# A4 DAERA Logo process.png

**Equality & Disability Duties**

**Screening Template**

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

**Introduction**

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

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

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

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

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

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

 A screening flowchart is provided overleaf.

Policy Scoping

* + Policy
	+ Available data

Screening Questions

* Apply screening questions
* Consider multiple identities

Screening Decision: None/Minor/Major

Mitigate

 Publish Template

Re-consider screening

Publish Template

for information

Publish Template

 EQIA

Monitor

**‘None’**

Screened out

**‘Major’**

Screened in for EQIA

**‘Minor’**

Screened out with mitigation

Concerns raised with evidence

Concerns raised with evidence re: screening decision

**Part 1. Policy scoping**

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

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

**Information about the policy**

**Name of the policy**

The Agriculture (Student fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021.

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

Amendment to existing legislation.

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

The policy being screened is in relation to;

* maintain parity with the Department for the Economy (DfE) prescribed basic tuition fee amount with effect from 1 August 2021 by applying increases to Higher Education (HE) tuition fees at the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) in academic year 2021/2022 to students who are ordinarily resident in Northern Ireland (and excepted others). DAERA traditionally increases tuition fee rates for students on undergraduate higher education courses on an annual basis, in line with inflation rates used by the DfE based on inflation rates used by the Department for Education in England which have been provided by the Treasury. The All Items Retail Prices Index Excluding Mortgage Interest Payments (RPI-X) is used as the basis of these inflationary uplifts. The forecasted RPI-X figure for March 2022 is 3.1%, and consequently, an increase of 3.1% has been applied to the basic fee amount for academic year 2021/2022;
* the addition of Gibraltar as a country from which students will be treated the same as students from Great Britain following UK exit from the EU;
* the redefinition of ‘International Students’ to include new students from the EU without ‘pre-settled’ or ‘settled’ status obtained through the EU Settlement Scheme following the UK exit from the EU;
* ensuring EU students who have obtained ‘pre-settled’ or ‘settled’ status through the EU Settlement Scheme are treated the same as students from Northern Ireland following the UK exit from the EU; and
* ensuring Republic of Ireland students are treated the same as students from Northern Ireland under the terms of the Common Travel Area policy.

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

**If so, explain how.**

No

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**Who initiated or wrote the policy?**

Policy Development Branch, Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.

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

Policy Development Branch, Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.

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**Implementation factors**

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

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

**Financial**

**Legislative**

**Main stakeholders affected**

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

**service users**

**other, please specify** ­Rural Community – Analysis of 2018/19 full-time HE students at CAFRE demonstrates that 82% are normally domiciled in rural areas.

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

* **What are they? N/A**
* **Who owns them? N/A**

**Available evidence**

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

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

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

**Religious belief** evidence/information:
The 2011 Census of Northern Ireland found that 42% of the population belonged to one of the main Protestant Christian churches, 41% of the population belonged to the Roman Catholic church and 17% did not belong to either religious belief.

The Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey 2019 found that 44% of respondents identified as Protestant, 34% as Roman Catholic and 22% as neither.

The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) collects data on the enrolments at Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions (excluding the Open University). They found that in the academic year 2018/2019 31% belonged to the Protestant religion, 51% belonged to the Roman Catholic religion, 19% belonged to another religion, unknown or no religion.

Detailed information on all Section 75 categories is collected as part of CAFRE student registration. Of the 633 students enrolled on CAFRE Higher Education courses in 2020/2021 just under 31% (196) completed monitoring forms.

Student Equality Monitoring Data 2020/2021 found that at undergraduate level 54% identified as Protestant, 27% identified as Roman Catholic, 18% as Other (including other Christian, non-Christian and no religion). At postgraduate level 30% identified as Protestant, 60% as Roman Catholic and 10% as Other.

Admission to higher education courses at CAFRE is based solely on academic ability. A student’s religious belief is not a consideration in their entrance to CAFRE, the level of tuition fee charged or the award of financial support.

The Department gathers monitoring data for all students attending CAFRE. The Department will continue to monitor relevant data on an ongoing basis based upon the existing data capture mechanism. Moving forward, the current mechanism for the collection of equality data at CAFRE will be reviewed with the aim to increase the level of response rate.

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**Political Opinion** evidence/information:

The Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey 2019 found that 33% of respondents identified as Unionist, 23% as Nationalist and 41% as Other.

Detailed information on all Section 75 categories is collected as part of CAFRE student registration. Of the 633 students enrolled on CAFRE Higher Education courses in 2020/2021 just under 31% (196) completed monitoring forms.

Student Equality Monitoring Data 2020/2021 found that at undergraduate level

40% identified as Unionist, 18% as Nationalist, 8% as Other and 34% preferred not to say. At postgraduate level 30% identified as Unionist, 40% as Nationalist and 30% preferred not to say.

Admission to higher education courses at CAFRE is based solely on academic ability. A student’s political opinion is not a consideration in their entrance to CAFRE, the level of tuition fee charged or the award of financial support.

The Department gathers monitoring data for all students attending CAFRE. The Department will continue to monitor relevant data on an ongoing basis based upon the existing data capture mechanism. Moving forward, the current mechanism for the collection of equality data at CAFRE will be reviewed with the aim to increase the level of response rate.

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**Racial Group** evidence/information:

The 2011 Census of Northern Ireland found that 98% of respondents identified as white and 2% as other.

The Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey 2019 found that 95% of respondents identified as being White and 5% as being Other.

The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) collects data on the enrolments at Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions (excluding the Open University). They found that in the academic year 2018/2019 87% identified as being White and 13% as being Other.

Detailed information on all Section 75 categories is collected as part of CAFRE student registration. Of the 633 students enrolled on CAFRE Higher Education courses in 2020/2021 just under 31% (196) completed monitoring forms.

Student Equality Monitoring Data 2020/2021 found that at undergraduate level 98% of students identified as being White and 2% as being Other. At postgraduate level 100% of students identified as being White.

Admission to higher education courses at CAFRE is based solely on academic ability. From which racial group a student belongs is not a consideration in their entrance to CAFRE, the level of tuition fee charged or the award of financial support.

The Department gathers monitoring data for all students attending CAFRE. The Department will continue to monitor relevant data on an ongoing basis based upon the existing data capture mechanism. Moving forward, the current mechanism for the collection of equality data at CAFRE will be reviewed with the aim to increase the level of response rate.

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**Age** evidence/information:

The 2011 Census of Northern Ireland found that the age profile of the population was;

0-15yrs: 21%

16-25yrs: 12%

26-40yrs: 20%

41-50yrs: 14%

51-65yrs: 18%

65+: 15%

The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) collects data on the enrolments at Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions (excluding the Open University). They found that in the academic year 2018/2019 64% under the age of 25 while 36% were over the age of 25.

Detailed information on all Section 75 categories is collected as part of CAFRE student registration. Of the 633 students enrolled on CAFRE Higher Education courses in 2020/2021 just under 31% (196) completed monitoring forms.

Student Equality Monitoring Data 2020/2021 found that the age profile at undergraduate and postgraduate level is;

16-25yrs: 85%

26-40yrs: 10%

41-50yrs: 3%

51-65yrs: 2%

65+: 0%

Admission to higher education courses at CAFRE is based solely on academic ability. A student’s age is not a consideration in their entrance to CAFRE, the level of tuition fee charged or the award of financial support.

The Department gathers monitoring data for all students attending CAFRE. The Department will continue to monitor relevant data on an ongoing basis based upon the existing data capture mechanism. Moving forward, the current mechanism for the collection of equality data at CAFRE will be reviewed with the aim to increase the level of response rate.

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**Marital Status** evidence/information:

The 2011 Census of Northern Ireland found that around 48% of the population were married or in a civil partnership.

The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) collects data on the enrolments at Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions (excluding the Open University). They found that in the academic year 2018/2019 10% were married or in a civil partnership.

Detailed information on all Section 75 categories is collected as part of CAFRE student registration. Of the 633 students enrolled on CAFRE Higher Education courses in 2020/2021 just under 31% (196) completed monitoring forms.

Student Equality Monitoring Data 2020/2021 found that at undergraduate and postgraduate level around 7% were married or in a civil partnership.

Admission to higher education courses at CAFRE is based solely on academic ability. A student’s marital status is not a consideration in their entrance to CAFRE, the level of tuition fee charged or the award of financial support.

The Department gathers monitoring data for all students attending CAFRE. The Department will continue to monitor relevant data on an ongoing basis based upon the existing data capture mechanism. Moving forward, the current mechanism for the collection of equality data at CAFRE will be reviewed with the aim to increase the level of response rate.

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**Sexual Orientation** evidence/information:

There is no data on the number of lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB) persons in Northern Ireland as no national census has ever asked people to define their sexual orientation. However, according to the Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey 2019 90% identified as heterosexual, 3% as LGB and 1% as Other.

Detailed information on all Section 75 categories is collected as part of CAFRE student registration. Of the 633 students enrolled on CAFRE Higher Education courses in 2020/2021 just under 31% (196) completed monitoring forms.

Student Equality Monitoring Data 2020/2021 found that at undergraduate and postgraduate level 87% of students identify as heterosexual, 11% as LGB and 2% preferred not to say.

Admission to higher education courses at CAFRE is based solely on academic ability. A student’s sexual orientation is not a consideration in their entrance to CAFRE, the level of tuition fee charged or the award of financial support.

The Department gathers monitoring data for all students attending CAFRE. The Department will continue to monitor relevant data on an ongoing basis based upon the existing data capture mechanism. Moving forward, the current mechanism for the collection of equality data at CAFRE will be reviewed with the aim to increase the level of response rate.

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

The 2011 Census of Northern Ireland found that 51% of the population were female and 49% were male.

The Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey 2019 found that 53% of respondents were female and 47% were male.

The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) collects data on the enrolments at Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions (excluding the Open University). They found that in the academic year 2018/2019 42% were male and 58% were female.

Detailed information on all Section 75 categories is collected as part of CAFRE student registration. Of the 633 students enrolled on CAFRE Higher Education courses in 2020/2021 just under 31% (196) completed monitoring forms.

Student Equality Monitoring Data 2020/2021 found that at undergraduate level 76% are female, 23% are male and 1% preferred not to say. At postgraduate level 70% are female and 30% are male.

Admission to higher education courses at CAFRE is based solely on academic ability. A student’s gender is not a consideration in their entrance to CAFRE, the level of tuition fee charged or the award of financial support.

The Department gathers monitoring data for all students attending CAFRE. The Department will continue to monitor relevant data on an ongoing basis based upon the existing data capture mechanism. Moving forward, the current mechanism for the collection of equality data at CAFRE will be reviewed with the aim to increase the level of response rate.

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**Disability** evidence/information:

The 2011 Census of Northern Ireland found 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.

The Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey 2019 found that 21% of respondents indicated that they have a physical or mental health condition or illness lasting or expected to last for 12 months or more.

The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) collects data on the enrolments at Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions (excluding the Open University). They found that in the academic year 2018/2019 11% recorded having a disability and 89% recorded having no disability.

Detailed information on all Section 75 categories is collected as part of CAFRE student registration. Of the 633 students enrolled on CAFRE Higher Education courses in 2020/2021 just under 31% (196) completed monitoring forms.

Student Equality Monitoring Data 2020/2021 found that at undergraduate and postgraduate level 7% recorded having a disability and 93% recorded having no disability.

Whether a student has or has not a disability is not a consideration in the level of tuition fee charged at CAFRE. Additional financial support through Student Finance NI is available for eligible CAFRE students with a disability.

The Department gathers monitoring data for all students attending CAFRE. The Department will continue to monitor relevant data on an ongoing basis based upon the existing data capture mechanism. Moving forward, the current mechanism for the collection of equality data at CAFRE will be reviewed with the aim to increase the level of response rate.

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**Dependants** evidence/information:

The 2011 Census of Northern Ireland found that around 34% of all households had one or more dependant children. The census also found that on census day 12% of people were providing unpaid care to family members, friends, neighbours or others because of their long term physical or mental ill health or disability, or problems related to age.

The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) collects data on the enrolments at Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions (excluding the Open University). They found that in the academic year 2018/2019 11% had a child or an elderly person as a dependant and 89% had no dependants.

Detailed information on all Section 75 categories is collected as part of CAFRE student registration. Of the 633 students enrolled on CAFRE Higher Education courses in 2020/2021 just under 31% (196) completed monitoring forms.

Student Equality Monitoring Data 2020/2021 found that at undergraduate level 7% had children as dependants, 2% had an elderly person as a dependant, 3% had a dependant with a disability and 90% recorded no children or adults as dependants. At postgraduate level 2% had children as dependants and 98% recorded no children or adults as dependants.

Admission to higher education courses at CAFRE is based solely on academic ability. Whether a student has or has not caring responsibilities is not a consideration in their entrance to CAFRE or the level of tuition fee charged. Additional financial support through Student Finance NI is available for those students with caring responsibilities.

The Department gathers monitoring data for all students attending CAFRE. The Department will continue to monitor relevant data on an ongoing basis based upon the existing data capture mechanism. Moving forward, the current mechanism for the collection of equality data at CAFRE will be reviewed with the aim to increase the level of response rate.

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**Needs, experiences and priorities**

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

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

***Religious belief***

DAERA’s policy on HE tuition fee charging at CAFRE and these Regulations will neither actively promote, nor adversely affect, equality of opportunity between different section 75 groups.

The amendments to the current legislation makes operational and technical changes. The inflationary increase of HE tuition fees at CAFRE is simply uplifting it’s HE tuition fees in line with inflation and, thus, holding them constant in real terms – this increase will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students independent of whether they identify as Protestant, Roman Catholic or Other.

DAERA’s current policy position on HE tuition fee charging at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the basic amounts as set by DfE on which these amendment Regulations are being made. The DfE HE tuition fee framework applies to all HE Institutions and FE Colleges across Northern Ireland.

Based on the low response rate (31%) of the equality monitoring forms from currently enrolled CAFRE HE students, the data provided shows that the inflationary uplift on fees impacts on a greater number of Protestants than on others. Due to the low response rate it is not possible to ascertain whether the equality monitoring data collected on religious belief at CAFRE is truly representative of the whole student body or not.

There is no evidence that those of differing religious beliefs have different needs, experiences or priorities in respect of DAERA’s HE tuition fee charging policy or these Regulations.

However, financial assistance, by way of the tuition fee loan from Student Finance NI, is available to all eligible CAFRE students regardless of their religious belief. The maximum amount of tuition fee loan available to eligible CAFRE students will cover the revised HE tuition fees at CAFRE.
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***Political Opinion***

DAERA’s policy on HE tuition fee charging at CAFRE and these Regulations will neither actively promote, nor adversely affect, equality of opportunity between different section 75 groups.

The amendments to the current legislation makes operational and technical changes. The inflationary increase of HE tuition fees at CAFRE is simply uplifting it’s HE tuition fees in line with inflation and, thus, holding them constant in real terms – this increase will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students independent of whether they identify as Unionist, Nationalist or Other.

DAERA’s current policy position on HE tuition fee charging at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the basic amounts as set by DfE on which these amendment Regulations are being made. The DfE HE tuition fee framework applies to all HE Institutions and FE Colleges across Northern Ireland.

Based on the low response rate (31%) of the equality monitoring forms from currently enrolled CAFRE HE students, the data provided shows that the inflationary uplift on fees impacts on a greater number of Unionists than on Nationalists or others. Due to the low response rate it is not possible to ascertain whether the equality monitoring data collected on political opinion at CAFRE is truly representative of the whole student body or not.

There is no evidence that those with differing political opinion have different needs, experiences or priorities in respect of DAERA’s HE tuition fee charging policy or these Regulations.

However, financial assistance, by way of the tuition fee loan from Student Finance NI, is available to all eligible CAFRE students regardless of their political opinion. The maximum amount of tuition fee loan available to eligible CAFRE students will cover the revised HE tuition fees at CAFRE.

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***Racial Group***

DAERA’s policy on HE tuition fee charging at CAFRE and these Regulations will neither actively promote, nor adversely affect, equality of opportunity between different section 75 groups.

The amendments to the current legislation makes operational and technical changes. The inflationary increase of HE tuition fees at CAFRE is simply uplifting it’s HE tuition fees in line with inflation and, thus, holding them constant in real terms – this increase will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students independent of whether they identify as White or from any other racial group.

DAERA’s current policy position on HE tuition fee charging at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the basic amounts as set by DfE on which these amendment Regulations are being made. The DfE HE tuition fee framework applies to all HE Institutions and FE Colleges across Northern Ireland.

Based on the low response rate (31%) of the equality monitoring forms from currently enrolled CAFRE HE students, the data provided shows that the inflationary uplift on fees impacts on a greater number of students who identify as White than any other racial group. This data is representative of the wider Northern Ireland population based on the 2011 census.

There is no evidence that those with differing racial groups have different needs, experiences or priorities in respect of DAERA’s HE tuition fee charging policy or these Regulations.

However, financial assistance, by way of the tuition fee loan from Student Finance NI, is available to all eligible CAFRE students regardless from which racial group they come. The maximum amount of tuition fee loan available to eligible CAFRE students will cover the revised HE tuition fee at CAFRE.

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***Age***

DAERA’s policy on HE tuition fee charging at CAFRE and these Regulations will neither actively promote, nor adversely affect, equality of opportunity between different section 75 groups.

The amendments to the current legislation makes operational and technical changes. The inflationary increase of HE tuition fees at CAFRE is simply uplifting it’s HE tuition fees in line with inflation and, thus, holding them constant in real terms – this increase will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students independent of their age.

DAERA’s current policy position on HE tuition fee charging at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the basic amounts as set by DfE on which these amendment Regulations are being made. The DfE HE tuition fee framework applies to all HE Institutions and FE Colleges across Northern Ireland.

Based on the low response rate (31%) of the equality monitoring forms from currently enrolled CAFRE HE students, the data provided shows that the inflationary uplift on fees impacts on a greater number of young people, within the 16-25 year old age range, than older students. Due to the low response rate it is not possible to ascertain whether the equality monitoring data collected on age at CAFRE is truly representative of the whole student body or not.

There is no evidence that those from different age ranges have different needs, experiences or priorities in respect of DAERA’s HE tuition fee charging policy or these Regulations.

However, financial assistance, by way of the tuition fee loan from Student Finance NI, is available to all eligible CAFRE students regardless of their age. The maximum amount of tuition fee loan available to eligible CAFRE students will cover the revised HE tuition fee at CAFRE.

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***Marital status***

DAERA’s policy on HE tuition fee charging at CAFRE and these Regulations will neither actively promote, nor adversely affect, equality of opportunity between different section 75 groups.

The amendments to the current legislation makes operational and technical changes. The inflationary increase of HE tuition fees at CAFRE is simply uplifting it’s HE tuition fees in line with inflation and, thus, holding them constant in real terms – this increase will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students independent of their marital status.

DAERA’s current policy position on HE tuition fee charging at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the basic amounts as set by DfE on which these amendment Regulations are being made. The DfE HE tuition fee framework applies to all HE Institutions and FE Colleges across Northern Ireland.

Based on the low response rate (31%) of the equality monitoring forms from currently enrolled CAFRE HE students, the data provided shows that the inflationary uplift on fees impacts on a greater number of single people than on others. Due to the low response rate it is not possible to ascertain whether the equality monitoring data collected on marital status at CAFRE is truly representative of the whole student body or not.

There is no evidence that those with differing marital status have different needs, experiences or priorities in respect of DAERA’s HE tuition fee charging policy or these Regulations.

However, financial assistance, by way of the tuition fee loan from Student Finance NI, is available to all eligible CAFRE students regardless of their marital status. The maximum amount of tuition fee loan available to eligible CAFRE students will cover the revised HE tuition fee at CAFRE.

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***Sexual orientation***

DAERA’s policy on HE tuition fee charging at CAFRE and these Regulations will neither actively promote, nor adversely affect, equality of opportunity between different section 75 groups.

The amendments to the current legislation makes operational and technical changes. The inflationary increase of HE tuition fees at CAFRE is simply uplifting it’s HE tuition fees in line with inflation and, thus, holding them constant in real terms – this increase will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students independent of their sexual orientation.

DAERA’s current policy position on HE tuition fee charging at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the basic amounts as set by DfE on which these amendment Regulations are being made. The DfE HE tuition fee framework applies to all HE Institutions and FE Colleges across Northern Ireland.

Based on the low response rate (31%) of the equality monitoring forms from currently enrolled CAFRE HE students, the data provided shows that the inflationary uplift on fees impacts on a greater number of people that identify as heterosexual than LGB. Due to the low response rate it is not possible to ascertain whether the equality monitoring data collected on sexual orientation at CAFRE is truly representative of the whole student body or not.

There is no evidence that those with differing sexual orientations have different needs, experiences or priorities in respect of DAERA’s HE tuition fee charging policy or these Regulations.

However, financial assistance, by way of the tuition fee loan from Student Finance NI, is available to all eligible CAFRE students regardless of their sexual orientation. The maximum amount of tuition fee loan available to eligible CAFRE students will cover the revised HE tuition fee at CAFRE.

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***Men and Women Generally***

DAERA’s policy on HE tuition fee charging at CAFRE and these Regulations will neither actively promote, nor adversely affect, equality of opportunity between different section 75 groups.

The amendments to the current legislation makes operational and technical changes. The inflationary increase of HE tuition fees at CAFRE is simply uplifting it’s HE tuition fees in line with inflation and, thus, holding them constant in real terms – this increase will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students independent of their gender.

DAERA’s current policy position on HE tuition fee charging at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the basic amounts as set by DfE on which these amendment Regulations are being made. The DfE HE tuition fee framework applies to all HE Institutions and FE Colleges across Northern Ireland.

Based on the low response rate (31%) of the equality monitoring forms from currently enrolled CAFRE HE students, the data provided shows that the inflationary uplift on fees impacts on a greater number of women than on men. Due to the low response rate it is not possible to ascertain whether the equality monitoring data collected on gender at CAFRE is truly representative of the whole student body or not.

There is no evidence that those with differing genders have different needs, experiences or priorities in respect of DAERA’s HE tuition fee charging policy or these Regulations.

However, financial assistance, by way of the tuition fee loan from Student Finance NI, is available to all eligible CAFRE students regardless of their gender. The maximum amount of tuition fee loan available to eligible CAFRE students will cover the revised HE tuition fee at CAFRE.

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***Disability***

DAERA’s policy on HE tuition fee charging at CAFRE and these Regulations will neither actively promote, nor adversely affect, equality of opportunity between different section 75 groups.

The amendments to the current legislation makes operational and technical changes. The inflationary increase of HE tuition fees at CAFRE is simply uplifting it’s HE tuition fees in line with inflation and, thus, holding them constant in real terms – this increase will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students independent on whether they have or have not a disability.

DAERA’s current policy position on HE tuition fee charging at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the basic amounts as set by DfE on which these amendment Regulations are being made. The DfE HE tuition fee framework applies to all HE Institutions and FE Colleges across Northern Ireland.

Based on the low response rate (31%) of the equality monitoring forms from currently enrolled CAFRE HE students, the data provided shows that the inflationary uplift on fees impacts on a greater number of students without a disability than on those students with a disability. Due to the low response rate it is not possible to ascertain whether the equality data collected on having a disability or not at CAFRE is truly representative of the whole student body or not.

There is no evidence that those with a disability than with no disability have different needs, experiences or priorities in respect of DAERA’s HE tuition fee charging policy or these Regulations.

However, financial assistance, by way of the tuition fee loan from Student Finance NI, is available to all eligible CAFRE students regardless of whether they have or have not a disability. The maximum amount of tuition fee loan available to eligible CAFRE students will cover the revised HE tuition fee at CAFRE.

Disabled Students’ Allowances, through Student Finance NI, is available for eligible CAFRE students with a disability. This financial assistance helps to remove any financial barriers to higher education by helping to meet the disability specific costs of undertaking higher education, this includes the provision of non-medical helpers, equipment and travel costs. As an existing DfE policy this has previously been subject to screening and is considered to be compliant.

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***Dependants***

DAERA’s policy on HE tuition fee charging at CAFRE and these Regulations will neither actively promote, nor adversely affect, equality of opportunity between different section 75 groups.

The amendments to the current legislation makes operational and technical changes. The inflationary increase of HE tuition fees at CAFRE is simply uplifting it’s HE tuition fees in line with inflation and, thus, holding them constant in real terms – this increase will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students independent on whether they have or have not any dependants.

DAERA’s current policy position on HE tuition fee charging at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the basic amounts as set by DfE on which these amendment Regulations are being made. The DfE HE tuition fee framework applies to all HE Institutions and FE Colleges across Northern Ireland.

Based on the low response rate (31%) of the equality monitoring forms from currently enrolled CAFRE HE students, the data provided shows that the inflationary uplift on fees impacts on a greater number of students with no caring responsibilities than on those that do. Due to the low response rate it is not possible to ascertain whether the equality data collected on whether a student has or has not caring responsibilities at CAFRE is truly representative of the whole student body or not.

There is no evidence that those with caring responsibilities or those without caring responsibilities have different needs, experiences or priorities in respect of DAERA’s HE tuition fee charging policy or these Regulations.

However, financial assistance, by way of the tuition fee loan from Student Finance NI, is available to all eligible NI Students regardless of whether they have caring responsibilities or not. The maximum amount of tuition fee loan available to eligible CAFRE students will cover the revised HE tuition fee at CAFRE.

Childcare Grant, Adult Dependants’ Grant and Parents’ Learning Allowance, through Student Finance NI, is available to eligible CAFRE students. This financial assistance helps to remove any financial barriers to higher education by helping to meet specific costs of undertaking higher education. As an existing DfE policy this has previously been subject to screening and is considered to be compliant.

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**Part 2. Screening questions**

**Introduction**

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

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

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

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

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

**In favour of a ‘major’ impact**

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

**In favour of ‘minor’ impact**

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

**In favour of none**

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

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

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

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

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

Based on the low response rate (31%) of the equality monitoring forms from currently enrolled CAFRE HE students, the data provided shows that the inflationary uplift on fees impacts on a greater number of Protestants than on others.

While CAFRE collects equality monitoring data from its student body, the response rate to date has been very low at 31%. It is not possible to ascertain whether the equality data collected on religious belief at CAFRE is truly representative of the whole student body or not.

DAERA’s current policy position on HE tuition fee charging at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the basic amounts as set by DfE on which these amendment Regulations are being made. The DfE HE tuition fee framework applies to all HE Institutions and FE Colleges across Northern Ireland.

The amendments to the current legislation makes operational and technical changes. The inflationary increase of HE tuition fees at CAFRE is simply uplifting it’s HE tuition fees in line with inflation and, thus, holding them constant in real terms – this increase will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students independent of whether they identify as Protestant, Roman Catholic or Other.

Admission to higher education courses at CAFRE is based solely on academic ability. A student’s religious belief is not a consideration in their entrance to CAFRE, the level of tuition fee charged or the award of financial support.

Financial assistance, by way of the tuition fee loan, maintenance loan and grants from Student Finance NI, is available to all eligible CAFRE Students regardless of their religious belief. The maximum amount of tuition fee loan available to eligible CAFRE students will cover the revised HE tuition fees at CAFRE

DAERA’s policy on HE tuition fee charging at CAFRE and these Regulations will neither actively promote, nor adversely affect, equality of opportunity between different section 75 groups.

DAERA will be developing a Widening Access Participation Plan (WAPP) for academic year 2022/2023 as it moves to its new HE tuition fee framework at CAFRE to ensure that no Section 75 grouping will be adversely affected, and where impacts are identified, mitigations will be put in place as part of this WAPP.

**What is the level of impact?**

Minor

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

Based on the low response rate (31%) of the equality monitoring forms from currently enrolled CAFRE HE students, the data provided shows that the inflationary uplift on fees impacts on a greater number of Unionists than on Nationalists or others.

While CAFRE collects equality monitoring data from its student body, the response rate to date has been very low at 31%. It is not possible to ascertain whether the equality data collected on political opinion at CAFRE is truly representative of the whole student body or not.

DAERA’s current policy position on HE tuition fee charging at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the basic amounts as set by DfE on which these amendment Regulations are being made. The DfE HE tuition fee framework applies to all HE Institutions and FE Colleges across Northern Ireland.

The amendments to the current legislation makes operational and technical changes. The inflationary increase of HE tuition fees at CAFRE is simply uplifting it’s HE tuition fees in line with inflation and, thus, holding them constant in real terms – this increase will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students independent of whether they identify as Unionist, Nationalist or Other.

Admission to higher education courses at CAFRE is based solely on academic ability. A student’s political opinion is not a consideration in their entrance to CAFRE, the level of tuition fee charged or the award of financial support.

Financial assistance, by way of the tuition fee loan, maintenance loan and grants from Student Finance NI, is available to all eligible CAFRE Students regardless of their political opinion. The maximum amount of tuition fee loan available to eligible CAFRE students will cover the revised HE tuition fees at CAFRE.

DAERA’s policy on HE tuition fee charging at CAFRE and these Regulations will neither actively promote, nor adversely affect, equality of opportunity between different section 75 groups.

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**What is the level of impact?**

Minor

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

Based on the low response rate (31%) of the equality monitoring forms from currently enrolled CAFRE HE students, the data provided shows that the inflationary uplift on fees impacts on a greater number of students who identify as White than any other racial group. This data is representative of the wider Northern Ireland population based on the 2011 census.

DAERA’s current policy position on HE tuition fee charging at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the basic amounts as set by DfE on which these amendment Regulations are being made. The DfE HE tuition fee framework applies to all HE Institutions and FE Colleges across Northern Ireland.

The amendments to the current legislation makes operational and technical changes. The inflationary increase of HE tuition fees at CAFRE is simply uplifting it’s HE tuition fees in line with inflation and, thus, holding them constant in real terms – this increase will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students independent of whether they identify as White or from any other racial group.

Admission to higher education courses at CAFRE is based solely on academic ability. From which racial group a student belongs is not a consideration in their entrance to CAFRE, the level of tuition fee charged or the award of financial support.

Financial assistance, by way of the tuition fee loan, maintenance loan and grants from Student Finance NI, is available to all eligible CAFRE students regardless from which racial group they come. The maximum amount of tuition fee loan available to eligible CAFRE students will cover the revised HE tuition fee at CAFRE.

DAERA’s policy on HE tuition fee charging at CAFRE and these Regulations will neither actively promote, nor adversely affect, equality of opportunity between different section 75 groups.

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**What is the level of impact?**

Minor

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

Based on the low response rate (31%) of the equality monitoring forms from currently enrolled CAFRE HE students, the data provided shows that the inflationary uplift on fees impacts on a greater number of young people, within the 16-25 year old age range, than older students.

While CAFRE collects equality monitoring data from its student body, the response rate to date has been very low at 31%. It is not possible to ascertain whether the equality data collected on age at CAFRE is truly representative of the whole student body or not.

DAERA’s current policy position on HE tuition fee charging at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the basic amounts as set by DfE on which these amendment Regulations are being made. The DfE HE tuition fee framework applies to all HE Institutions and FE Colleges across Northern Ireland.

The amendments to the current legislation makes operational and technical changes. The inflationary increase of HE tuition fees at CAFRE is simply uplifting it’s HE tuition fees in line with inflation and, thus, holding them constant in real terms – this increase will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students independent of their age.

Admission to higher education courses at CAFRE is based solely on academic ability. A student’s age is not a consideration in their entrance to CAFRE, the level of tuition fee charged or the award of financial support.

Financial assistance, by way of the tuition fee loan, maintenance loan and grants from Student Finance NI, is available to all eligible CAFRE students regardless of their age. The maximum amount of tuition fee loan available to eligible CAFRE students will cover the revised HE tuition fee at CAFRE.

DAERA’s policy on HE tuition fee charging at CAFRE and these Regulations will neither actively promote, nor adversely affect, equality of opportunity between different section 75 groups.

DAERA will be developing a Widening Access Participation Plan (WAPP) for academic year 2022/2023 as it moves to its new HE tuition fee framework at CAFRE to ensure that no Section 75 grouping will be adversely affected, and where impacts are identified, mitigations will be put in place as part of this WAPP.

**What is the level of impact?**

Minor

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

Based on the low response rate (31%) of the equality monitoring forms from currently enrolled CAFRE HE students, the data provided shows that the inflationary uplift on fees impacts on a greater number of single people than on others.

While CAFRE collects equality monitoring data from its student body, the response rate to date has been very low at 31%. It is not possible to ascertain whether the equality data collected on marital status at CAFRE is truly representative of the whole student body or not.

DAERA’s current policy position on HE tuition fee charging at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the basic amounts as set by DfE on which these amendment Regulations are being made. The DfE HE tuition fee framework applies to all HE Institutions and FE Colleges across Northern Ireland.

The amendments to the current legislation makes operational and technical changes. The inflationary increase of HE tuition fees at CAFRE is simply uplifting it’s HE tuition fees in line with inflation and, thus, holding them constant in real terms – this increase will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students independent of their marital status.

Admission to higher education courses at CAFRE is based solely on academic ability. A student’s marital status is not a consideration in their entrance to CAFRE, the level of tuition fee charged or the award of financial support.

Financial assistance, by way of the tuition fee loan, maintenance loans and grants from Student Finance NI, is available to all eligible CAFRE students regardless of their marital status. The maximum amount of tuition fee loan available to eligible CAFRE students will cover the revised HE tuition fee at CAFRE

DAERA’s policy on HE tuition fee charging at CAFRE and these Regulations will neither actively promote, nor adversely affect, equality of opportunity between different section 75 groups.

DAERA will be developing a Widening Access Participation Plan (WAPP) for academic year 2022/2023 as it moves to its new HE tuition fee framework at CAFRE to ensure that no Section 75 grouping will be adversely affected, and where impacts are identified, mitigations will be put in place as part of this WAPP.

**What is the level of impact?**

Minor

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

Based on the low response rate (31%) of the equality monitoring forms from currently enrolled CAFRE HE students, the data provided shows that the inflationary uplift on fees impacts on a greater number of people that identify as heterosexual than LGB.

While CAFRE collects equality monitoring data from its student body, the response rate to date has been very low at 31%. It is not possible to ascertain whether the equality data collected on sexual orientation at CAFRE is truly representative of the whole student body or not.

DAERA’s current policy position on HE tuition fee charging at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the basic amounts as set by DfE on which these amendment Regulations are being made. The DfE HE tuition fee framework applies to all HE Institutions and FE Colleges across Northern Ireland.

The amendments to the current legislation makes operational and technical changes. The inflationary increase of HE tuition fees at CAFRE is simply uplifting it’s HE tuition fees in line with inflation and, thus, holding them constant in real terms – this increase will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students independent of their sexual orientation.

Admission to higher education courses at CAFRE is based solely on academic ability. A student’s sexual orientation is not a consideration in their entrance to CAFRE, the level of tuition fee charged or the award of financial support.

Financial assistance, by way of the tuition fee loan, maintenance loan and grants from Student Finance NI, is available to all eligible CAFRE students regardless of their sexual orientation. The maximum amount of tuition fee loan available to eligible CAFRE students will cover the revised HE tuition fee at CAFRE.

DAERA’s policy on HE tuition fee charging at CAFRE and these Regulations will neither actively promote, nor adversely affect, equality of opportunity between different section 75 groups.

DAERA will be developing a Widening Access Participation Plan (WAPP) for academic year 2022/2023 as it moves to its new HE tuition fee framework at CAFRE to ensure that no Section 75 grouping will be adversely affected, and where impacts are identified, mitigations will be put in place as part of this WAPP.

**What is the level of impact?**

Minor

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

Based on the low response rate (31%) of the equality monitoring forms from currently enrolled CAFRE HE students, the data provided shows that the inflationary uplift on fees impacts on a greater number of women than on men.

While CAFRE collects equality monitoring data from its student body, the response rate to date has been very low at 31%. It is not possible to ascertain whether the equality data collected on gender at CAFRE is truly representative of the whole student body or not.

DAERA’s current policy position on HE tuition fee charging at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the basic amounts as set by DfE on which these amendment Regulations are being made. The DfE HE tuition fee framework applies to all HE Institutions and FE Colleges across Northern Ireland.

The amendments to the current legislation makes operational and technical changes. The inflationary increase of HE tuition fees at CAFRE is simply uplifting it’s HE tuition fees in line with inflation and, thus, holding them constant in real terms – this increase will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students independent of their gender.

Admission to higher education courses at CAFRE is based solely on academic ability. A student’s gender is not a consideration in their entrance to CAFRE, the level of tuition fee charged or the award of financial support.

Financial assistance, by way of the tuition fee loan, maintenance loan and grants from Student Finance NI, is available to all eligible CAFRE students regardless of their gender. The maximum amount of tuition fee loan available to eligible CAFRE students will cover the revised HE tuition fee at CAFRE.

DAERA’s policy on HE tuition fee charging at CAFRE and these Regulations will neither actively promote, nor adversely affect, equality of opportunity between different section 75 groups.

DAERA will be developing a Widening Access Participation Plan (WAPP) for academic year 2022/2023 as it moves to its new HE tuition fee framework at CAFRE to ensure that no Section 75 grouping will be adversely affected, and where impacts are identified, mitigations will be put in place as part of this WAPP.

**What is the level of impact?**

Minor

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

Based on the low response rate (31%) of the equality monitoring forms from currently enrolled CAFRE HE students, the data provided shows that the inflationary uplift on fees impacts on a greater number of students without a disability than on those students with a disability.

While CAFRE collects equality monitoring data from its student body, the response rate to date has been very low at 31%. It is not possible to ascertain whether the equality data collected on having a disability or not at CAFRE is truly representative of the whole student body or not.

DAERA’s current policy position on HE tuition fee charging at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the basic amounts as set by DfE on which these amendment Regulations are being made. The DfE HE tuition fee framework applies to all HE Institutions and FE Colleges across Northern Ireland.

The amendments to the current legislation makes operational and technical changes. The inflationary increase of HE tuition fees at CAFRE is simply uplifting it’s HE tuition fees in line with inflation and, thus, holding them constant in real terms – this increase will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students independent on whether they have or have not a disability.

Whether a student has or has not a disability is not a consideration in the level of tuition fee charged at CAFRE.

Financial assistance, by way of the tuition fee loan, maintenance loan and grants from Student Finance NI, is available to all eligible CAFRE students regardless of whether they have or have not a disability. The maximum amount of tuition fee loan available to eligible CAFRE students will cover the revised HE tuition fee at CAFRE.

Disabled Students’ Allowances, through Student Finance NI, is available to eligible CAFRE students. This financial assistance helps to remove any financial barriers to higher education by helping to meet the disability specific costs of undertaking higher education, this includes the provision of non-medical helpers, equipment and travel costs. As an existing DfE policy this has previously been subject to screening and is considered to be compliant.

DAERA’s policy on HE tuition fee charging at CAFRE and these Regulations will neither actively promote, nor adversely affect, equality of opportunity between different section 75 groups.

DAERA will be developing a Widening Access Participation Plan (WAPP) for academic year 2022/2023 as it moves to its new HE tuition fee framework at CAFRE to ensure that no Section 75 grouping will be adversely affected, and where impacts are identified, mitigations will be put in place as part of this WAPP.

**What is the level of impact?**

Minor

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

Based on the low response rate (31%) of the equality monitoring forms from currently enrolled CAFRE HE students, the data provided shows that the inflationary uplift on fees impacts on a greater number of people without caring responsibilities than on others that do.

While CAFRE collects equality monitoring data from its student body, the response rate to date has been very low at 31%. it is not possible to ascertain whether the equality data collected on whether a student has or has not any caring responsibilities at CAFRE is truly representative of the whole student body or not.

DAERA’s current policy position on HE tuition fee charging at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the basic amounts as set by DfE on which these amendment Regulations are being made. The DfE HE tuition fee framework applies to all HE Institutions and FE Colleges across Northern Ireland.

The amendments to the current legislation makes operational and technical changes. The inflationary increase of HE tuition fees at CAFRE is simply uplifting it’s HE tuition fees in line with inflation and, thus, holding them constant in real terms – this increase will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students independent on whether they have caring responsibilities or not.

Admission to higher education courses at CAFRE is based solely on academic ability. Whether a student has or has not any caring responsibilities is not a consideration in their entrance to CAFRE, the level of tuition fee charged or the award of financial support.

However, financial assistance, by way of the tuition fee loan, maintenance loan and grants from Student Finance NI, is available to all eligible CAFRE students regardless of whether they have caring responsibilities or not. The maximum amount of tuition fee loan available to eligible CAFRE students will cover the revised HE tuition fee at CAFRE

Childcare Grant, Adult Dependants’ Grant and Parents’ Learning Allowance, through Student Finance NI, is available to eligible CAFRE students with caring responsibilities. This financial assistance helps to remove any financial barriers to higher education by helping to meet specific costs of undertaking higher education. As an existing DfE policy this has previously been subject to screening and is considered to be compliant.

DAERA’s policy on HE tuition fee charging at CAFRE and these Regulations will neither actively promote, nor adversely affect, equality of opportunity between different section 75 groups.

DAERA will be developing a Widening Access Participation Plan (WAPP) for academic year 2022/2023 as it moves to its new HE tuition fee framework at CAFRE to ensure that no Section 75 grouping will be adversely affected, and where impacts are identified, mitigations will be put in place as part of this WAPP.

**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?**

No

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

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

N/A

**If No, provide reasons:**

There are no opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories within these Regulations.

DAERA’s current policy position on HE tuition fee charging at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the basic amounts as set by DfE on which these amendment Regulations are being made. The DfE HE tuition fee framework applies to all HE Institutions and FE Colleges across Northern Ireland.

The amendments to the current legislation makes operational and technical changes. The inflationary increase of HE tuition fees at CAFRE is simply uplifting it’s HE tuition fees in line with inflation and, thus, holding them constant in real terms – this increase will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students and on that basis it has no differential impact.

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

N/A

**If No, provide reasons:**

As above – see “Religious Belief” section.

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

N/A

**If No, provide reasons:**

As above – see “Religious Belief” section.

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

N/A

**If No, provide reasons:**

As above – see “Religious Belief” section.

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

N/A

**If No, provide reasons**

As above – see “Religious Belief” section.

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

N/A

**If No, provide reasons:**

As above – see “Religious Belief” section.

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

N/A

**If No, provide reasons:**

As above – see “Religious Belief” section.

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

N/A

**If No, provide reasons:**

As above – see “Religious Belief” section.

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

N/A

**If No, provide reasons:**

As above – see “Religious Belief” section.

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*:**

No impact

**What is the level of impact?**

None

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

No impact

**What is the level of impact?**

None

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

No impact

**What is the level of impact?**

None

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

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

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

N/A

**If No, provide reasons:**

There are no opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group within these Regulations.

DAERA’s current policy position on HE tuition fee charging at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the basic amounts as set by DfE on which these amendment Regulations are being made. The DfE HE tuition fee framework applies to all HE Institutions and FE Colleges across Northern Ireland.

The amendments to the current legislation makes operational and technical changes. The inflationary increase of HE tuition fees at CAFRE is simply uplifting it’s HE tuition fees in line with inflation and, thus, holding them constant in real terms – this increase will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students and on that basis it has no differential impact.

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

N/A

**If No, provide reasons**

As above – see “Religious Belief” section.

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

N/A

**If No, provide reasons**

As above – see “Religious Belief” section.

**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).*

Yes, under certain circumstances.

However, DAERA’s current policy position on HE tuition fee charging at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the basic amounts as set by DfE on which these amendment Regulations are being made. The DfE HE tuition fee framework applies to all HE Institutions and FE Colleges across Northern Ireland.

The amendments to the current legislation makes operational and technical changes. The inflationary increase of HE tuition fees at CAFRE is simply uplifting it’s HE tuition fees in line with inflation and, thus, holding them constant in real terms – this increase will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students and on that basis it has no differential impact and no potential impacts on people with multiple identities.

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

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

Consideration of Disability Duties

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

No.

There is no facility in the policy/Regulations proposal to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people.

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

No.

There is no facility in the policy/Regulations proposal to increase the participation of disabled people in public life.

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

 “Screened out” without mitigation or an alternative policy proposed to be adopted

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

The amendment to the Agriculture(Student fees) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007, which has the effect of increasing the prescribed HE tuition fees at CAFRE in academic year 2021/2022 to students ordinarily resident in Northern Ireland (and excepted others).

DAERA traditionally increases tuition fee rates for students on undergraduate higher education courses on an annual basis, in line with inflation rates used by the DfE based on inflation rates used by the Department for Education in England which have been provided by the Treasury. These increases do not challenge Section 75.

The amendments to the current legislation makes operational and technical changes. The inflationary increase of HE tuition fees at CAFRE is simply uplifting it’s HE tuition fees in line with inflation and, thus, holding them constant in real terms – this increase will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students and on that basis it has no differential impact.

Financial assistance, by way of the tuition fee loan, maintenance loan and grants from Student Finance NI, is available to all eligible CAFRE students regardless of their Section 75 grouping. The maximum amount of tuition fee loan available to eligible CAFRE students will cover the revised HE tuition fee at CAFRE

Disabled Students’ Allowances, through Student Finance NI, is available to eligible CAFRE students with a disability. This financial assistance helps to remove any financial barriers to higher education by helping to meet the disability specific costs of undertaking higher education, this includes the provision of non-medical helpers, equipment and travel costs. As an existing DfE policy this has previously been subject to screening and is considered to be compliant.

Childcare Grant, Adult Dependants’ Grant and Parents’ Learning Allowance, through Student Finance NI, is available to eligible CAFRE students with caring responsibilities. This financial assistance helps to remove any financial barriers to higher education by helping to meet specific costs of undertaking higher education. As an existing DfE policy this has previously been subject to screening and is considered to be compliant.

**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.**

The amendment to the Agriculture(Student fees) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007, which has the effect of increasing the prescribed HE tuition fees at CAFRE in academic year 2021/2022 to students ordinarily resident in Northern Ireland (and excepted others).

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DAERA will be developing a Widening Access Participation Plan (WAPP) as it plans to move to a new HE tuition fee framework at CAFRE from academic year 2022/2023. To ensure that no Section 75 grouping will be adversely affected, and where impacts are identified, mitigations will be put in place as part of this WAPP.

**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**

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

Note: The Total Rating Score should be used to prioritise the policy in rank order with other policies screened in for equality impact assessment. This list of priorities will assist the public authority in timetabling. Details of the Public Authority’s Equality Impact Assessment Timetable should be included in the quarterly Screening Report.

**Is the policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities?**

**If yes, please provide details.**

**Part 4. Monitoring**

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

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

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

Further advice on monitoring can be found at: [ECNI Monitoring Guidance for Public Authorities](https://www.equalityni.org/ECNI/media/ECNI/Publications/Employers%20and%20Service%20Providers/S75MonitoringGuidance2007.pdf?ext=.pdf)

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

**Equality:**

CAFRE collects and analyses equality monitoring data on all students at the commencement of their course. Moving forward, the current mechanism for the collection of equality data at CAFRE will be reviewed with the aim to increase the level of response rate.

**Good Relations:**

Other than the equality monitoring data for new students, no specific data will be collected.

**Disability Duties:**

CAFRE responds to any special education/disability needs identified by students.

**Part 5. Consideration of Human Rights**

1. **The Human Rights Act (HRA) 1998 brings the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) into UK law and it applies in N Ireland. Indicate below by deleting Yes/No as appropriate, any potential *adverse impacts* that the policy or decision may have in relation to human rights issues.**

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

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

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

No adverse impact on human rights have been identified.

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

None

**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: Dáire Toner**  **Grade:** Deputy Principal

**Branch:** Policy Development Branch

**Date:** 22 April 2021

**Signature:**

****

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

**Name: Norman Fulton** **Grade:** 3

**Branch:** Food and Farming Group

**Date:** 22 April 2021

**Signature:**

****

Note: A copy of the Screening Template, for each policy screened should be ‘signed off’ and approved by a senior manager responsible for the policy, made easily accessible on the public authority’s website as soon as possible following completion and made available on request.

Please save the final signed version of the completed screening form in the CM container (AE2-19-11940) below as soon as possible after completion and forward the CM link to Equality Branch at equality@daera-ni.gov.uk. The screening template must be saved to the container in **HTML format** (not PDF) in order to comply with accessibility requirements. The screening form will be placed on the DAERA website and a link provided to the Department’s Section 75 consultees.

 

For more information about equality screening, contact –

DAERA Equality Unit

Equality, Diversity & Public Appointments Branch

Ballykelly House

111 Ballykelly Road

LIMAVADY
BT49 9HP

Email: equality@daera-ni.gov.uk

Tel: 028 7744 2027



**Annex A**

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

***Article 2***

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

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

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

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

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

***Article 3***

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

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

***Article 4***

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

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

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

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

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

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

***Article 5***

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

***Article 6***

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

***Article 7***

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

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

***Article 8***

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

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

***Article 9***

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

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

***Article 10***

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

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

***Article 11***

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

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

***Article 12***

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

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

***Article 14***

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

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

**Protocol 1**

***Article 1***

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

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

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

**Protocol 1**

***Article 2***

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

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

**Protocol 1**

***Article***

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

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