# 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**

Preservation of Retained EU Legislation relating to agri-food promotion schemes.

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

This relates to an existing policy.

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

The Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023 (the REUL Act) will preserve retained EU law (REUL) into domestic UK law at the end of 2023. REUL is all the body of EU legislation that applied across the EU, and became UK law after the UK’s exit from the EU. At the end of this year, REUL will be renamed “assimilated law” and, at the same time, the principle of the supremacy of EU Law (where European law had priority over any national law) will end.

In addition, REUL listed in Schedule 1 of the Act will be repealed at the end of 2023. This is generally England-only or UK-wide legislation that is no longer in use, out of date, or otherwise defunct or redundant. However, three pieces of REUL (named Regulation (EU) 1144/2014, Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1829 and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/1831) are not considered out-of-date as they apply in Northern Ireland. This legislation gives the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) the power to fund agri-food ‘information and promotion’ schemes. The aim of the schemes governed by this legislation is to open new market opportunities for farmers, and the wider food industry, and help them build their existing businesses and sell their farm products in an increasingly competitive global marketplace, while delivering jobs and growth at home. The legislation allows organisations to apply for support for such promotion campaigns and Northern Ireland industry has benefitted from this legislation over the past number of years, with the most recent export programme in the Middle East and Southeast Asia generating almost £56m in new sales for the local dairy industry.

Specific legislation included in Schedule 1 of the REUL Act can be saved such that, on 25 October 2023, the Department for Business and Trade (DBT) in Westminster made legislation (known as the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023 (Revocation and Sunset Disapplication) Regulations 2023) (the SI), which saves seven pieces of legislation, including the legislation relating to agri-food information and promotion schemes in NI.

The policy under consideration is therefore the ‘preservation’ of the three retained EU regulations named above, which give DAERA powers to fund agri-food promotions schemes in NI, and which would otherwise automatically be repealed at the end of the year. Preserving (saving) this legislation will keep things as they currently are and ensure that the option to use it to support such schemes remains available for future Agriculture Ministers and that DAERA will continue to have the powers to support export promotion campaigns for a range of agri-food sectors and to launch and then fund future programmes.

Furthermore, having this legislation preserved will keep the option to review these food promotion and information schemes rules as part of a wider review of food promotion under the Department’s (DAERA) Future Food Strategy. To this end, no new policy will be introduced by the policy being assessed.

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

**If so, explain how.**

None.

**Who initiated or wrote the policy?**

When the UK was in the EU, UK agricultural policy was set by the European Common Agriculture Policy. The European Commission was therefore responsible initially for creating the policy and the legislation governing it, at a time when the UK was still in the EU. That legislation, as with other REUL became UK legislation when the UK left the EU.

The UK Government Department of Business and Trade (DBT) has made the legislation that saves some legislation from being lost, including, for Northern Ireland, the three pieces of legislation relating to the promotion of agri-food products.

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

On leaving the EU, responsibility for the scheme moved to DAERA from the EU and therefore DAERA will be responsible for funding any future food promotions and information schemes and is also responsible for any review of the schemes and food promotion more generally, under a Future Food Framework.

DBT owns the legislation, that saves the legislation relating to agri-food information and promotions schemes as it applies in Northern Ireland.

**Implementation factors**

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

Yes.

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

**~~Financial~~**

**Legislative**

UK Government made the legislation that will preserve the agri-food promotion scheme REUL and was therefore responsible for overseeing its consideration in the Houses of Parliament.

**other, please specify** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Main stakeholders affected**

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

**~~staff~~**

**~~service users~~**

**~~other public sector organisations~~**

**~~voluntary/community/trade unions~~**

**other, please specify** :

Prior to EU Exit, the Dairy Council for Northern Ireland received support under the promotions scheme and have recently completed two 3-year export programmes in the Middle East and Southeast Asia. An independent evaluation of the most recent export programme estimated that almost £56m in new sales was generated for the local industry.

Businesses within the agri-food sectors which are particularly involved with the importation, and exportation of agricultural products.

Having consulted Northern Ireland Food and Drinks Processing Report 2021, animal-by products, beef and sheepmeat and poultrymeat are listed as the main three subsectors reliant on markets outside of Northern Ireland and animal by-products, milk and milk products are among the top subsectors reliant on markets outside of the United Kingdom.

These sub-sectors are therefore most likely to apply for support under a agri-food promotions scheme, should DAERA launch a future call.

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

* **What are they?**

Preserving this legislation will provide the scope for further policy development and consultation on how the Department can support agri-food promotion as part of a review under the Future Food Strategy, including using or amending the preserved legislation to support overseas promotion programmes.

* **Who owns them?**

DAERA owns the Future Food Strategy.

**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:

No data is available on the religious beliefs of individuals or businesses within the agri-food sectors mentioned above as being particularly involved with the import, and export of agricultural products, however Census 2021 figures show the following breakdown of the current religious beliefs throughout the NI population:

* Catholic – 42.3%
* Protestants & other Christian religions – 34.7%
* Other religions – 1.3%
* None – 17.4%
* No religion stated 1.6%

**Political Opinion** evidence/information:

No data is available on the political opinions of individuals or businesses within the agri-food sectors mentioned above as being particularly involved with the import, and export of agricultural products, however results from the Northern Ireland Life and Times 2022 survey showed the following political opinions of those interviewed:

* Unionist – 31%
* Nationalist – 26%
* Neither – 38%
* Other – 1%
* Don’t know – 4%

**Racial Group** evidence/information:

No data is available on the racial makeup of individuals or businesses within the agri-food sectors mentioned above as being particularly involved with the import, and export of agricultural products, in the however, Census 2021 figures show 97% of the population identify as White.

**Age** evidence/information:

No data is available on the age of individuals or businesses within the agri-food sectors mentioned above as being particularly involved with the import, and export of agricultural products, however, Census 2021 figures show the following age breakdown for the NI population:

* 0-14 – 19%
* 15-39 – 31%
* 40-64 – 32%
* 65 and over – 17%

**Marital Status** evidence/information:

No data is available on the marital status of individuals or businesses within the agri-food sectors mentioned above as being particularly involved with the import, and export of agricultural products, however, Census 2021 figures show the following marital status breakdown for the NI population:

* Single – 38%
* Married or civil partnership – 46%
* Separated – 4%
* Divorced or former civil partnership – 6%
* Widowed or surviving partner from civil partnership – 6%

**Sexual Orientation** evidence/information:

No data is available on the sexual orientation of individuals or businesses within the agri-food sectors mentioned above as being particularly involved with the import, and export of agricultural products, however, Census 2021 figures show the following marital status breakdown for the NI population:

* Straight or heterosexual – 90%
* Gay, lesbian, bisexual or other sexual orientation - 2%
* Prefer not to say or not stated - 8%

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

No data is available on the gender of individuals or businesses within the agri-food sectors mentioned above as being particularly involved with the import, and export of agricultural products, however, Census 2021 figures show the following figures for the NI population:

* Female – 51%
* Male – 49%

**Disability** evidence/information:

No data is available on the disability status of individuals or businesses within the agri-food sectors mentioned above as being particularly involved with the import, and export of agricultural products, however Census 2021 figures on day to day activities being limited because of long term health problems or disabilities showed the following results for the NI population:

* Activities not limited – 74%
* Limited a little – 13%
* Limited a lot – 11%

**Dependants** evidence/information:

No data is available on the number of dependants of individuals or businesses within the agri-food sectors mentioned above as being particularly involved with the import, and export of agricultural products, however, Census 2021 figures show the following household structure figures on dependants for the NI population:

* No dependent children – 71%
* One – 11%
* Two – 11%
* Three or more – 6%

**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***

Religious belief does not create any specific needs, experiences or priorities in relation to the saving of the agri-food promotion scheme legislation.

***Political Opinion***

Political opinion does not create any specific needs, experiences or priorities in relation to the saving of the agri-food promotion scheme legislation.

***Racial Group***

Racial Groups do not create any specific needs, experiences or priorities in relation to the saving of the agri-food promotion scheme legislation.

***Age***

Age does not create any specific needs, experiences or priorities in relation to saving of the agri-food promotion scheme legislation.

***Marital status***

Marital status does not create any specific needs, experiences or priorities in relation to the saving of the agri-food promotion scheme legislation.

***Sexual orientation***

Sexual orientation does not create any specific needs, experiences or priorities in relation to the saving of the agri-food promotion scheme legislation.

***Men and Women Generally***

Gender does not create any specific needs, experiences or priorities in relation to saving the of the agri-food promotion scheme legislation.

***Disability***

Disability does not create any specific needs, experiences or priorities in relation to the saving of the agri-food promotion scheme legislation.

***Dependants***

Dependants do not create any specific needs, experiences or priorities in relation to the saving of the agri-food promotion scheme legislation.

**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*:**

Saving existing REUL relating to agri-food promotion schemes as it applies in Northern Ireland (that would otherwise be repealed at the end of 2023) does not constitute a change in current policy, and indeed aims to maintain the current position. Therefore, no impacts are expected either generally, or specifically on equality of opportunity related to religious belief expected as a result.

As the legislation needed to save the agri-food promotion scheme REUL had to be made before the end of October 2023 when the power to preserve REUL would no longer be available, there was insufficient time to undertake a consultation. However, as saving this legislation will simply maintain the current position and will have no specific impact in itself, the Department considered there would be nothing to be gained from consulting at this stage.

Keeping the agri-food promotions legislation will also allow for further policy development and consultation on how the Department can support food promotion as part of a review under the Future Food Strategy, at which time further consideration of the equality impacts will be undertaken.

**What is the level of impact?**

None.

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

Saving existing REUL relating to agri-food promotions schemes as it applies in Northern Ireland (that would otherwise be repealed at the end of 2023) does not constitute a change in current policy and indeed aims to maintain the current position. Therefore, no impacts are expected either generally, or specifically on equality of opportunity related to political opinion expected as a result.

As the legislation needed to save the agri-food promotion scheme REUL had to be made before the end of October 2023 when the power to preserve REUL would no longer be available, there was insufficient time to undertake a consultation. However, as saving this legislation will simply maintain the current position and will have no specific impact in itself, the Department considered there would be nothing to be gained from consulting at this stage.

Keeping the agri-food promotions legislation will also allow for further policy development and consultation on how the Department can support food promotion as part of a review under the Future Food Strategy, at which time further consideration of the equality impacts will be undertaken.

**What is the level of impact?**

None.

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

Saving existing REUL relating to agri-food promotion schemes as it applies in Northern Ireland (that would otherwise be repealed at the end of 2023) does not constitute a change in current policy and indeed aims to maintain the current position. Therefore, no impacts are expected either generally, or specifically on equality of opportunity related to race as a result.

As the legislation needed to save the agri-food promotion scheme REUL had to be made before the end of October 2023 when the power to preserve REUL would no longer be available, there was insufficient time to undertake a consultation. However, as saving this legislation will simply maintain the current position and will have no specific impact in itself, the Department considered there would be nothing to be gained from consulting at this stage.

Keeping the agri-food promotions legislation will also allow for further policy development and consultation on how the Department can support food promotion as part of a review under the Future Food Strategy, at which time further consideration of the equality impacts will be undertaken.

**What is the level of impact?**

None.

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

Saving existing REUL relating to agri-food promotion schemes as it applies in Northern Ireland (that would otherwise be repealed at the end of 2023) does not constitute a change in current policy and indeed aims to maintain the current position. Therefore, no impacts are expected either generally, or specifically on equality of opportunity related to age as a result.

As the legislation needed to save the agri-food promotion scheme REUL had to be made before the end of October 2023 when the power to preserve REUL would no longer be available, there was insufficient time to undertake a consultation. However, as saving this legislation will simply maintain the current position and will have no specific impact in itself, the Department considered there would be nothing to be gained from consulting at this stage.

Keeping the agri-food promotions legislation will also allow for further policy development and consultation on how the Department can support food promotion as part of a review under the Future Food Strategy, at which time further consideration of the equality impacts will be undertaken.

**What is the level of impact?**

None.

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

Saving existing REUL relating to agri-food promotion schemes as it applies in Northern Ireland (that would otherwise be repealed at the end of 2023) does not constitute a change in current policy and indeed aims to maintain the current position. Therefore, no impacts are expected either generally, or specifically on equality of opportunity related to marital status as a result.

As the legislation needed to save the agri-food promotion scheme REUL had to be made before the end of October 2023 when the power to preserve REUL would no longer be available, there was insufficient time to undertake a consultation. However, as saving this legislation will simply maintain the current position and will have no specific impact in itself, the Department considered there would be nothing to be gained from consulting at this stage.

Keeping the agri-food promotions legislation will also allow for further policy development and consultation on how the Department can support food promotion as part of a review under the Future Food Strategy, at which time further consideration of the equality impacts will be undertaken.

**What is the level of impact?**

None.

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

Saving existing REUL relating to agri-food promotions schemes as it applies in Northern Ireland (that would otherwise be repealed at the end of 2023) does not constitute a change in current policy and indeed aims to maintain the current position. Therefore, no impacts are expected either generally, or specifically on equality of opportunity related to sexual orientation as a result.

As the legislation needed to save the agri-food promotion scheme REUL had to be made before the end of October 2023 when the power to preserve REUL would no longer be available, there was insufficient time to undertake a consultation. However, as saving this legislation will simply maintain the current position and will have no specific impact in itself, the Department considered there would be nothing to be gained from consulting at this stage.

Keeping the agri-food promotions legislation will also allow for further policy development and consultation on how the Department can support food promotion as part of a review under the Future Food Strategy, at which time further consideration of the equality impacts will be undertaken.

**What is the level of impact?**

 None.

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

Saving existing REUL relating to agri-food promotion schemes as it applies in Northern Ireland (that would otherwise be repealed at the end of 2023) does not constitute a change in current policy and indeed aims to maintain the current position. Therefore, no impacts are expected either generally, or specifically on equality of opportunity related to gender as a result.

As the legislation needed to save the agri-food promotion scheme REUL had to be made before the end of October 2023 when the power to preserve REUL would no longer be available, there was insufficient time to undertake a consultation. However, as saving this legislation will simply maintain the current position and will have no specific impact in itself, the Department considered there would be nothing to be gained from consulting at this stage.

Keeping the agri-food promotions legislation will also allow for further policy development and consultation on how the Department can support food promotion as part of a review under the Future Food Strategy, at which time further consideration of the equality impacts will be undertaken.

**What is the level of impact?**

None.

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

Saving existing REUL relating to agri-food promotion schemes as it applies in Northern Ireland (that would otherwise be repealed at the end of 2023) does not constitute a change in current policy and indeed aims to maintain the current position. Therefore, no impacts are expected either generally, or specifically on equality of opportunity related to disability as a result.

As the legislation needed to save the agri-food promotion scheme REUL had to be made before the end of October 2023 when the power to preserve REUL would no longer be available, there was insufficient time to undertake a consultation. However, as saving this legislation will simply maintain the current position and will have no specific impact in itself, the Department considered there would be nothing to be gained from consulting at this stage.

Keeping the agri-food promotions legislation will also allow for further policy development and consultation on how the Department can support food promotion as part of a review under the Future Food Strategy, at which time further consideration of the equality impacts will be undertaken.

**What is the level of impact?**

None.

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

Saving existing REUL relating to agri-food promotion schemes as it applies in Northern Ireland (that would otherwise be repealed at the end of 2023) does not constitute a change in current policy and indeed aims to maintain the current position. Therefore, no impacts are expected either generally, or specifically on equality of opportunity related to dependants as a result.

As the legislation needed to save the agri-food promotion scheme REUL had to be made before the end of October 2023 when the power to preserve REUL would no longer be available, there was insufficient time to undertake a consultation. However, as saving this legislation will simply maintain the current position and will have no specific impact in itself, the Department considered there would be nothing to be gained from consulting at this stage.

Keeping the agri-food promotions legislation will also allow for further policy development and consultation on how the Department can support food promotion as part of a review under the Future Food Strategy, at which time further consideration of the equality impacts will be undertaken.

**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 .

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:**

Given that saving the agri-food promotion scheme legislation will simply maintain the current legislative position and does not represent a change in policy, there is no opportunity to promote equality of opportunity related to religious belief as a result.

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

**If No, provide reasons:**

Given that saving the agri-food promotion scheme legislation will simply maintain the current legislative position and does not represent a change in policy, there is no opportunity to promote equality of opportunity related to political opinion as a result.

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

**If No, provide reasons:**

Given that saving the agri-food promotion scheme legislation will simply maintain the current legislative position does not represent a change in policy, there is no opportunity to promote equality of opportunity related to race as a result.

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

**If No, provide reasons:**

Given that saving the agri-food promotion scheme legislation will simply maintain the current legislative position and does not represent a change in policy, there is no opportunity to promote equality of opportunity related to age as a result.

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

**If No, provide reasons:**

Given that saving the agri-food promotion scheme legislation will simply maintain the current legislative position and does not represent a change in policy, there is no opportunity to promote equality of opportunity related to marital status as a result.

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

**If No, provide reasons:**

Given that saving the agri-food promotion scheme legislation will simply maintain the current legislative position and does not represent a change in policy, there is no opportunity to promote equality of opportunity related to sexual orientation as a result.

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

**If No, provide reasons:**

Given that saving the agri-food promotion scheme legislation will simply maintain the current legislative position and does not represent a change in policy, there is no opportunity to promote equality of opportunity related to gender as a result.

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

**If No, provide reasons:**

Given that saving the agri-food promotion scheme legislation will simply maintain the current legislative position and does not represent a change in policy, there is no opportunity to promote equality of opportunity related to disability as a result.

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

**If No, provide reasons:**

Given that saving the agri-food promotion scheme legislation will simply maintain the current legislative position and does not represent a change in policy, there is no opportunity to promote equality of opportunity related to dependants as a result.

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 policy is simply to preserve existing agri-food promotion scheme REUL as it applies in Northern Ireland, that would otherwise be repealed at the end of 2023 and therefore to keep the current legislative position. It does not introduce a change in policy. Therefore, there will be no impact on good relations between people of different religious belief.

**What is the level of impact?**

None.

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

The policy is simply to preserve existing agri-food promotion scheme REUL as it applies in Northern Ireland, that would otherwise be repealed at the end of 2023 and therefore to keep the current legislative position. It does not introduce a change in policy. Therefore, there will be no impact on good relations between people of different political opinion.

**What is the level of impact?**

None.

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

The policy is simply to preserve existing agri-food promotion scheme REUL as it applies in Northern Ireland, that would otherwise be repealed at the end of 2023 and therefore to keep the current legislative position. It does not introduce a change in policy. Therefore, there will be no impact on good relations between people of different racial groups.

**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:**

**If No, provide reasons:**

The legislation simply preserves existing agri-food promotion scheme REUL as it applies in Northern Ireland, that would otherwise be repealed at the end of 2023. It therefore keeps the current legislative position and does not introduce a change in policy. The legislation will therefore have no effect on any of the relevant groups, organisations or individuals irrespective of any section 75 category and will provide no opportunity to promote equality of opportunity, nor promote good relations between people of different religious belief.

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

**If No, provide reasons**

The legislation simply preserves existing agri-food promotion scheme REUL as it applies in Northern Ireland, that would otherwise be repealed at the end of 2023. It therefore keeps the current legislative position and does not introduce a change in policy. The legislation will therefore have no effect on any of the relevant groups, organisations or individuals irrespective of any section 75 category and will provide no opportunity to promote equality of opportunity, nor promote good relations between people of different political opinion.

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

**If No, provide reasons**

The legislation simply preserves existing agri-food promotion scheme REUL as it applies in Northern Ireland, that would otherwise be repealed at the end of 2023. It therefore keeps the current legislative position and does not introduce a change in policy. The legislation will therefore have no effect on any of the relevant groups, organisations or individuals irrespective of any section 75 category and will provide no opportunity to promote equality of opportunity, nor promote good relations between people of different race.

**Additional considerations**

**Multiple identity**

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

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

The legislation to save agri-food promotion scheme REUL will simply maintain the current legislative position and doing so does not represent a change in current policy, therefore there will be no impacts on people with multiple identities as a result.

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

N/A

**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 policy is to preserve existing agri-food promotion scheme REUL as it applies in Northern Ireland that would otherwise be revoked under the Act at the end of 2023. This maintains the current legislative position and does not in itself represent any change in current policy. Therefore, there will be 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 policy is to preserve existing agri-food promotion scheme REUL as it applies in Northern Ireland that would otherwise be revoked under the Act at the end of 2023. This maintains the current legislative position and does not in itself represent any change in current policy. Therefore, there will be no opportunity to actively increase the participation by disabled people in public life.

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

1. ~~“Screened in” for equality impact assessment~~
2. ~~“Screened out” with mitigation or an alternative policy proposed to be adopted~~
3. “Screened out” without mitigation or an alternative policy proposed to be adopted

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

Retained EU legislation providing powers to support information and promotion programmes for agriculture products that would be lost at the end of 2023 provide scope for agri-food producers to apply for funding for overseas promotion campaigns. They are therefore not redundant as they apply in Northen Ireland.

Saving this legislation from being repealed does not introduce any policy changes and therefore there are no differential impacts on any section 75 groups or implication relating to good relations, human rights or disability duties.

**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.**

N/A

**If the decision is to *subject the policy to an equality impact assessment*, please provide details of the reasons.**

N/A

All public authorities’ equality schemes must state the authority’s arrangements for assessing and consulting on the likely impact of policies adopted or proposed to be adopted by the authority on the promotion of equality of opportunity. The Commission recommends screening and equality impact assessment as the tools to be utilised for such assessments. Further advice on equality impact assessment may be found in a separate Commission publication: [A Practical Guide to Equality Impact Assessment](https://www.equalityni.org/ECNI/media/ECNI/Publications/Employers%20and%20Service%20Providers/PracticalGuidanceonEQIA2005.pdf?ext=.pdf)

**Mitigation**

When the public authority concludes that the likely impact is ‘minor’ and an equality impact assessment is not to be conducted, the public authority may consider mitigation to lessen the severity of any equality impact, or the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity or good relations.

**Can the policy/decision be amended or changed or an alternative policy introduced to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations?**

No.

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

**Timetabling and prioritising**

Factors to be considered in timetabling and prioritising policies for equality impact assessment.

If the policy has been **‘screened in’** for equality impact assessment, then please answer the following questions to determine its priority for timetabling the equality impact assessment.

**On a scale of 1-3, with 1 being the lowest priority and 3 being the highest, assess the policy in terms of its priority for equality impact assessment.**

| **Priority criterion** | **Rating (1-3)** |
| --- | --- |
| Effect on equality of opportunity and good relations  |  |
| Social need |  |
| Effect on people’s daily lives |  |
| Relevance to a public authority’s functions |  |
| **Total score** |  |

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

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

**If yes, please provide details.**

This legislation preserving the promotions legislation had to be made before the end of October 2023, when the power to do so ended.

**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:**

As saving the existing agri-food promotion scheme REUL does not introduce new policy, it is not considered necessary to monitor the specific impact on equality of the policy being assessed.

However, keeping the legislation will provide scope for the Department to launch future competitions to which eligible organisations could apply for support for promotional programmes, which themselves will be subject to consideration of their impacts.

In addition, saving the promotions scheme legislation provides scope for further development of agri-food promotions policy, including the use of, and amendment to, the saved legislation as part of a wider Future Food Strategy. This too would be subject to consideration and monitoring of equality impacts of the new/updated policy, and would be subject to consultation on how the Department can support future agri-food promotion. At that time further consideration of the equality impacts will be undertaken.

**Good Relations:**

As saving the existing agri-food promotion scheme REUL does not introduce new policy, it is not considered necessary to monitor the specific impact on good relations.

However, keeping the legislation will provide scope for the Department to launch future competitions to which eligible organisations could apply for support for promotional programmes, which themselves will be subject to consideration of their impacts.

In addition, saving the promotions scheme legislation, provides scope for further development of food promotions policy, including the use of, and amendment to, the saved legislation as part of a wider Future Food Strategy. This too would be subject to consideration and monitoring of equality impacts of the new/updated policy, and would be subject to consultation on how the Department can support future food promotion. At that time further consideration of the equality impacts will be undertaken.

**Disability Duties:**

As saving the existing agri-food promotion scheme REUL does not introduce new policy, it is not considered necessary to monitor the specific impact on disability duties.

However, keeping the legislation will provide scope for the Department to launch future competitions to which eligible organisations could apply for support for promotional programmes, which themselves will be subject to consideration of their impacts.

In addition, saving the promotions scheme legislation, provides scope for further development of food promotions policy, including the use of, and amendment to, the saved legislation as part of a wider Future Food Strategy. This too would be subject to consideration and monitoring of equality impacts of the new/updated policy, and would be subject to consultation on how the Department can support future food promotion. At that time further consideration of the equality impacts will be undertaken.

**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 impacts on human rights have been identified.

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

 None.

**Part 6 - Approval and authorisation**

# **Screening Checklist**

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

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

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

**Screening assessment completed by (Staff Officer level or above) -**

**Name:** John Terrington **Grade:** G7

**Branch:** Agri-food Legislation Branch **Date:3/11/2023**

**Signature:**  

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

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

**Branch:** Food, Farming and Rural Affairs Group **Date**: 28/11/23

**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

Staff Engagement, Equality & Diversity Branch

Jubilee 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