**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 introduction of a deposit return scheme (DRS) in Northern Ireland for single use beverage containers.

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

New policy.

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

The aim is to reduce the amount of littering, boost recycling levels for relevant material, offer the enhanced possibility to collect high quality materials in greater quantities and promote recycling through clear labelling and consumer messaging. Additionally, introduction of an economic measure such as a DRS will help incentivise moves towards a more circular economy. DRS is a form of extended producer responsibility (EPR) for single use beverage containers this moves the responsibility from the public onto the producers for the cost of managing their products once they reach end of life. It gives producers an incentive to design their products to make it easier for them to be re-used or dismantled and recycled at end of their life.

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

**If so, explain how.**

All Section 75 categories will be expected to benefit. Any changes to encourage the reduction of single use beverage containers will deliver a decrease in the use of some of the most used and widely littered plastics, steel and aluminium. This reduction will help to preserve resources and conserve our environment to the benefit of all groups. The sustainability of our natural resources is dependent on environmental initiatives and policies to benefit wider society. The policy specifically aims to encourage recycling and reuse of various containers in NI, reduce waste, promote better understanding of environmental issues, and to make our resources more sustainable for the future. From this perspective, all citizens and therefore all categories would be expected to benefit from the intended policy as it promotes greater societal awareness of environmental and sustainability issues.

**Who initiated or wrote the policy?**

All four governments across the UK have set ambitions for action on climate, green growth and recovery, and increased circularity of material use. This policy has been initiated and collaboratively written by DAERA, Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) in England and Welsh Government. The proposed reform is on a three nation basis.

W**ho owns and who implements the policy?**

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) owns and implements the policy in conjunction with Defra and Welsh Government. The proposed reform is on a three nation basis.

**Implementation factors**

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

**Yes**

**Financial –** There is an increased initial cost to consumers, the deposit is not a tax and will be reimbursed to the consumer through the deposit return scheme. The scheme itself will be a non for profit producer funded scheme.

**Other, please specify** N/A

**Main stakeholders affected**

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

**Staff-** DAERA will support necessary legislative changes associated with the policy. DAERA/NIEA officials will be also responsible for implementation and regulation.

**Service users-** There is an increased initial cost to consumers, the deposit is not a tax and will be reimbursed to the consumer through the deposit return scheme when they return an item. Retailers and Hotel, Restaurant, Catering sector (HORECA) will be a key part of the supply of goods and return network within the scheme.

**Other public sector organisations**

Councils will likely deliver a key role in providing the trading standards function and enforcing requirements of the scheme within retail outlets (i.e. ensuring relevant signage and deposit level is displayed correctly). By way of design the scheme aims to follow a return to retail model which will result in a considerable amount of material reduced from the council’s kerbside collections. There will also be a reduction in littering which will have a positive impact on councils.

**Voluntary/community/trade unions**

One of the aims of DRS aims to reduce the amount of litter. This should enhance the local environment and the in scope material that is collected by litter picking groups will be valuable and will help fund projects and initiatives.

**Other, please specify** ­- Producers of the in scope single use containers will finance the cost of the scheme. Retailers will facilitate the return point network and help administer the scheme with costs being covered by the producers

**Other policies with a bearing on this policy**

* **What are they?-** DAERA is clear in its mission to deliver a cleaner and greener Northern Ireland where all possible steps have and are being taken to protect our natural environment. The overarching UK wide and NI specific Environmental Strategies coupled with Sustainable Waste Management policy and Green Growth Strategy has informed the development of this proposed intervention. The UK wide EPR for packaging reform will be another policy that will have a bearing on this policy as DRS is a form of EPR for single use beverage containers and the scheme will interact. The EU Circular Economy Package (CEP) establishes recycling targets which will result in a reduction of landfill. Although the UK will no longer be a member of the European Union the UK government has given an undertaking to adhere to the principles of the CEP. Introduction of an economic measure such as a DRS will help incentivise moves to push more material up the waste hierarchy and move towards a more circular economy.
* **Who owns them? -** The NI Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) owns the above policies with some dual responsibility with DEFRA and EU legislation. There is an additional complexity for NI as a result of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive is included in the NI Protocol and it is therefore DAERA and UKG’s responsibility to ensure that the reforms meet the requirements of the Directive.

**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.*

We are content this data is the most up-to-date and current data.

* 2021 Northern Ireland Census (Data Currently Available).
* 2011 Northern Ireland Census
* The Fair Employment Monitoring Report No.30
* Labour Force Religion Report 2017
* The Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey 2020
* NI: In Profile

**Religious belief** evidence/information:

The 2011 Census of Northern Ireland found that 45 per cent of the population were either Catholic or brought up as Catholic, while 48 per cent belonged to or were brought up in Protestant, Other Christian or Christian-related denominations. A further 0.9 per cent belonged to or had been brought up in Other Religions and Philosophies, while 5.6 per cent neither belonged to, nor had been brought up in, a religion.

As reported by the Labour Force Religion Report 2017. Between 1990 and 2017, the proportion of the population aged 16 and over who reported as Protestant decreased by 14 percentage points from 56% to 42%, while the proportion who reported as Catholic increased by three percentage points from 38% to 41%. The proportion reported as ‘other/non-determined’ has increased from 6% to 17% over the same period

**Political Opinion** evidence/information:

The Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey 2020 found that 19% of the Northern Ireland population describe themselves as nationalist, 35% as unionist and 42% held neither political opinion.

**Racial Group** evidence/information:

The 2011 Census found that over 98% of the population state their ethnic origin to be white; in rural areas, the population is almost entirely classified as white (99.4%).

The Northern Ireland life and Times Survey 2020 found that respondents to survey reported that 98% identify as white, 1% as Indian and 1% as other Asian. The country of birth of respondent’s was reported as 85% NI, 6%England, 1% Scotland , 2% Republic of Ireland, 5% elsewhere. 4% considered themselves a member of a minority Ethnic group.

**Age** evidence/information:

The 2021 Census showed that around 30% of the population was 55 years or older and around 44% were under 35 years old.

NISRA 2019 Estimates of Population, as reported in NI: In Profile, states that 2% of NI population is over 85.

**Marital Status** evidence/information

The 2011 Census showed that around 48% of the population were married or in a civil partnership, and 36% were single.

**Sexual Orientation** evidence/information:

There is 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. The 2011 Census showed that those in a registered same-sex civil partnership was 0.09%. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) show that, for Northern Ireland, the percentage of people identifying themselves as LGB in 2018 was 1.2%.

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

The 2021 Census showed that 49% of the population were male and 51% female.

**Disability** evidence/information:

The 2011 Census of Northern Ireland showed that around 12% of the population found their day to day activities to be limited a lot due to a disability and around 9% found their activities limited a little.

In November 2020, 229,130 people were claiming Personal Independence Payment or Disability Living Allowance and 52,820 were claiming Attendance Allowance. 75,610 people were claiming Carers Allowance

**Dependant’s** evidence/information:

The 2011 Census of Northern Ireland showed that 34% of family households contained dependent children. NISRA household projections by size show that by 2027, when a further review of this policy is anticipated, one person households are projected to increase by 5.65% and two person households are projected to increase by 6.5%, while five or more person households are projected to have decreased by 1.5%. The birth rate in NI has consistently fallen from 2012 to 2018.**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***
Minor. In relation to this policy proposal there are minor specific needs, for particular groups regarding religious belief. Retailers with the religious belief which prohibits the sale of alcoholic beverages would require an exemption for accepting the return of empty alcoholic beverage containers and this is being written into implementing legislation.

***Political Opinion***

None. In relation to this policy proposal there are no specific needs, experiences or priorities for any particular groups regarding political opinion.

***Racial Group***

None. In relation to this policy proposal there are no specific needs, experiences or priorities for any particular groups regarding racial group.

***Age***

None. In relation to this policy proposal there are no specific needs, experiences or priorities for any particular groups regarding age. Further research[[1]](#footnote-1) was carried out to explore the impact of a DRS on groups that might be adversely impacted by the scheme, including lower socio-economic groups, people living in rural areas, people living in high rise flats, people over 60 years of age and people with disabilities or health problems that limit day to day activities. This study also found high levels of support for a DRS in principle.

***Marital status***

None. In relation to this policy proposal there are no specific needs, experiences or priorities for any particular groups regarding marital status.

***Sexual orientation***

None. In relation to this policy proposal there are no specific needs, experiences or priorities for any particular groups regarding sexual orientation.

***Men and Women Generally***

None. In relation to this policy proposal there are no specific needs, experiences or priorities for any particular groups regarding men and women.

***Disability***

None. House bound individuals may have difficulty accessing return points at retail outlets to the same degree that they have when purchasing drinks containers. See mitigations below. Further research[[2]](#footnote-2) has been carried out to explore the impact of a DRS on groups that might be adversely impacted by the scheme, including lower socio-economic groups, people living in rural areas, people living in high rise flats, people over 60 years of age and people with disabilities or health problems that limit day to day activities. This study also found high levels of support for a DRS in principle.

***Dependants***

None. In relation to this policy proposal there are no specific needs, experiences or priorities for any particular groups regarding people with dependants

**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*:**

The proposed changes could have minor impact on equality of opportunity for those affected on this Sec 75 category. If the policy is applied without additional consideration there would be an obligation for everyone to handle all types of in scope containers including those which contain alcohol. However an exemption for handling alcohol due to religious belief will be introduced.

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

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

The proposed changes will have no impact on equality of opportunity for those affected and no differential impacts on this Sec 75 category are anticipated.

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

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

The proposed changes will have no impact on equality of opportunity for those affected and no differential impacts on this Sec 75 category are anticipated.

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

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

The proposed changes will have no impact on equality of opportunity for those affected and no differential impacts on this Sec 75 category are anticipated.

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

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

The proposed changes will have no impact on equality of opportunity for those affected and no differential impacts on this Sec 75 category are anticipated.

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

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

The proposed changes will have no impact on equality of opportunity for those affected and no differential impacts on this Sec 75 category are anticipated.

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

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

The proposed changes will have no impact on equality of opportunity for those affected and no differential impacts on this Sec 75 category are anticipated.

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

**Details of the likely policy impacts on *Disability*:** House bound individuals may have difficulty accessing return points at retail outlets. See later in the document for mitigating factors proposed to address this concern.

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

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

The proposed changes will have no impact on equality of opportunity for those affected and no differential impacts on this Sec 75 category are anticipated.

**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?** No

***Religious Belief* - No**

The proposed policy is aimed at all citizens equally. There is no evidence available at this time to suggest it will benefit one group more than another group. These proposals are neutral as regards people of different religious belief and it is not envisaged that equality of opportunity will be affected for this equality category.

***Political Opinion* - No**

The proposed policy is aimed at all citizens equally. There is no evidence available at this time to suggest it will benefit one group more than another group. These proposals are neutral as regards people of different political opinion and it is not envisaged that equality of opportunity will be affected for this equality category.

***Racial Group* - No**

The proposed policy is aimed at all citizens equally. There is no evidence available at this time to suggest it will benefit one group more than another group. These proposals are neutral as regards people of different racial groups and it is not envisaged that equality of opportunity will be affected for this equality category.

***Marital Status* - No**

The proposed policy is aimed at all citizens equally. There is no evidence available at this time to suggest it will benefit one group more than another group. These proposals are neutral as regards people of different marital status and it is not envisaged that equality of opportunity will be affected for this equality category.

***Sexual Orientation* - No**

The proposed policy is aimed at all citizens equally. There is no evidence available at this time to suggest it will benefit one group more than another group. These proposals are neutral as regards people of different sexual orientation and it is not envisaged that equality of opportunity will be affected for this equality category.

***Men and Women generally* - No**

The proposed policy is aimed at all citizens equally. There is no evidence available at this time to suggest it will benefit one group more than another group. These proposals are neutral as regards people of different gender and it is not envisaged that equality of opportunity will be affected for this equality category.

***Disability* - No**

The proposed policy is aimed at all citizens equally. There is no evidence available at this time to suggest it will benefit one group more than another group. These proposals are neutral as regards people with disabilities and it is not envisaged that equality of opportunity will be affected for this equality category.

***Dependants* - No**

The proposed policy is aimed at all citizens equally. There is no evidence available at this time to suggest it will benefit one group more than another group. These proposals are neutral as regards people with dependents and it is not envisaged that equality of opportunity will be affected for this equality category.

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

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

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

The proposed changes will have a no impact on good relations between people of religious beliefs. The policy content is aimed at all citizens. No impacts on this Sec 75 category are anticipated.

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

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

The proposed changes will have no impact on good relations between people of different political opinion. The policy content is aimed at all citizens. No impacts on this Sec 75 category are anticipated.

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

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

The proposed changes will have no impact on good relations between people of different racial groups. The policy content is aimed at all citizens. No impacts on this Sec 75 category are anticipated.

**What is the level of impact?** None, this policy is aimed at all citizens

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* - No**

The proposed changes will have no opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief. No impacts on this Sec 75 category are anticipated as this policy is aimed at all citizens.

***Political Opinion* - Yes**

This policy is aimed at all citizens. Some citizens may be more aware of environmental issues and this may give opportunity for positive debate between different groups with different political views.

Racial Group **- No**

The proposed changes will have no opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different racial groups. No impacts on this Sec 75 category are anticipated as this policy is aimed at all citizens.

**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.**

There is no evidence at this time that there will be any potential impacts of the policy on people with multiple identities.

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, the proposed policy does not provide an opportunity for DAERA 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, the proposed policy does not provide an opportunity for DAERA to actively increase participation of disabled people in public life.

**Part 3. Screening decision**

“Screened out” with 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 decision is not to conduct an equality impact assessment as we have screened out the minor impacts due to the mitigating factors which are detailed overleaf during the screening exercise. This policy has been consulted on in 2019 and in 2021 during this time none of the section 75 consultees raised any concerns regarding inequality.

**If the decision is not to conduct an equality impact assessment the public authority should consider if the policy should *be mitigated or an alternative policy be introduced* - please provide details.**

**If the decision is 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, the proposed policy is aimed at all citizens equally. As previously stated house bound individuals may not be able to access return points in retail outlets but this will be mitigated by the service provided by retailers that provide home delivery or the ability of another individual to return on the persons behalf. Empty beverage containers can be returned in the same method that they were obtained. This policy has been consulted on in 2019 and in 2021 during this time none of the section 75 consultees raised any concerns regarding inequality. Legislation will provided retailers with religious beliefs an opportunity to apply for an exemption to accept take back of alcohol containers if they do not sell them. Further research has been carried out to explore the impact of a DRS on groups that might be adversely impacted by the scheme, including lower socio-economic groups, people living in rural areas, people living in high rise flats, people over 60 years of age and people with disabilities or health problems that limit day to day activities. This study also found high levels of support for a DRS in principle.

**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:**

**Good Relations:**

**Disability Duties:**

After the scheme is launched there will be ongoing reviews between the Deposit Management Organisation (DMO) and government to ensure that the scheme is delivering what it was designed for and provides an opportunity to address any issues or unintended outcomes. Further research[[3]](#footnote-3) was carried out to explore the impact of a DRS on groups that might be adversely impacted by the scheme, this included people with disabilities or health problems that limit day to day activities. This study also found high levels of support for a DRS in principle.

**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**

 The proposed policy does not create any 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: Robert McLaughlin** **Grade:** DP

**Branch: EUTD** **Date: 29.6.2022**

**Signature:**

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

**Name:** **Grade:** G3

**Branch:** EMFG **Date:**8/7/22

**Signature:** please insert a scanned image of your signature

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

Please save the final signed version of the completed screening form in the CM container (AE2-19-11940) below as soon as possible after completion and forward the CM link to Equality Branch at equality@daera-ni.gov.uk. 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

1. Defra: Quantifying and exploring the potential impact of a future deposit return scheme, 2021. <http://sciencesearch.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=20660&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=deposit%20return%20scheme%20&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc&Paging=10#TimeScaleAndCost> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Defra: Quantifying and exploring the potential impact of a future deposit return scheme, 2021. <http://sciencesearch.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=20660&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=deposit%20return%20scheme%20&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc&Paging=10#TimeScaleAndCost> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Defra: Quantifying and exploring the potential impact of a future deposit return scheme, 2021. <http://sciencesearch.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=20660&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=deposit%20return%20scheme%20&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc&Paging=10#TimeScaleAndCost> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)