# 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

Northern Ireland Regional Food Programme Grant Funding 2023-2025

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Is this an existing, revised or a new policy?

* This is a continuation of an existing programme of support. The NIRFP 2022-23 programme EQIA screening document has been reviewed and updated with additional information included from the Census 2021 Population and Household estimates for Northern Ireland however it is noted there are no operational changes to NI Regional Food Programme for 2023-25. To date 19 events from the 2022-23 programme have been held with no identified negative impacts and with monitoring ongoing for the remaining events.
* Note that the NIRFP Business Case was completed and agreed for a two-year period, spanning 2023/24 and 2024/25. However, Programme delivery operates on an annual basis. Hence this EQIA Screening is undertaken in line with the Business Case and covers a two-year period.
* Census day was held on 21st March 2021. The Phase 1 statistics were released in September 2022 and included demography, ethnicity, identity, language, religion, housing and accommodation. Phase 2 statistics were released in December 2022 providing further details on household language, health, disability and unpaid care. This screening document will be reviewed prior to future NIRFP programme launches to ensure the latest census data has been included.
* The programme provides an essential means of government intervention support for representative bodies to assist new entrants in securing routes to market that would otherwise be unavailable to them. In addition the programme provides additional leverage and financial support for these ‘not for profit’ representative bodies to work together. Since most of these are single sector bodies with a single sector marketing remit, the programme encourages opportunities for comprehensive and joined up promotion of NI produce in its totality that would otherwise be lost.
* Programme benefits include generation of extra sales in excess of £1m, PR value in the region of £1.2m (based on advertising value equivalent), over 635k people attending award winning events showcasing multiple award winning products and producers.

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

* The aim of the NI Regional Food Programme is to raise the profile of quality regional food and increase its consumption within NI, ROI and GB.
* The programme encourages all sectors of the agri-food industry to work together and provides financial assistance for eligible additional activities. It is not designed to substitute existing activities already funded by applicants. The objectives of the programme are:
  + To assist the NI agri-food industry to develop and expand profitable and sustainable markets.
  + To assist the development of a sustainable and thriving rural economy by raising profile of NI quality food.
  + To increase integration and efficiency within the NI agri-food supply chain through enhanced co-operation and communication between/within sectors.
* The aim of this policy decision is to ensure that the applicants for the Northern Ireland Regional Food Programme 2023-25 are representative of the general population and that consideration has been given to equality of opportunity for people within Section 75 categories.
* Individuals or companies can apply if they are:
  + Formally constituted not for profit groups who have an NI membership/remit and plan to deliver projects that raise the profile of NI regional food products.
  + Registered Charities who have an NI membership/remit and plan to deliver projects that raise the profile of NI regional food products.
  + Not for profit regional development agencies e.g. local Councils who have an NI membership/remit and plan to deliver projects that raise the profile of NI regional food products.
  + Joint applications from not for profit groups and/or charities or regional development agencies who have an NI membership/remit and plan to deliver projects that raise the profile of NI regional food products.
* Since applications encourage all “not for profit” sectors of the agri-food industry to work together, it is unlikely that there will be any adverse impacts on human rights.

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

If so, explain how.

No - The scheme is not specific to any one particular Section 75 category.

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

Agri-Food & Corporate Support Branch \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Who owns and who implements the policy?

Agri-Food & Corporate Support Branch

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**Implementation factors**

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

If yes, are they (please delete as appropriate)

**Financial** – The availability of DAERA funding contributes to this policy as it provides an opportunity for ‘Not for Profit’ (NFP) organisations/registered charities & NFP regional development agencies to deliver projects showcasing the quality of regional food and drink within the UK and Irish markets. Sources of funding for the regional/domestic market are limited and there is currently no similar funding support from the Department of Economy.

**Main stakeholders affected**

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

**Internal** - Support provided within DAERA (Agri-Food & Corporate Support Branch). Staff will complete most of this work as part of their core job roles during normal working hours however some quality assurance work will be undertaken in evenings and/or weekends.

**External** -service users include Councils, Agricultural Show Societies, Food NI, RUAS, Arts Ekta are some of the beneficiaries of the scheme and includes indirect benefits for the wider rural community.

**Voluntary / community groups / trade unions** - impacted as only “not for profit” organisations are eligible to apply

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:

[Equality Impact Assessment of the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme.](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dard/2014-2020-rdp-final-eqia-report.pdf)

[2021 Census of Northern Ireland](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/census/2011-census): [Census 2021 bulk download | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-bulk-download)

The religious beliefs across the NI community are 43.5% Protestant and 45.7% Catholic. Catholics predominate in the West, North- West and South of Northern Ireland. Whereas in contrast, Protestants are heavily represented in the East, North-East and Greater Belfast areas.

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**Political Opinion** evidence / information:

Equality Impact Assessment of the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme.

[2021 Census of Northern Ireland](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/census/2011-census): [Census 2021 bulk download | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-bulk-download)

2018 DAERA Equality Indicators Report

Information on political opinion was not collected in the Population Census 2021. However, as a question on National Identity was included with 32% as British only, 29% as Irish only and 20% as Northern Irish only. In the DAERA Equality Indicators Report 2011, responses were analysed against farm size, type and land characteristics as a proxy metric for political opinion. The results were reported as follows; 43% of farmers reported their identity as British only, 33% as Irish only and 32% as Northern Irish only, with single digit percentages stating another identity or a combination of more than one identity. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Racial Group** evidence / information:

The 2001/02 Social Survey of Farmers and Farm Families across Northern Ireland (*most recent*)

Equality Impact Assessment of the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme.

2018 DAERA Equality Indicators Report

[2021 Census of Northern Ireland](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/census/2011-census): [Census 2021 bulk download | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-bulk-download)

The 2001/02 Social Survey of Farmers and Farm Families across Northern Ireland (*most recent*) outlined that the farming population was overwhelmingly white and that there was no difference in racial group by type or size of farm. This survey was conducted nearly 20 years ago and the racial group statistics in both the 2021 census and DAERA’s Equality Indicators Report (2018) reflect the original findings of the 2001-02 survey. DAERA’s Equality Indicators Report (2018) stated the proportion of farmers stating an ethnicity other than white was too small to examine differences by farm characteristics. The 2021 Census of Northern Ireland found that over 96.5% of the population, state their ethnic origin to be white. Non-white ethnic groups accounted for 1.7% of the total population. In addition under 1.3% of non-white minority ethnic groups of Black, Asian and Other live in rural area.

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**Age** evidence / information:

Equality Impact Assessment of the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme.

2011 Census of Northern Ireland – [Population Estimates – Single year of Age](https://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/Theme.aspx?themeNumber=74&themeName=Population)

2016 [EU Farm Structure Survey Northern Ireland](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/daera/17.18.088%20EU%20Farm%20Structure%20Survey%202016%20V2.pdf)

Northern Ireland’s population was estimated to be 1,903,175 people and the median age of the NI population is 39. The youngest age band (0-14) represents only 19% of the population and the oldest age band (65+) represents only 17% however the largest age band is 15 to 64 with 64% of the population making up this cohort.

**Marital Status** evidence / information:

Equality Impact Assessment of the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme.

2011 Census of Northern Ireland

2016 [EU Farm Structure Survey Northern Ireland](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/daera/17.18.088%20EU%20Farm%20Structure%20Survey%202016%20V2.pdf)

47.5% of people over 16 in Northern Ireland are currently married (2011 Census) with a further 36.1% classed as single (never been married) and the remaining 16.4% separated, divorced or widowed. Within the rural communities of Northern Ireland a higher proportion of people are married at 57% and within the farming context this is even higher with 68% of adults married.

**Sexual Orientation** evidence / information:

Equality Impact Assessment of the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme.

[Sexual Identity, UK: 2016](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/sexuality/bulletins/sexualidentityuk/2016)

In 2016, just over 1 million (2%) of the UK population aged 16 and over identified themselves as lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB). The population aged 16 – 24 were the age group most likely to identify as LGB in 2016 (4.1%). More males (2.3%) than females (1.6%) identified themselves as LGB in 2016.

There are no data on the number of lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB) persons in NI as no national census has ever asked people to define their sexuality. However, according to the 2013 NI Life and Times Survey (NILT), 96% of people in NI are heterosexual and 1% are homosexual (<http://www.ark.ac.uk/nilt/2013/Background/ORIENT.html>).

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

Equality Impact Assessment of the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme.

[2021 Census of Northern Ireland](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/census/2011-census): [Census 2021 bulk download | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-bulk-download)

The population of Northern Ireland was 1,903,175 on census day (21st March 2021), which has increased by 5% since 2011. The 2021 Census showed that 51% of the population were female and 49% male.

Between mid-2018 and mid-2019, the population of Northern Ireland increased by 12,000 people (0.6 per cent). Just over half of the population (50.7 per cent) were female, with 961,000 females compared to 932,700 males (49.3 per cent).

**Disability** evidence / information:

Equality Impact Assessment of the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme.

2018 DAERA Equality Indicators Report

[2021 Census of Northern Ireland](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/census/2011-census): [Census 2021 bulk download | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-bulk-download)

The DAERA Equality Indicators Report estimates Northern Ireland has 33.6% of the population living with a limiting long term health problem or disability; amongst farmers this figure is slightly higher, with almost a third (30%) of farmers stated that they had a long-term illness or disability which limited their daily activities (2018).

The 2021 Census of Northern Ireland shows this figure to have decreased to approximately 24% (463,000) of the population reporting their day to day activities to be limited due to a disability.

**Dependants** evidence / information:

Equality Impact Assessment of the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme.

2011 Census of Northern Ireland

2017 Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) Report

[2021 Census of Northern Ireland](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/census/2011-census): [Census 2021 bulk download | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nisra.gov.uk)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-bulk-download)

The 2011 census reported 33.86% of NI households have dependent children (Those aged 0-15 and person aged 16-18 who is a full time student and in a family with parent(s)). For households with dependent children, there is around 9% with one or more persons with a long term health problem or disability. For households without dependent children there is around 31% of those with one or more people with a long term health problem or disability. The average age of first-time mothers has increased from 24 to 28 years since 1986, according to the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) in November 2017. About a fifth of new mothers were aged 35 and over. Nearly half of all the births registered (43%) were outside marriage.

Since 2011 the proportion of young people has decreased and the proportion of older people has increased. The number of children (0-14) has increased slightly by 3% however the 0-4 age band has decreased by 9%. Since 2011 the number of people aged 65-84 has increased by 24% and those aged 85+ have increased by 25%. The average household size has decreased slightly to 2.44 since the previous census in 2011. 50% of Northern Ireland residents have very good general health. 12% of people (222,000) aged 5 years and over provide unpaid care with those aged 40+ providing the majority of unpaid care. Provision of unpaid care' covers looking after, giving help or support to anyone because they have long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses, or problems related to old age.**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**

Needs/experiences – This proposed policy aims to raise the profile of quality regional local food and increase its consumption within NI, RoI and GB through achievement of the programme objectives (assisting the NI agri-food industry to develop and expand profitable and sustainable markets; developing a sustainable and thriving rural economy by raising the profile of quality NI food; and increasing integration and efficiency within the NI agri-food supply chain through enhanced co-operation and communication between/ within sectors).

Priority – To support eligible organisations, irrespective of religious belief, to achieve the objectives outlined above. Funding is awarded on a competitive basis and only those applications that are judged to have best met the programme objectives receive funding. Failure to provide this funding could significantly reduce support for regional food and drink sector across Northern Ireland.

**Political Opinion**

Needs/experiences – This proposed policy aims to raise the profile of quality regional local food and increase its consumption within NI, RoI and GB through achievement of the programme objectives (assisting the NI agri-food industry to develop and expand profitable and sustainable markets; developing a sustainable and thriving rural economy by raising the profile of quality NI food; and increasing integration and efficiency within the NI agri-food supply chain through enhanced co-operation and communication between/ within sectors).

Priorities – To support eligible organisations, irrespective of political opinion, to achieve the objectives outlined above. Funding is awarded on a competitive basis and only those applications that are judged to have best met the programme objectives receive funding. Failure to provide this funding could significantly reduce support for regional food and drink sector across Northern Ireland.

**Racial Group**

Needs/experiences – This proposed policy aims to raise the profile of quality regional local food and increase its consumption within NI, RoI and GB through achievement of the programme objectives (assisting the NI agri-food industry to develop and expand profitable and sustainable markets; developing a sustainable and thriving rural economy by raising the profile of quality NI food; and increasing integration and efficiency within the NI agri-food supply chain through enhanced co-operation and communication between/ within sectors).

Since 2016, NIRFP have support Arts Ekta in hosting the Belfast Mela, an arts festival bringing together music, art, dance and food from across the world to celebrate Belfast’s cultural diversity.

Priorities – To support eligible organisations to achieve the programme aims and objectives. Funding is awarded on a competitive basis and only those applications that are judged to have best met the programme objectives receive funding. Failure to provide this funding could significantly reduce support for regional food and drink sector across Northern Ireland.

**Age**

Needs/experiences – This proposed policy aims to raise the profile of quality regional local food and increase its consumption within NI, RoI and GB through achievement of the programme objectives (assisting the NI agri-food industry to develop and expand profitable and sustainable markets; developing a sustainable and thriving rural economy by raising the profile of quality NI food; and increasing integration and efficiency within the NI agri-food supply chain through enhanced co-operation and communication between/ within sectors).

**Marital status**

Needs/experiences – This proposed policy aims to raise the profile of quality regional local food and increase its consumption within NI, RoI and GB through achievement of the programme objectives (assisting the NI agri-food industry to develop and expand profitable and sustainable markets; developing a sustainable and thriving rural economy by raising the profile of quality NI food; and increasing integration and efficiency within the NI agri-food supply chain through enhanced co-operation and communication between/ within sectors).

**Sexual orientation**

Needs/experiences – This proposed policy aims to raise the profile of quality regional local food and increase its consumption within NI, RoI and GB through achievement of the programme objectives (assisting the NI agri-food industry to develop and expand profitable and sustainable markets; developing a sustainable and thriving rural economy by raising the profile of quality NI food; and increasing integration and efficiency within the NI agri-food supply chain through enhanced co-operation and communication between/ within sectors).

**Men and Women Generally**

Needs/experiences – This proposed policy aims to raise the profile of quality regional local food and increase its consumption within NI, RoI and GB through achievement of the programme objectives (assisting the NI agri-food industry to develop and expand profitable and sustainable markets; developing a sustainable and thriving rural economy by raising the profile of quality NI food; and increasing integration and efficiency within the NI agri-food supply chain through enhanced co-operation and communication between/ within sectors).

**Disability**

Needs/experiences – This proposed policy aims to raise the profile of quality regional local food and increase its consumption within NI, RoI and GB through achievement of the programme objectives (assisting the NI agri-food industry to develop and expand profitable and sustainable markets; developing a sustainable and thriving rural economy by raising the profile of quality NI food; and increasing integration and efficiency within the NI agri-food supply chain through enhanced co-operation and communication between/ within sectors).

**Dependants**

Needs/experiences – This proposed policy aims to raise the profile of quality regional local food and increase its consumption within NI, RoI and GB through achievement of the programme objectives (assisting the NI agri-food industry to develop and expand profitable and sustainable markets; developing a sustainable and thriving rural economy by raising the profile of quality NI food; and increasing integration and efficiency within the NI agri-food supply chain through enhanced co-operation and communication between/ within sectors).

**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**:

It is anticipated that participation will reflect the religious beliefs across the NI community of 48% Protestant and 45% Catholic. The Northern Ireland Regional Food Programme (NIRFP) funding is for not for profit organisations across all six counties. In the Letter of Offer the applicants must agree to specific conditions including ‘You must adhere to the requirements of the Fair Employment Acts in force in Northern Ireland’. This will include adherence to the requirements of the Code of Practice, which complements the existing legislation.

What is the level of impact? None

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

In general political belief mirrors religious opinion as above.

What is the level of impact? None

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

There is no evidence to suggest there would be a negative differential impact on the equality of opportunity of applicants in different racial groups.

What is the level of impact? None

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

There is no evidence to suggest there would be a negative differential impact on the equality of opportunity of applicants in different age groups. Food festivals funded through NIRFP are targeted at the general population including families thereby providing an opportunity to engage all ages and raise awareness of Northern Ireland’s quality regional food and drink.

What is the level of impact? None

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

We consider that there is no evidence to suggest there would be a negative differential impact on the equality of opportunity of applicants in relation to their marital status. Food festivals funded through NIRFP are targeted at the general population regardless of marital status thereby providing an opportunity to raise awareness of Northern Ireland’s quality regional food and drink.

What is the level of impact? None

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

There is no evidence to suggest there would be a negative differential impact on the equality of opportunity of applicants in relation to their sexual orientation. Food festivals funded through NIRFP are targeted at the general population regardless of sexual orientation thereby providing an opportunity to raise awareness of Northern Ireland’s quality regional food and drink.

What is the level of impact? None

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

There is no evidence to suggest there would be a negative differential impact on the equality of opportunity of applicants in relation to their sexual orientation. Food festivals funded through NIRFP are targeted at the general population regardless of sexual orientation thereby providing an opportunity to raise awareness of Northern Ireland’s quality regional food and drink.

What is the level of impact? None

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

There is no evidence to suggest there would be a negative differential impact on the equality of opportunity of applicants in relation to their disabilities.

What is the level of impact? None

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

There is no evidence to suggest there would be a negative differential impact on the equality of opportunity of applicants in relation to their dependants.

What is the level of impact? None

1. **Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories?** Yes/No (please delete as appropriate)

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:

If No, provide reasons: No. The Northern Ireland Regional Food Programme funding is open to all “not for profit” organisations from all communities in both urban and rural areas with members from a diverse range of backgrounds.

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

If No, provide reasons No. The Northern Ireland Regional Food Programme funding is open to all “not for profit” organisations from all communities in both urban and rural areas with members from a diverse range of backgrounds.

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

If No, provide reasons No. The NI regional food programme funding is open to all “not for profit” organisations from all communities in both urban and rural areas with members from a diverse range of backgrounds. In recent years, the Belfast Mela, an arts festival celebrating cultural diversity, have been successful applicants of this funding.

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

If No, provide reasons No - The NI regional food programme funding is open to all “not for profit” organisations from all communities in both urban and rural areas with members from a wide range of age groups.

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

If No, provide reasons No. The NI regional food programme funding is open to all “not for profit” organisations from all communities in both urban and rural areas irrespective of marital status.

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

If No, provide reasons: No. The NI regional food programme funding is open to all “not for profit” organisations from all communities in both urban and rural areas irrespective of sexual orientation.

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

If No, provide reasons: No. The NI regional food programme funding is open to all “not for profit” organisations from all communities in both urban and rural areas irrespective of gender.

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

No - The NI regional food programme funding is open to all “not for profit” organisations from all communities in both urban and rural areas with members from a diverse range of backgrounds, irrespective of disability.

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

If No, provide reasons: No. The NI regional food programme funding is open to all “not for profit” organisations from all communities in both urban and rural areas with members from a diverse range of backgrounds, irrespective of number of dependants.

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**:

This policy provides funding for NIRFP applicants and is open to all not for profit organisations. Applications are welcome from all communities in both urban and rural areas and are committed to attracting new applicants by offering a more favourable rate than established projects that had received support in the past. Groups of people from mixed religion come together to develop their application for NIRFP funding. This is likely to improve trust and good relations within councils, agricultural show societies and other groups/organisation seeking to apply.

What is the level of impact? Minor

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

This policy provides funding for NIRFP applicants and is open to all not for profit organisations. Applications are welcome from all communities in both urban and rural areas and are committed to attracting new applicants by offering a more favourable rate than established projects that had received support in the past. Groups of people with differing political opinions come together to develop their application for NIRFP funding. This is likely to improve trust and good relations within councils, agricultural show societies and other groups/organisation seeking to apply.

What is the level of impact? Minor

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

There is likely to be no impact as almost all members will be from the same racial group.

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:

Yes - With the NIRFP funding it is reasonable to assume good relations within the organisations and communities/businesses will be sustained with and beyond the funding both socially and from a business perspective.

If No, provide reasons:

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

Yes - With the NIRFP funding it is reasonable to assume good relations within the organisations and communities/businesses will be sustained out with and beyond the funding both socially and from a business perspective.

If No, provide reasons

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

If No, provide reasons

No - The 2001/02 Social Survey of Farmers and Farm Families across Northern Ireland (most recent) outlined that the farming population was overwhelmingly white and that there was no difference in racial group by type or size of farm.

**Additional considerations**

**Multiple identity**

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

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

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

Groups of people with a range of multiple identities come together to develop their application for NIRFP funding. This is likely to improve trust and good relations within councils, agricultural show societies and other groups/organisations seeking to apply.

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

Consideration of Disability Duties

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

The 2023-2025 Regional Food Programme will have no effect on any of the relevant groups, organisations or individuals irrespective of any Section 75 category, nor society generally, and will provide no opportunity to better 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?

The NIRFP is open for everyone and all applications will be equally valued, irrespective of disability. The funding provided by DAERA provides the applicants with capacity to further implement opportunities for everyone, whatever their disability.

**Part 3. Screening decision**

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

The 2023-2025 Regional Food Programme will have no effect on any of the relevant groups, organisations or individuals irrespective of any Section 75 category, nor society generally, and will provide no opportunity to better promote positive attitudes towards disabled people.

The NIRFP is open for everyone and all applications will be equally valued, irrespective of disability. The funding provided by DAERA provides the applicants with capacity to further implement opportunities for everyone, whatever their disability.

**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 successful applicants in receipt of the funding will promote the completion of Section 75 monitoring forms. This data will be used to monitor any impacts on these groups that may arise because of the NIRFP funding. Where adverse or positive impacts are noted, NIRFP will introduce any mitigations deemed to be necessary.

**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.

The successful applicants in receipt of the funding will promote good relations. Where adverse or positive impacts are noted, NIRFP will introduce any mitigations deemed to be necessary.

**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? No

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:

Successful applicants in receipt of the funding will promote the completion of Section 75 monitoring forms. This data will be used to monitor any impacts on these groups that may arise because of the NIRFP funding. Where adverse or positive impacts are noted, NIRFP will introduce any mitigations deemed to be necessary.

Good Relations:

Evaluation of good relations will be undertaken as part of the interim and post project evaluation under non-monetary benefits.

Disability Duties:

The successful applicants in receipt of the funding will promote disability duties. Where adverse or positive impacts are noted, NIRFP will introduce any mitigations deemed to be necessary.

**Part 5. Consideration of Human Rights**

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

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

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

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**

The policy does not create opportunity to promote human rights.

**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:** Albert Johnston **Grade: I**

**Branch:** Agri-Food & Corporate Support Branch

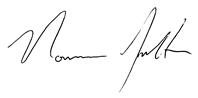
**Signature:** ****

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

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

**Branch:** Food and Farming Group

**Signature:**

****

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

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



For more information about equality screening, contact –

DAERA Equality Unit

Equality, Diversity & Public Appointments Branch

Ballykelly House

111 Ballykelly Road

LIMAVADY  
BT49 9HP

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

Tel: 028 7744 2027



**Annex A**

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

***Article 2***

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

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

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

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

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

***Article 3***

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

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

***Article 4***

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

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

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

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

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

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

***Article 5***

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

***Article 6***

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

***Article 7***

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

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

***Article 8***

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

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

***Article 9***

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

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

***Article 10***

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

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

***Article 11***

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

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

***Article 12***

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

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

***Article 14***

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

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

**Protocol 1**

***Article 1***

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

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

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

**Protocol 1**

***Article 2***

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

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

**Protocol 1**

***Article***

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

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