

Appendix I - Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) Template

SECTION 1 - Defining the activity subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

1A. Name of Public Authority.

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)

1B. Please provide a short title which describes the activity being undertaken by the Public Authority that is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.

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1C. Please indicate which category the activity specified in Section 1B above relates to.

Developing a	Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Adopting a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Implementing a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Revising a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Designing a Public Service	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Delivering a Public Service	<input type="checkbox"/>		

1D. Please provide the official title (if any) of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service document or initiative relating to the category indicated in Section 1C above.

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1E. Please provide details of the aims and/or objectives of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service.

The Agricultural Policy Programme is the overarching strategic programme in the Department for future agricultural policy, overseeing the transition from the existing CAP Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 construct to new approaches and support systems which better address the needs of Northern Ireland agriculture and the environment.

1F. What definition of 'rural' is the Public Authority using in respect of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?

Population Settlements of less than 5,000 (Default definition).

Other Definition (Provide details and the rationale below).

A definition of 'rural' is not applicable.

Details of alternative definition of 'rural' used.

Rationale for using alternative definition of 'rural'.

Reasons why a definition of 'rural' is not applicable.

SECTION 2 - Understanding the impact of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

2A. Is the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service likely to impact on people in rural areas?

Yes No If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **2E**.

2B. Please explain how the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas.

As the Future Agricultural Policy Decisions will affect virtually all farmers in Northern Ireland it will therefore affect the people in rural areas. The future agricultural support policies and schemes will replace existing CAP Schemes and are designed to deliver four main outcomes: an industry which pursues increased agricultural productivity as a means to sustained profitability, is environmentally sustainable, displays improved resilience to external shocks and which operates an effective functioning supply chain.

The aim is to ensure that Northern Ireland takes full advantage of the opportunity to develop a sustainable agricultural industry in which farmers are supported on an equitable basis to make best use of the assets at their disposal, and to invest in all forms of capital – physical, environmental and human.

2C. If the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas, please explain how it is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently.

N/A – the Future Agricultural Policy decisions only affect individuals registered as farm businesses and land managers – no difference between urban and rural

2D. Please indicate which of the following rural policy areas the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to primarily impact on.

Rural Businesses	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rural Tourism	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Education or Training in Rural Areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deprivation in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Crime or Community Safety	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Development	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agri-Environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please state)	<input type="text"/>

If the response to Section 2A was YES GO TO Section 3A.

2E. Please explain why the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is NOT likely to impact on people in rural areas.

SECTION 3 - Identifying the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

3A. Has the Public Authority taken steps to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas that are relevant to the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?

Yes No If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **3E**.

3B. Please indicate which of the following methods or information sources were used by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

Consultation with Rural Stakeholders	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Published Statistics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Consultation with Other Organisations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Research Papers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surveys or Questionnaires	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Methods or Information Sources (include details in Question 3C below).			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3C. Please provide details of the methods and information sources used to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas including relevant dates, names of organisations, titles of publications, website references, details of surveys or consultations undertaken etc.

DAERA undertook an engagement exercise in 2018 with a broad range of stakeholders on future agricultural policy. Stakeholders' views were gathered on a draft future agricultural policy framework that would see policies developed on increased productivity, improved resilience, environmental sustainability and improved supply chain functionality. In total there were 1,277 responses, of which 67 were from organisations/representative groups and 1,210 were from individuals.

A further consultation on the associated Future Agricultural Policy Proposals took place in December 2021 and the 339 responses informed the Minister's Future Agricultural Policy Decisions in March 2022.

Report – Equality Indicators for Northern Ireland Farmers <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/news/update-equality-section-75-indicators-farmers>; Statistical review of NI agriculture 2020 <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/statistical-review-ni-agriculture-2007-onward>

The DAERA Agricultural Policy Stakeholder Group has been established by DAERA, bringing together representatives across food, farming and the environment, to ensure that stakeholder views are understood and properly considered during the development of the DAERA future Agricultural Policy.

3D. Please provide details of the social and economic needs of people in rural areas which have been identified by the Public Authority?

Through the **Northern Ireland Future Agricultural Policy Framework** stakeholder engagement carried out in 2018 and the Consultation on Future Agricultural Policy 2021, DAERA identified the following social and economic needs of people in rural areas:

There could be a disproportionate effect on people in rural areas if farmers are not viewed as equal partners in the supply chain.

There is a need to be cognisant of different types of farms/farmers/landscape (e.g. hill farmers and lowland farmers; small farms and large farms), different communities (e.g. farmers in border communities and farmers in non-border communities) and different types of producers (e.g. horticulture and agriculture).

People in rural areas have issues around rural poverty, mental and physical health, inequalities in health and social inclusion

Key Rural Issues Northern Ireland 2020 report highlighted the contribution of agriculture to rural business with 41% of rural businesses being in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sectors, Poverty levels in households in rural areas which are more than an hour's journey from Belfast are much higher than those of rural areas closer to the city

The average age of farmers in Northern Ireland was 59 years. Only 8% of farmers were aged under 40 years, and more than a third (36%) were aged 65 years or older (49% over sixty).

Almost a third (30%) of farmers stated that they had a long-term illness or disability which limited their daily activities, with the incidence of disability inversely related to farm size.

If the response to Section 3A was YES GO TO Section 4A.

3E. Please explain why no steps were taken by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas?

SECTION 4 - Considering the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

4A. Please provide details of the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

The social and economic needs of people in rural areas identified in the **Northern Ireland Future Agricultural Policy Framework** stakeholder engagement carried out in 2018 and the Consultation on Future Agricultural Policy Proposals 2021 have been considered. The Future Agricultural Policy Decisions and associated policy development should take into consideration the responses received; namely: i) the effect on people in rural areas if farmers are not viewed as equal partners in the supply chain; ii) different types of farms/farmers/landscape (e.g. hill farmers and lowland farmers; small farms and large farms), different communities (e.g. farmers in border communities and farmers in non-border communities) and different types of producers (e.g. horticulture and agriculture); iii) broadband quality and public transport and maintenance and road networks and iv) rural poverty, mental and physical health, inequalities in health and social inclusion.

The Future Agricultural Policy Decisions have been made with the expectation of the continued application of Article 10.2 of the Ireland/Northern Ireland Protocol that sets the maximum overall level of agricultural support at £382.2 million per annum and the minimum percentage of this that needs to comply with the WTO Green Box classification at 83%. Subsidies granted in accordance with Article 10 of the Protocol (including future farm support payments in Northern Ireland) will not be subject to the UK Subsidy Control Regime unless the Northern Ireland Protocol Bill is enacted

Future support must also take into account the following principles:

- It must not conflict with World Trade Organization obligations; and
- It should not give rise to unacceptable market distortions within the UK.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/840230/Revised_Protocol_to_the_Withdrawal_Agreement.pdf

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-02/0135/210135.pdf>, Part 3, Chapter 4 Section 48; Legacy and Withdrawal Agreement Subsidies

SECTION 5 - Influencing the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

5A. Has the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, been influenced by the rural needs identified?

Yes No If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **5C**.

5B. Please explain how the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, has been influenced by the rural needs identified.

If the response to Section **5A** was **YES** GO TO Section **6A**.

5C. Please explain why the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or the delivery of the Public Service, has NOT been influenced by the rural needs identified.

The Future Agricultural Policy Decisions take into account the responses received to the consultation exercise associated with the consultation on future Agricultural Policy Proposals for Northern Ireland. While the decisions provide a clear direction of travel for future agricultural policy in Northern Ireland there is still significant policy work to be done that will be cognisant of addressing the rural needs identified.

SECTION 6 - Documenting and Recording

6A. Please tick below to confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained by the Public Authority and relevant information on the Section 1 activity compiled in accordance with paragraph 6.7 of the guidance.

I confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained and relevant information compiled.

Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:	Julie-Ann Moorhead
Position/Grade:	Grade 7
Division/Branch	Transition Policy Division
Signature:	<i>J-A Moorhead</i>
Date:	26/10/22
Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:	Norman Fulton
Position/Grade:	Deputy Secretary
Division/Branch:	Food and Farming Group
Signature:	<i>Norman Fulton</i>
Date:	27/10/22