on the needs, experiences and priorities of the Section 75 categories is limited.

However, each department as relevant during their chosen policy’s development to meet their requirements under the Act will identify as part of normal government processes theneeds, experiences and priorities for each of the Section 75 categories listed below.This identification also applies to the future development of the carbon budgets, CAPs, sectoral plans and any other future subordinate legislation made under the Act. These budgets, plans, actions and new policies will be subject to equality and disability duties screening, and impact considerations and assessments as appropriate during their development by relevant departments. Also, relevant departments will be required as appropriate to carry out a public consultation to inform their chosen policy as part of normal government policy development and/or as specified under the Act.

At the time of publication of this screening document, the first of the five year CAPs setting out departments’ policies and proposals to meet the carbon budgets and emission targets of the Act is under development and is required to be finalised and laid before the Assembly before the end of the first year of the Act’s specified first carbon budgetary period as required by the Act i.e. expected before the end of 2023. The first three carbon budgets for the years 2023-2027, 2028-2031 and 2031-2035 will be laid before the Assembly before the end of 2023 also. The sectoral plans required under the Act (which will set out department’s plans how the emissions reduction targets under the Act will be achieved by the sector within their remit) are expected to be developed and published alongside the first CAP. The equality & disability duties impact screening and assessments as appropriate for these will be made available in due course by the relevant departments.

As discussed previously, the Act also sets just transition principle requirements on each NICS departments, and the establishment of an independent Just Transition Commissioner which will have an oversight and advisory role in the NICS departments’ delivery of the principle, as well as establishment of a Just Transition Fund for Agriculture. This will enable further NICS departments in the consideration, identification and addressing of the needs, experiences and priorities for each of the Section 75 categories listed below when delivering their relevant requirements under the Act.

***Religious belief***

In Northern Ireland potential equality impacts regarding religious belief and political opinion can be complex. For example, emissions reduction requirements to meet the targets set out in the Act, may impact certain industries/employment sectors, some more than others, especially in high energy and emitting sectors, which may be over/underrepresented by a particular religious belief. This may also be reflected in the geographical location in Northern Ireland as highlighted in the evidence above. However, as highlighted before, the full impacts and needs are currently unknown as the carbon budgets are yet to be developed, as are the NICS departments’ CAPs, sectoral plans and their emission reduction pathways, policies and actions to be implemented so to meet their duties/requirements under the Act.

It is important though when NICS departments meet the requirements of the Act, that people of different religious beliefs will be engaged, supported and protected, through future policies and actions chosen by NICS departments, in the just transition to a net zero emissions society and economy, and that they are not unfairly and unduly impacted. The Act sets a number of provisions which will ensure this is achieved. Such provisions as those which sets just transition requirements on departments, the setting up and oversight of the independent Just Transition Commission in the NICS department’s delivery of these requirements, and also the establishment of the Just Transition Fund for Agriculture.

Also, the Act does not set specific required emissions reductions targets for each Northern Ireland sector in order to meet the targets in the Act. The emissions reduction pathways for these sectors is to be identified and set by the relevant departments through development of their chosen future policies under the Act, and through the development of their associated required sectoral plans under the Act. However, the Act also does go some way to address the impacts and needs on the agri-sector which has a particular religious make-up as identified above. The level of reductions in methane emissions are not required to be more than 46% lower than the baseline (1990) by 2050. This methane level represents a fair contribution towards net zero as it is consistent with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and the CCC evidence and advice in regards to reducing methane to achieve long term temperature goals in the Paris Agreement. This level recognises the needs of the rural sector in Northern Ireland, the difficulties it has in reducing emissions compared to other sectors for one example of many reasons -due to ruminant livestock, and that Northern Ireland is a significant net exporter of agri-food products with nearly 50% of all agri-food products produced in Northern Ireland consumed in the rest of the UK. The Act also places just transition requirements on departments, and also a requirement for a Just Transition Fund for Agriculture to be established to support farmers and provide an advisory role to them in regards to reducing emissions. For example, smaller farms of which Catholic farmers were much more likely than Protestant farmers to farm on very small farms (85% compared to 68%), may find it more difficult to transition and fund lower carbon practices, and they may likely have a lower ability to absorb economic shocks. Both the Just Transition Fund and advice from the relevant department should be available and their application equitably applied and delivered through policy by the relevant department to all farmers despite religious beliefs.

***Political Opinion***

Political opinion and religious beliefs are often interlinked in Northern Ireland. As discussed under religious beliefs above- meeting the long-term emission reduction targets will impact more on certain high emitting sectors such as agriculture, transport and energy and in Northern Ireland some industries/employment sectors and geographical areas, may be over/underrepresented by particular religious beliefs which in general are associated with political opinion of the workforce. For example, in terms of geographical area and national identity, which in Northern Ireland may also be linked to political opinion, farmers with an Irish only identity were almost twice as likely to farm in Severely Disadvantaged Areas (SDA) (55%) than farmers with a British only identity (28%). SDA farms will likely have a more limited capacity to fund a lower emissions practices and absorb economic shocks then less SDA farmed areas. With agriculture being the largest emitting sector, it is important that farmers regardless of their political opinion will be engaged, supported and protected, through future policies and actions chosen, in the transition to low-carbon farming practices in order to maintain viable businesses. As discussed previously, this has already, in part, been addressed in the Act by the just transition requirements set on each NICS departments, the setting up of a Just Transition Commissioner which will have an oversight and advisory role, as well as a requirement to establish through secondary legislation a scheme for the administration of a fund to be known as the ‘Just Transition Fund for Agriculture’. This fund will provide advice and financial support to farmers irrespective of their political opinion in regards to achieving a net zero emission economy and society.

***Racial Group***

From the evidence gathered in the 2011 Census, just 2% of the population in Northern Ireland were recorded from a minority ethnic background, although organisations working with minority ethnic communities suggest that this has increased since then. The NICS acknowledges the importance of engaging with organisations who represent minority groups to best understand their needs, for example where language barriers exist, there may be a need to tailor information and awareness campaigns to meet the different language needs.

People from ethnic minorities also need to be supported through a just transition to a net zero, environmentally sustainable economy and society ensuring that they are not left behind and that social inclusion, the opportunities for green jobs, and the eradication of poverty is achieved. The Act contains just transition requirements for all Northern Ireland departments which should enable meeting these needs. The Act requires departments in taking action to reduce Northern Ireland emissions, should do so in a manner which, so far as possible, achieves the objectives of: “*supporting persons who are most affected by climate change, particularly those who may have done the least to cause it or may be the least equipped to adapt to its effects, and reducing, with a view to eliminating poverty, inequality and social deprivation”.* The Act sets a number of other provisions which will ensure this is achieved, such provisions as those which requires the establishment an independent oversight and advisory Just Transition Commission in the NICS department’s delivery of the just transition principle requirements, and the Just Transition Fund for Agriculture.

***Age***

The evidence shows that our society is ageing and that climate change and its resulting effects bring risks to an ageing population, largely due to changes in mobility, physiology and restricted access to resources. It is therefore important that NICS departments as appropriate engage and bring the views of older people, and people of all ages (as with all Section 75 categories) into their future departmental policy discussions and development. This is to help shape governments decision making so it reflects this category’s (as well as all other Section 75 categories) needs and adequately addresses climate change issues presented to the different age categories. It should also be practically noted that young people equally need their voice heard as they are the next generation and leaders of tomorrow and will ultimately be the beneficiaries of future climate change related legislation and policies, and actions brought forward by NICS departments under this Act.

***Marital status***

Although climate change effects everyone, and all Northern Ireland sectors and people must contribute to reducing emissions, there is no available evidence to suggest that the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 will have any foreseeable direct impact on equality of opportunity in Northern Ireland as a result of marital status. So the needs, experiences and priorities of this section 75 group could not be identified fully. However, the evidence did show that some sectors- farming in particular, can have different marital status make-ups within. For example, 84% of farmers of large farms were married, compared to 71% of farmers of very small farms. Conversely, twice as many farmers (18%) of very small farms were single as farmers of medium sized (9%) or large farms (9%). It is therefore still important that NICS departments as appropriate engage and consider people with different marital status (as with all Section 75 categories) in their future departmental policy discussions and development. It is important that people, irrespective of their marital status, are supported through a just transition to a move to a net zero economy.

***Sexual orientation***

Although climate change effects everyone, and all Northern Ireland sectors and people must contribute to reducing emissions, there is not available evidence to suggest that the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 will have any foreseeable direct impact on equality of opportunity in Northern Ireland as a result of an individual’s sexual orientation. However, it is acknowledged that in 2017 a [study](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/sexuality/articles/lesbiangayandbisexualpeoplesaytheyexperiencealowerqualityoflife/2017-07-05) found that people who identify as lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) tend to rate their quality of life as lower than the UK average. Any policies and actions taken by departments to deliver on their requirements under the Act, including just transition requirements, must where applicable and as appropriate identify, mitigate against and tackle sexual orientation discrimination, and also, promote sexual orientation equality. It is important that people, irrespective of their sexual orientation, are supported and provided equal opportunity through a just transition to a move to a net zero economy.

***Men and Women Generally***

There is a need and a priority to ensure that gender equality is embedded at the core of all NICS policy, legislative and budgetary decision making. The Act contains just transition requirements for all Northern Ireland departments which should enable meeting these needs. The Act requires departments in taking action to reduce Northern Ireland emissions to meet the Act’s requirements, should do so in a manner which, so far as possible, achieves the objectives of: “*ensuring that gender inequality is eliminated and advancing equality of opportunity between men and women”.* This will be enabled and further driven by the aforementioned just transition principle requirements on departments and the over sight and the advisory role of the Just Transition Commissioner to be established under the Act in the departments the implementation of this principle.

When considering the potential needs and priorities of the agricultural sector, which the evidence above found to be male dominated (91% male verses 9% female), it is important that farmers, irrespective of their gender, are supported through a just transition to a move to greener farming methods and low carbon farming practices. Farmers will also need to be supported financially in their efforts equitably contribute to achieving the targets in the Act. As discussed before in this document, the Act includes provisions to address this need and priority for example with the just transition requirements on departments, the establishment through secondary legislation of a Just Transition Fund for Agriculture, etc.

***Disability***

A disabled journalist recently wrote an [article (published in January 2020)](https://disabilityhorizons.com/2020/01/tackling-climate-change-if-you-have-a-disability/) for Disability Horizons sharing her experiences of living with a disability and the fight to tackle Climate Change in ‘Climate Change: Why Disabled People Need to be Considered’. The article highlighted the impact of some ‘eco-changes’ on disabled people, for example their ability to adapt to change to tackle climate change for example is more difficult as many disabled people struggle financially, accessibility to public transport is often limited and electric/low emissions cars are unaffordable.

The views of people living with disabilities should be considered when deciding and developing what policies and actions will be chosen, developed and implemented by NICS departments going forward so to meet the targets and requirements of the Act. The Act, however, does not specify the future policies and actions required to meet those targets are. Implementing a just transition to a net zero emissions, environmentally sustainable green economy and society is also a priority to people living with disabilities. To achieve a just transition it must be ensured that this group as with all Section 75 categories are not left behind and that social inclusion, the opportunities for green jobs, and the eradication of poverty is achieved. The Act acknowledges this need and contains a requirement for all NICS departments to apply the specified just transition principle to each individual policy and action chosen by them to achieve their requirements under the Act. The Act states that departments in taking action to reduce emissions will achieve the objective of: “*supporting persons who are most affected by climate change, particularly those who may have done the least to cause it or may be the least equipped to adapt to its effects, and reducing, with a view to eliminating poverty, inequality and social deprivation”.* This will be enabled and further driven by the aforementioned just transition principle requirements on departments and the over sight and the advisory role of the Just Transition Commissioner to be established under the Act in the departments the implementation of this principle, and in the establishment of a Just Transition Fund for Agriculture.

***Dependants***

There is little evidence available to suggest that this Act will have any foreseeable impact on equality of opportunity or good relations on those individuals with dependant children or caring responsibilities, and so the needs, experiences and priorities of this Section 75 category could not be fully identified at this early stage. The required policies and actions to deliver the requirements of the Act have yet to be identified and/or are still to be developed by departments. The Act does not specify what these required future policies and actions are, nor what they should be/look like.

However, the Act acknowledges that the transition to a net zero emissions, environmentally sustainable green economy and society is a priority for all people living in Northern Ireland, including those with dependants to ensure that no one is left behind and that social inclusion and the eradication of poverty is achieved. All NICS departments are required, under the Act, to apply the specified just transition principle to each individual policy and action chosen by them to meet their requirements of the Act. The Act states that departments in taking action to reduce emissions will achieve the objective of: “*supporting persons who are most affected by climate change, particularly those who may have done the least to cause it or may be the least equipped to adapt to its effects, and reducing, with a view to eliminating poverty, inequality and social deprivation”.* This will be enabled and further driven by the aforementioned just transition principle requirements on departments and the over sight and the advisory role of the Just Transition Commissioner to be established under the Act in the departments the implementation of this principle.

**Part 2. Screening questions**

**Introduction**

In making a decision as to whether or not there is a need to carry out an equality impact assessment, the public authority should consider its answers to the questions 1-4.

If the public authority’s conclusion is **none** in respect of all of the Section 75 equality of opportunity and/or good relations categories, then the public authority may decide to screen the policy out. If a policy is ‘screened out’ as having no relevance to equality of opportunity or good relations, a public authority should give details of the reasons for the decision taken.

If the public authority’s conclusion is **major** in respect of one or more of the Section 75 equality of opportunity and/or good relations categories, then consideration should be given to subjecting the policy to the equality impact assessment procedure.

If the public authority’s conclusion is **minor** in respect of one or more of the Section 75 equality categories and/or good relations categories, then consideration should still be given to proceeding with an equality impact assessment, or to:

* measures to mitigate the adverse impact; or
* the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

**In favour of a ‘major’ impact**

1. The policy is significant in terms of its strategic importance;
2. Potential equality impacts are unknown, because, for example, there is insufficient data upon which to make an assessment or because they are complex, and it would be appropriate to conduct an equality impact assessment in order to better assess them;
3. Potential equality and/or good relations impacts are likely to be adverse or are likely to be experienced disproportionately by groups of people including those who are marginalised or disadvantaged;
4. Further assessment offers a valuable way to examine the evidence and develop recommendations in respect of a policy about which there are concerns amongst affected individuals and representative groups, for example in respect of multiple identities;
5. The policy is likely to be challenged by way of judicial review;
6. The policy is significant in terms of expenditure.

**In favour of ‘minor’ impact**

1. The policy is not unlawfully discriminatory and any residual potential impacts on people are judged to be negligible;
2. The policy, or certain proposals within it, are potentially unlawfully discriminatory, but this possibility can readily and easily be eliminated by making appropriate changes to the policy or by adopting appropriate mitigating measures;
3. Any asymmetrical equality impacts caused by the policy are intentional because they are specifically designed to promote equality of opportunity for particular groups of disadvantaged people;
4. By amending the policy there are better opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

**In favour of none**

1. The policy has no relevance to equality of opportunity or good relations.
2. The policy is purely technical in nature and will have no bearing in terms of its likely impact on equality of opportunity or good relations for people within the equality and good relations categories.

Taking into account the evidence presented above, consider and comment on the likely impact on equality of opportunity and good relations for those affected by this policy, in any way, for each of the equality and good relations categories, by applying the screening questions given overleaf and indicate the level of impact on the group i.e. minor, major or none.**Screening questions**

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

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

**In General**

Implementation of the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 will likely impact all sectors and everyone in Northern Ireland. Action to tackle climate change will be required across all sectors, and it may also require people behaviour change so to meet the targets of the Act. Opportunity and benefits which Section 75 categories can avail from the Act are (not an exhaustive list)- greater clarity and predictability to plan effectively for and invest in a low carbon economy; increased likelihood of climate change resilience and adaptability; a more sustainable competitive green economy; increased opportunities for green investment; and other substantial co-benefits, particularly for the natural environment (better air quality) and public health.

The Act does not specify what the NICS departments’ policies and actions should be nor what they should look like going forward to meet their requirements of the Act. However, these policies and actions will determine where and the level of the exact impacts and opportunities on Northern Ireland society, its sectors and its people, and including the Section 75 categories. At the time of publication of this document, the actions and policies are yet to be identified and/or developed, including the five yearly carbon budgets and the five yearly CAPs, and sectoral plans required under the Act. The first of the five year CAPs setting out departments’ policies and proposals to meet the carbon budgets and emission targets of the Act is under development and is required to be finalised and laid before the Assembly before the end of the first year of the Act’s specified first carbon budgetary period as required by the Act i.e. expected before the end of 2023. The first three carbon budgets for the years 2023-2027, 2028-2031 and 2031-2035 will be laid before the Assembly before the end of 2023 also. The sectoral plans (which will set out department’s plans for setting out how the emissions reduction targets under the Act will be achieved by the sector within their remit) required under the Act are expected to be developed and published alongside the first CAP. The equality & disability duties impact screening and assessments as appropriate for these will be made available in due course by the relevant departments.

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

Potential equality impacts are complex given the relationships and patterns with religious belief and sectorial employment, geographic location, etc, in Northern Ireland. They will be dependent on the policies and actions chosen, developed and implemented by the relevant Northern Ireland departments going forward in the future so to meet the requirements of the Act. The plan’s and polices under the Act which will implement emission reduction measures, will impact sectors differently as they have different emissions reduction capabilities and mechanisms, and economic and marketing make-ups and factors. For example, in the industrial sector-major changes are expected to include the adoption of new technology, innovative production methods, an increase in the sustainability of products, increased utilisation of artificial intelligence and changes in the type and quantity of labour required. These changes will in turn impact each sector’s employees in different ways, for example out of the 13 major industrial sectors in Northern Ireland ‘agriculture, forestry and fishing’, had the highest numbers of Protestant employees (65% compared to 35% Catholic employees) according to the [Labour Force Religion Report 2017 (executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk)](https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/publications/labour-force-survey-religion-report-2017). Where and the level of impacts are yet to be determined as the policies and actions chosen by the relevant departments to drive down emissions in these sectors.

The Act however, is not unlawfully discriminatory. It is specifically designed to promote equality of opportunity for, and the fair sharing of impacts and benefits on all sectors, Section 75 groups and for particular groups of disadvantaged people. This is enabled through the just transition principle requirements of the Act on departments and the over sight and the advisory role of the Just Transition Commissioner to be established under the Act. Also, in addition the Act requires the establishment of a Just Transition Fund for Agriculture, in order to ensure this sector is not unfairly disadvantaged to other sectors, and its people (no matter their religious or political beliefs) who work and depend on it are not disproportionality impacted by the requirements of the Act. For these reasons the impacts are therefore considered minor for this category.

**What is the level of impact?** Minor

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

Same as above, given the correlation (as discussed previously in this document) with religious belief and political opinion in Northern Ireland.

**What is the level of impact?** Minor

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

Poverty in Northern Ireland has been found to correlate with racial group, and financial limitations may make it more difficult coping with changes to meet the requirements of the Act as a result of future actions and policies yet to be chosen by departments, for example financing a change to cleaner heating, using accessible public transport, purchasing electric cars etc. The Act however, is not unlawfully discriminatory. It is specifically designed to promote equality of opportunity for, and the fair sharing of impacts and benefits on all Section 75 categories and for particular groups of disadvantaged people. This is enabled through the just transition principle requirements of the Act on departments and the over sight and the advisory role of the Just Transition Commissioner to be established under the Act. Also, in addition the Act requires the establishment of a Just Transition Fund for Agriculture, in order to ensure this sector is not unfairly disadvantaged to other sectors, and its people (no matter people’s racial group) who work and depend on it are not disproportionality impacted by the requirements of the Act. For these reasons the impacts are therefore considered minor for this category.

**What is the level of impact?** Minor

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

The Act will affect all people and sectors of Northern Ireland. It may have varying impacts on people within different age groups, particularly in relation to ability to procure, adapt and utilise new technologies and products required to reduce greenhouse emissions; successfully secure alternative employment or reskill for carbon neutral jobs; or afford investment to increase the energy efficiency of their homes. Also the Act is likely to require significant behavioural change across all age groups.

The Act however, is not unlawfully discriminatory. It is specifically designed to promote equality of opportunity for, and the fair sharing of impacts and benefits on all Section 75 categories and for particular groups of disadvantaged people. This is enabled through the just transition principle requirements of the Act on departments and the over sight and the advisory role of the Just Transition Commissioner to be established under the Act in the departments the implementation of this principle. Also, in addition the Act requires the establishment of a Just Transition Fund for Agriculture, in order to ensure this sector is not unfairly disadvantaged to other sectors, and its people (no matter people’s age group) who work and depend on it are not disproportionality impacted by the requirements of the Act. For these reasons the impacts are therefore considered minor for this category.

**What is the level of impact?** Minor

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

The Act will affect all people and sectors of Northern Ireland. It may have varying impacts on people of different marital status indirectly but not directly, through different impacts on sectors for one example.

The Act however, is not unlawfully discriminatory. It is specifically designed to promote equality of opportunity for, and the fair sharing of impacts and benefits on all Section 75 categories and for particular groups of disadvantaged people. This is enabled through the just transition principle requirements of the Act on departments and the over sight and the advisory role of the Just Transition Commissioner to be established under the Act in the departments the implementation of this principle. Also, in addition the Act requires the establishment of a just transition fund for agriculture, in order to ensure this sector is not unfairly disadvantaged to other sectors, and its people (no matter people’s marital status) who work and depend on it are not disproportionality impacted by the requirements of the Act. For these reasons the impacts are therefore considered minor for this category.

**What is the level of impact?** Minor

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

The Act will affect all people and sectors of Northern Ireland. It may have varying impacts on people of different sexual orientation indirectly but not directly, through different impacts on sectors for one example.

The Act however, is not unlawfully discriminatory. It is specifically designed to promote equality of opportunity for, and the fair sharing of impacts and benefits on all Section 75 categories and for particular groups of disadvantaged people. This is enabled through the just transition principle requirements of the Act on departments and the over sight and the advisory role of the Just Transition Commissioner to be established under the Act in the departments the implementation of this principle. Also, in addition the Act requires the establishment of a Just Transition Fund for Agriculture, in order to ensure this sector is not unfairly disadvantaged to other sectors, and its people (no matter people’s sexual orientation) who work and depend on it are not disproportionality impacted by the requirements of the Act. For these reasons the impacts are therefore considered minor for this category.

**What is the level of impact?** Minor

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

The potential impacts on equality of opportunity for men and women can be complex given the diversity, range and scale of proposed actions to achieve net zero GHG emissions on Northern Ireland’s economy, environment and society. The impacts of actions may be experienced differently by men compared to the impact on women due to factors such as sectoral employment and dependents.

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

The Act however, is not unlawfully discriminatory. It is specifically designed to promote equality of opportunity for, and the fair sharing of impacts and benefits on all Section 75 groups and for particular groups of disadvantaged people. This is enabled through the just transition principle (including eliminating gender inequality and advancing equality of opportunity between men and women) requirements of the Act on departments and the over sight and the advisory role of the Just Transition Commissioner to be established under the Act in the departments the implementation of this principle. Also, in addition the Act requires the establishment of a Just Transition Fund for Agriculture, in order to ensure this sector is not unfairly disadvantaged to other sectors, and its people (no matter people’s gender) who work and depend on it are not disproportionality impacted by the requirements of the Act. For these reasons the impacts are therefore considered minor for this category.

**What is the level of impact?** Minor

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

People with a disability may experience climate change impacts differently than others. The Act is likely to require behavioural change and therefore, has potential to impact on people with disabilities. Their ability and impacts to adapt to future changes in lifestyles, employment, transportation and new technology, which will be required through future policies and actions to be chosen by departments to achieve their requirements of the Act, may vary significantly.

The Act however, is not unlawfully discriminatory. It is specifically designed to promote equality of opportunity for, and the fair sharing of impacts and benefits on all Section 75 categories and for particular groups of disadvantaged people. This is enabled through the just transition principle requirements of the Act on departments (including supporting persons who are most affected by climate change, particularly those who may be the least equipped to adapt to its effect etc) and the over sight and the advisory role of the Just Transition Commissioner to be established under the Act. Also, in addition the Act requires the establishment of a Just Transition Fund for Agriculture, in order to ensure this sector is not unfairly disadvantaged to other sectors, and its people (including those with disability) who work and depend on it are not disproportionality impacted by the requirements of the Act. For these reasons the impacts are therefore considered minor for this category.

**What is the level of impact?** Minor

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

Currently one in three households in Northern Ireland have a dependent child, with the most common reason for economic inactivity among women being cited as family and home commitments. It is likely that households with dependents will be impacted differently to those without from the future actions and policies to be chosen by departments to meet the requirements of the Act. For example, households with young children and especially single parent families, with nearly 4 in 10 single-parent families reported to be living in poverty, are more likely to struggle financially than those without dependent children [(Poverty in Northern Ireland 2022)](https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/poverty-northern-ireland-2022). And their ability to adapt to a more sustainable lifestyle, such as affordable sustainable children’s clothing, etc, could be more challenging. In households with elderly dependents, impacts may include the need to adapt to sustainable zero carbon heating and electricity provision, to learn to use sustainable goods and services which are expected to become mainstream such as electric vehicles, etc.

The Act however, is not unlawfully discriminatory. It is specifically designed to promote equality of opportunity for, and the fair sharing of impacts and benefits on all Section 75 categories and for particular groups of disadvantaged people. This is enabled through the just transition principle requirements of the Act on departments and the over sight and the advisory role of the Just Transition Commissioner to be established under the Act. Also, in addition the Act requires the establishment of a Just Transition Fund for Agriculture, in order to ensure this sector is not unfairly disadvantaged to other sectors, and its people (no matter those with dependants or not) who work and depend on it are not disproportionality impacted by the requirements of the Act. For these reasons the impacts are therefore considered minor for this category.

**What is the level of impact?** Minor

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

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

***Religious Belief* – If Yes, provide reasons:**

The Act should enable opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity through its just transition requirements on all NICS departments. The Act specifies that departments should so far as possible, achieve the Act’s objectives in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in a manner which will, for example:

* support jobs and growth of jobs that are climate resilient and environmentally and socially sustainable;
* develop and maintain consensus through engagement with (among others) workers, trade unions, communities, non-governmental organisations and representatives of the interests of business and industry,
* create decent, fair and high-value work in a way which does not negatively affect the current workforce;
* support persons who are most affected by climate change, particularly those who may have done the least to cause it or may be the least equipped to adapt to its effects,
* reducing, with a view to eliminating poverty, inequality and social deprivation,
* ensuring that gender inequality is eliminated and advancing equality of opportunity between men and women,
* supporting the social and economic needs of people in rural areas

**If No, provide reasons:**

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

The Act should enable opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity through its just transition requirements on all NICS departments. The Act specifies that departments should so far as possible, achieve the Act’s objectives in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in a manner which will, for example:

* support jobs and growth of jobs that are climate resilient and environmentally and socially sustainable;
* develop and maintain consensus through engagement with (among others) workers, trade unions, communities, non-governmental organisations and representatives of the interests of business and industry,
* create decent, fair and high-value work in a way which does not negatively affect the current workforce;
* support persons who are most affected by climate change, particularly those who may have done the least to cause it or may be the least equipped to adapt to its effects,
* reduce, with a view to eliminating poverty, inequality and social deprivation,
* ensure that gender inequality is eliminated and advancing equality of opportunity between men and women,
* support the social and economic needs of people in rural areas

**If No, provide reasons:**

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

The Act should enable opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity through its just transition requirements on all NICS departments. The Act specifies that departments should so far as possible, achieve the Act’s objectives in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in a manner which will, for example:

* support jobs and growth of jobs that are climate resilient and environmentally and socially sustainable;
* develop and maintain consensus through engagement with (among others) workers, trade unions, communities, non-governmental organisations and representatives of the interests of business and industry,
* create decent, fair and high-value work in a way which does not negatively affect the current workforce;
* support persons who are most affected by climate change, particularly those who may have done the least to cause it or may be the least equipped to adapt to its effects,
* reduce, with a view to eliminating poverty, inequality and social deprivation,
* ensure that gender inequality is eliminated and advancing equality of opportunity between men and women,
* support the social and economic needs of people in rural areas

Stakeholder engagement opportunities, information and publicity relating to the development and implementation of carbon budgets, CAPs and sectoral plans and individual policies and actions chosen by departments should consider and aspire to accommodate the different cultural and language needs, for example, information should be communicated in different languages and formats and in a way that is accessible and relevant as required and as per normal NICS policy.

**If No, provide reasons:**

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

The Act should enable opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity through its just transition requirements on all NICS departments. The Act specifies that departments should so far as possible, achieve the Act’s objectives in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in a manner which will, for example:

* support jobs and growth of jobs that are climate resilient and environmentally and socially sustainable;
* develop and maintain consensus through engagement with (among others) workers, trade unions, communities, non-governmental organisations and representatives of the interests of business and industry,
* create decent, fair and high-value work in a way which does not negatively affect the current workforce;
* support persons who are most affected by climate change, particularly those who may have done the least to cause it or may be the least equipped to adapt to its effects,
* reduce, with a view to eliminating poverty, inequality and social deprivation,
* ensure that gender inequality is eliminated and advancing equality of opportunity between men and women,
* support the social and economic needs of people in rural areas

Stakeholder engagement methods and information required as a result of the Act by relevant departments should ensure that those, particularly the elderly, without access to or adequate knowledge of new/digital technology are not disadvantaged. Also, that information is available in easy to read formats and is suitable for younger age groups to understand and reply on. This is required as part of normal NICS engagement and guidance.

**If No, provide reasons:**

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

The Act should enable opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity through its just transition requirements on all NICS departments. The Act specifies that departments should so far as possible, achieve the Act’s objectives in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in a manner which will, for example:

* support jobs and growth of jobs that are climate resilient and environmentally and socially sustainable;
* develop and maintain consensus through engagement with (among others) workers, trade unions, communities, non-governmental organisations and representatives of the interests of business and industry,
* create decent, fair and high-value work in a way which does not negatively affect the current workforce;
* support persons who are most affected by climate change, particularly those who may have done the least to cause it or may be the least equipped to adapt to its effects,
* reduce, with a view to eliminating poverty, inequality and social deprivation,
* ensure that gender inequality is eliminated and advancing equality of opportunity between men and women,
* support the social and economic needs of people in rural areas

**If No, provide reasons:**

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

The Act should enable opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity through its just transition requirements on all NICS departments. The Act specifies that departments should, so far as possible, achieve the Act’s objectives in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in a manner which will, for example:

* support jobs and growth of jobs that are climate resilient and environmentally and socially sustainable;
* develop and maintain consensus through engagement with (among others) workers, trade unions, communities, non-governmental organisations and representatives of the interests of business and industry,
* create decent, fair and high-value work in a way which does not negatively affect the current workforce;
* support persons who are most affected by climate change, particularly those who may have done the least to cause it or may be the least equipped to adapt to its effects,
* reduce, with a view to eliminating poverty, inequality and social deprivation,
* ensure that gender inequality is eliminated and advancing equality of opportunity between men and women,
* support the social and economic needs of people in rural areas

**If No, provide reasons:**

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

The Act should enable opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity through its just transition requirements on all NICS departments. The Act specifies that departments should so far as possible, achieve the Act’s objectives in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in a manner which will, for example:

* support jobs and growth of jobs that are climate resilient and environmentally and socially sustainable;
* develop and maintain consensus through engagement with (among others) workers, trade unions, communities, non-governmental organisations and representatives of the interests of business and industry,
* create decent, fair and high-value work in a way which does not negatively affect the current workforce;
* support persons who are most affected by climate change, particularly those who may have done the least to cause it or may be the least equipped to adapt to its effects,
* reduce, with a view to eliminating poverty, inequality and social deprivation,
* ensure that gender inequality is eliminated and advancing equality of opportunity between men and women,
* support the social and economic needs of people in rural areas

**If No, provide reasons:**

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

The Act should enable opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity through its just transition requirements on all NICS departments. The Act specifies that departments should so far as possible, achieve the Act’s objectives in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in a manner which will, for example:

* support jobs and growth of jobs that are climate resilient and environmentally and socially sustainable;
* develop and maintain consensus through engagement with (among others) workers, trade unions, communities, non-governmental organisations and representatives of the interests of business and industry,
* create decent, fair and high-value work in a way which does not negatively affect the current workforce;
* support persons who are most affected by climate change, particularly those who may have done the least to cause it or may be the least equipped to adapt to its effects,
* reduce, with a view to eliminating poverty, inequality and social deprivation,
* ensure that gender inequality is eliminated and advancing equality of opportunity between men and women,
* support the social and economic needs of people in rural areas

**If No, provide reasons:**

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

The Act should enable opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity through its just transition requirements on all NICS departments. The Act specifies that departments should so far as possible, achieve the Act’s objectives in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in a manner which will, for example:

* support jobs and growth of jobs that are climate resilient and environmentally and socially sustainable;
* develop and maintain consensus through engagement with (among others) workers, trade unions, communities, non-governmental organisations and representatives of the interests of business and industry,
* create decent, fair and high-value work in a way which does not negatively affect the current workforce;
* support persons who are most affected by climate change, particularly those who may have done the least to cause it or may be the least equipped to adapt to its effects,
* reduce, with a view to eliminating poverty, inequality and social deprivation,
* ensure that gender inequality is eliminated and advancing equality of opportunity between men and women,
* support the social and economic needs of people in rural areas

**If No, provide reasons:**

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 Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 does not contain provisions related to good relations directly.

**What is the level of impact?** None

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

The Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 does not contain provisions related to good relations directly.

**What is the level of impact?** None

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

The Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 does not contain provisions related to good relations directly.

**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?**

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

**If No, provide reasons:**

The Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 does not contain provisions which promote good relations directly.

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

**If No, provide reasons:**

The Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 does not contain provisions which promote good relations directly.

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

**If No, provide reasons:**

The Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 does not contain provisions which promote good relations directly.

**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).*

The NICS supports an inclusive society in which people of all ages and backgrounds are treated with respect and dignity. A society which has no barriers to prevent people from living fulfilling lives. As such, those within Section 75 equality categories, including those who fall into more than one Section 75 equality category, will be included as appropriate in NICS departments chosen future policy and action making decisions to meet the requirements of the Act with a view to delivering outcomes which positively impact those with multiple identities. NICS acknowledges the complexities of social identity, for example where different identities can combine to define specific disadvantages in a marginalised community. The future policies and actions by relevant departments taken forward under the Act will as part of normal government policy development and as appropriate, aim to ensure equality across the range of identities as well as multiple identities. The just transition requirements placed on departments by the Act, and the oversight and advice of the independent Just Transition Commissioner will enable and ensure impacts and opportunities are shared equally across single and multiple identity groups.

NICS departments in delivering their duties and requirements under the Act will as part of normal policy development and as appropriate, further screen and impact assess the impact on people with multiple identities related to their chosen policy and action.

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

The NICS acknowledge the Equality Commission recommendations within the [Racial Equality Policy Summary 2014.pdf (equalityni.org](https://www.equalityni.org/ECNI/media/ECNI/Publications/Delivering%20Equality/RacialEquality_PolicyPosition2014.pdf)). Particularly that attention should be paid to multiple identity issues within the delivery of public services and associated government strategies, and that the delivery of public services and associated information provision should be targeted at multiple identity individuals e.g. BME (Black and Minority Ethnic) women, BME people with disabilities etc.

The NICS acknowledges the complexities of social identity, for example where different identities can combine to define specific disadvantages in a marginalised community.

NICS departments also have legislative obligations to meet under the Disability Discrimination Order. Questions 5 – 6 relate to these.

NICS departments in delivering their duties and requirements under the Act will as part of normal policy development and as appropriate, collect and consider the details of data on the impact on people with multiple identities, and also specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned related to their chosen policy and action.

Consideration of Disability Duties

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

While the Act does not directly contain provisions to better promote positive attitudes, the Act does set requirements for all NICS departments to apply its specified just transition principle when developing and bringing forward policies and actions to meet requirements of the Act. A just transition through the delivery of this principle will support persons, such as those with disabilities, who are most affected by climate change and impacts from the policies and actions chosen by departments to deliver their requirements under the Act, and who may be the least equipped to adapt to its effects. A just transition has focus on social inclusion and poverty eradication. Departments delivering a just transition under the Act would enable promotion of positive attitudes towards disabled people through opportunities for new green jobs, education, re-skilling and upskilling programmes, and ensuring that green contracts and green jobs promote disability inclusion.

NICS departments in delivering their duties and requirements under the Act, will as part of normal policy development and as appropriate, further screen and impact assess their promotion of positive attitudes towards disabled people of their chosen policy and action.

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

The Act sets requirement for all NICS departments to apply its specified just transition principle when developing and bringing forward policies and actions to meet requirements of the Act. A just transition through the delivery of this principle will support persons, such as those with disabilities, who are most affected by climate change, and impacts from the actions and policies chosen by departments under the Act and who may be the least equipped to adapt to its effects. A just transition has focus on social inclusion and poverty eradication. Departments delivering a just transition this under the Act should be able to better promote positive attitudes towards disabled people through opportunities for new green jobs, education, re-skilling and upskilling programmes, and ensuring that green contracts and green jobs promote disability inclusion.

Although it is part of normal government policy development, the Act sets out public consultation requirements for relevant departments in the implementation of their certain requirements under the Act, for example to inform the development of CAPs by way of one example. Public consultations will make allowances for public scrutiny and allows additional evidence to be sought from a range of interested parties, stakeholders and section 75 categories including those from the disabled community so as to inform the development of the policy or its implementation required under the Act of that department(s).

NICS departments in delivering their duties and requirements under the Act, will as part of normal policy development and as appropriate, further screen and impact assess whether there is an opportunity to actively increase the participation by disabled people in public life relating to their chosen policy and action.

**Part 3. Screening decision**

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.

**If the decision is *not to conduct an equality impact assessment*, please provide details of the reasons.**

Implementation of the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 will likely impact all sectors and everyone in Northern Ireland. Action to tackle climate change will be required across all sectors, and it may also require people behaviour change so to meet the targets of the Act. However, the policies and actions chosen, developed and implemented by all of the NICS departments going forward to meet their requirements of the Act will determine where, and the level of the exact impacts on Northern Ireland society, its sectors and its people, including the Section 75 categories. It is not known at this stage what policies and actions will be developed and/or chosen to be taken forward by the departments within their remit, so to meet the requirements of this cross-cutting legislation, as the Act does not specify what these should be, or look like. However, each department as relevant during their policy development as part of normal government processes, will as appropriate carryout equality and disability duty screening and conduct an equality impact assessment if relevant for their particular chosen policy and action to meet their duties of the Act. This action by the relevant department (DAERA) also applies to the future development of the CAPs, sectoral plans and carbon budgets, and any other future subordinate legislation required under the Act

At the time of publication of this screening document, the first of the five year CAPs setting out departments’ policies and proposals to meet the carbon budgets and emission targets of the Act is under development and is required to be finalised and laid before the Assembly before the end of the first year of the Act’s specified first carbon budgetary period as required by the Act i.e. expected before the end of 2023. The first three carbon budgets for the years 2023-2027, 2028-2031 and 2031-2035 is expected to be laid before the Assembly before the end of 2023 also. The sectoral plans (which will set out department’s plans for setting out how the emissions reduction targets under the Act will be achieved by the sector within their remit) required under the Act are expected to be developed and published alongside the first CAP. The equality screening and assessments as relevant and as appropriate for these will be made available by the relevant departments in due course.

Also, the Act is not unlawfully discriminatory. It is specifically designed to promote equality of opportunity for, and the fair sharing of impacts and benefits on all Section 75 groups and for particular groups of disadvantaged people. This is enabled through the just transition principle requirements of the Act on departments and the over sight and the advisory role of the Just Transition Commissioner to be established under the Act. Also, in addition the Act requires the establishment of a Just Transition Fund for Agriculture, in order to ensure this sector is not unfairly disadvantaged to other sectors, and its people (including all those in Section 75 categories) who work and depend on it are not disproportionality impacted by the requirements of the Act. For these reasons the impacts are therefore considered minor.

An EQIA on the Act itself is therefore deemed not necessary. However, the Act will be reviewed annually and also when/if updated, then the requirement for an EQIA on the Act will be re-assessed/screened, and fully impact assessed if required and as appropriate.

**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.**

Mitigation or an alternative policy is not required as the Act itself has built-in adequate mitigation requirements to ensure equality, and that impacts and opportunities are shared equitably across Northern Ireland with the aim that no sector or person is unfairly disadvantaged or left behind. This is enabled through the just transition principle requirements of the Act on departments and the independent over sight and the advisory role of the Just Transition Commissioner to be established under the Act. Also, in addition the Act requires the establishment of a Just Transition Fund for Agriculture, in order to ensure this sector is not unfairly disadvantaged to other sectors, and its people who work and depend on it, are not disproportionality impacted by the requirements of the Act. Also, the Act further mitigates against unfair impacts on the Agri-sector as it sets a level on methane which represents a fair contribution towards net zero emissions. This level recognises the needs of the rural sector in Northern Ireland, the importance of the sector economically and the difficulties it has in reducing emissions compared to other sectors due to by way of one of many examples- ruminant livestock.

Each current and future policies and actions chosen, developed and implemented by departments so to deliver on their requirements of the Act will require equality screening and impact assessments as appropriate by the relevant departments. Departments will also be required as appropriate to carry out public consultations to inform the policies and actions as per the Act, and as part of normal government policy development.

The Act requires departments chosen policies and proposals to meet the emissions reduction targets and the carbon budgets to be published in five yearly consecutive Climate Action Plans (CAPs). In addition, the Act requires relevant departments to develop and publish sectoral plans for sectors specified in the Act. These must contain the relevant departments’ plans for setting out how the emissions reduction targets under the Act will be achieved by the sector within their remit.

At the time of publication of this screening document, the first of the five year CAPs setting out departments’ policies and proposals to meet the first carbon budget, and the emission targets of the Act is under development and is required to be finalised and laid before the Assembly before the end of the first year of the Act’s specified first carbon budgetary period i.e. expected before the end of 2023. The first three carbon budgets for the years 2023-2027, 2028-2031 and 2031-2035 will be laid before the Assembly before the end of 2023 also. The sectoral plans (which will set out department’s plans how the emissions reduction targets under the Act will be achieved by the sector within their remit) required under the Act are expected to be developed and published alongside the first CAP. Equality screening and impact assessments for these as relevant and appropriate will be made available for these in due course by the relevant departments.

**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 not at this stage, as the Act is a high level framework, and therefore it will be through the future policies and actions to be chosen and developed by departments to meet their requirements of the Act that the better promotion of equality of opportunity and/or good relations will be fully considered and implemented as appropriate. This implementation will be enabled by the just transition requirements on departments set under the Act, the establishment of an independent oversight and advisory Just Transition Commission on the departments delivery, and the Just Transition Fund for Agriculture which also has an advisory role. However, the Act can be updated in the future in light of independent expert advice, as a result of significant developments in UK or international law or policy, scientific knowledge on climate change and/or technology relevant to climate change.

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

**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?**

No.

**If yes, please provide details.**

N/A

**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:**

DAERA has lead co-ordination role under the Act and therefore they will monitor the impact of this Act overall on equality, good relations and disability duties. This will include review and updating of the Act (including amending its emissions reduction targets) in light of independent expert advice, as a result of significant developments in UK or international law or policy, scientific knowledge on climate change and/or technology relevant to climate change. Any future amendments to the Act will require equality screening and impact assessments and public consultations as appropriate. The results of these will be published as appropriate.

However, as the Act is high level and cross-sectoral and meeting the targets and objectives of the Act falls to all departments as appropriate and within their remit. It will be for the relevant departments to monitor the impact of their policies and plans to deliver their requirements of this Act on the equality, good relations and disability duties. This also includes the five yearly carbon budgets, five yearly CAPs, sectoral plans, and any other subordinate legislation made under the Act. Equality screening and assessments and public consultations, and related monitoring of these will be carried out and published as appropriate by relevant departments.

**Good Relations**

DAERA has lead co-ordination role under the Act and therefore they will monitor the impact of this Act overall on equality, good relations and disability duties. This will include review and updating of the Act (including amending its emissions reduction targets) in light of independent expert advice, as a result of significant developments in UK or international law or policy, scientific knowledge on climate change and/or technology relevant to climate change. Any future amendments to the Act will require equality screening and assessments and public consultations as appropriate. The results of these will be published as appropriate.

However, as the Act is high level cross-sectoral and meeting the targets and objectives of the Act falls to all departments as appropriate and within their remit. It will be for the relevant departments to monitor the impact of their policies and plans to deliver their requirements of this Act on the equality, good relations and disability duties. This also includes the five yearly carbon budgets, five yearly CAPs, sectoral plans, and any other subordinate legislation made under the Act. Equality screening and assessments and public consultations, and related monitoring of these will be carried out and published as appropriate by relevant departments.

**Disability Duties:**

DAERA has lead co-ordination role under the Act and therefore they will monitor the impact of this Act overall on equality, good relations and disability duties. This will include review and updating of the Act (including amending its emissions reduction targets) in light of independent expert advice, as a result of significant developments in UK or international law or policy, scientific knowledge on climate change and/or technology relevant to climate change. Any future amendments to the Act will require equality screening and assessments and public consultations as appropriate. The results of these will be published as appropriate.

However as the Act is high level and cross-sectoral and meeting the targets and objectives of the Act falls to all departments as appropriate and within their remit. It will be for the relevant departments to monitor the impact of their policies and plans to deliver their requirements of this Act on the equality, good relations and disability duties. This also includes the five yearly carbon budgets, five yearly CAPs, sectoral plans, and any other subordinate legislation made under the Act. Equality screening and assessments and public consultations, and related monitoring of these will be carried out and published as appropriate by relevant departments.

**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 impact on Human Rights have been identified in relation to this policy/Act.

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

The policy/Act will promote Human Rights, as the Act being screened will be a legislative driver for further climate action to tackle the causes of climate change and address the impacts of climate change we cannot prevent. The United Nations’ Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights states that climate change has a negative impact on Human Rights. In their Statement to the Conference of the Parties (COP21) they stated:“Climate change impacts, directly and indirectly, an array of internationally guaranteed human rights. States ... have an affirmative obligation to take effective measures to prevent and redress these climate impacts, and therefore, to mitigate climate change, and to ensure that all human beings ... have the necessary capacity to adapt to the climate crisis.” This statement can be found at the following website link: <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/ClimateChange/COP21.pdf>

**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 –

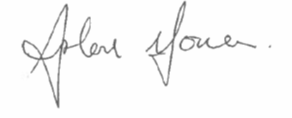
* I have explained any technical issues in plain English (easily understood by a 12 year old)
* I have used the most relevant, current & up to date data available
* I have added evidence and explained my assessments in full
* I have provided a brief note to justify my decision to ‘Screen In’ or ‘Screen 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:** Arlene McGowan **Grade:** Principal (G7)

**Branch:** Climate Change Bill Team **Date:** 21/06/2022

**Signature:**

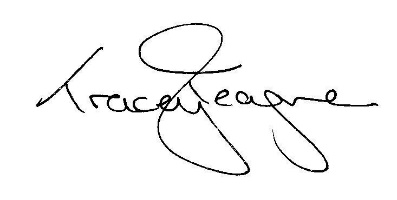
****

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

**Name:** Tracey Teague **Grade:** Deputy Secretary (G3)

**Branch:** Group Head EMF and CE of NIEA **Date: 4th July 2022**

**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

Equality, Diversity & Public Appointments Branch

Ballykelly 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. ‘Net zero’ refers to achieving an overall balance between greenhouse gas emissions produced and greenhouse gas emissions taken out of the atmosphere. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere are responsible for global warming because they trap heat that would otherwise escape from the atmosphere. Rising concentrations of greenhouse gases produce an increase in the average surface temperature of the earth over time. Rising temperatures may produce changes (at a global level) in precipitation patterns, storm severity, and sea level. Collectively, this is commonly referred to as climate change. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)