

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.

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

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.

Development of a New Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Framework

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

Developing a	Policy <input 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 checked="" 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.

Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation – A New Framework

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

To improve the quality of life for vulnerable people in rural areas by providing a flexible mechanism for DAERA to work in partnership with government bodies and other organisations to develop and implement measures which help tackle rural poverty and social isolation

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.

SAMPLE

Rationale for using alternative definition of 'rural'.

SAMPLE

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.

The implementation of the TRPSI Framework is likely to have a positive impact on people in rural areas by providing access to a range of measures aimed at reducing poverty and social isolation among vulnerable groups. The Framework will help to address financial poverty among vulnerable people living in rural areas through, for example, measures which reduce household expenditure or other living costs or increase household incomes, address the barriers to escaping financial poverty (e.g. low qualifications, low skills) and help alleviate the effects of financial poverty (e.g. food poverty, health problems, obesity among children, debt etc). The Framework will help to address access poverty among vulnerable people living in rural areas through, for example, measures which improve urban-rural linkages (e.g. through the provision of better transport and broadband services etc) and improve access to key services (e.g. healthcare). The Framework will help to address social isolation among vulnerable people living in rural areas through, for example, measures which promote positive mental health and wellbeing, increase opportunities for social engagement and provide support to groups at risk of social isolation (e.g. farmers, older people, people with disabilities, disengaged youth, etc).

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.

The TRPSI Framework is a rural initiative and is targeted specifically at people living in rural communities. The measures funded under the TRPSI Framework will not be available in urban areas

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 type="checkbox"/>
Rural Tourism	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education or Training in Rural Areas	<input 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 checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/>	Research Papers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Surveys or Questionnaires	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Methods or Information Sources (include details in Question 3C below).			<input 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.

Various AFBI Rural research papers commissioned by DARD including:

- Policy Options to Improve Rural Household Income and Employment Growth
- The Contribution of Key Basic Services to Rural Dwellers Quality of Life in Northern Ireland: A Baseline Review

A rural stakeholder engagement exercise took place in Thursday 10th December 2015 at Loughry College, Cookstown. 31 people attended representing a wide range of rural stakeholder organisations both at regional and local level.

The report on the Evaluation of the Department of Agriculture & Rural Development's Tackling Rural Poverty & Social Isolation Framework 2011-15

Rural Statistics on DAERA website including statistics on employment and income, access to services, transport and telecommunications.

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

While poverty and social isolation exist in both urban areas and rural areas those living in rural areas often experience poverty and social isolation differently due to issues relating to geographical isolation, lower population density and the dispersed nature of many rural settlements. Living in a rural area can also exacerbate the effects of poverty and social isolation for certain groups. For example additional costs of living in a rural area such as higher fuel or transport costs can have a greater impact on people on low incomes while some groups such as young people or people with disabilities may experience greater difficulties accessing transport services in rural areas than in urban settings. Lower earnings and household incomes are to be found in the rural west where the population is consequently at highest risk of poverty. Access to good telecommunications is also beneficial in terms of individual quality of life particularly in relation to issues such as social connectedness, wellbeing, improving knowledge and skills and enhanced confidence, pleasure and enjoyment. Research shows that although internet services have improved in rural areas, quality of access is still poorer for rural than urban premises. There are links between poor transport services and social isolation. Some rural households have no access to a car while in others private transport may be used by others for travelling to work leaving other household members dependent on alternative means of travel. Paucity of public transport combined with increased travelling distance to retail, social and leisure facilities may significantly impact on the ability of elderly people, the less physically able and those with young children to socially interact. Friends and family may also be scattered geographically resulting in reduced opportunities for face to face contact. Lone workers such as farmers may also be vulnerable to loneliness and social isolation. Social isolation and loneliness have been linked to poor physical and mental health and to depression.

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?

SA

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 Department has considered the impact of poverty and social isolation on vulnerable groups in rural areas and how living in a rural areas can exacerbate the effects of poverty and social isolation. In particular it has looked at effects that living in a rural area can have on financial poverty, accessing key services and social isolation and at potential measures for alleviating the effects. The Department has identified opportunities for public authorities to work together in seeking to address the issues identified around poverty and social isolation in rural areas and a need for a more flexible approach in identifying suitable measures. The Department has also recognised a need for more new and innovative approaches to dealing with the issues in rural areas which take account of particular circumstances which people in rural areas face.

SAMPLE

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.

The development of the new TRPSI Framework has taken account of the needs of people in rural areas in relation to financial poverty, access poverty and social isolation by providing for the development of measures aimed specifically at alleviating the impact of financial poverty, access poverty and social isolation among vulnerable groups of people in rural areas. It also encourages public authorities to work with DAERA in designing and delivering such measures and promotes the sharing of information and best practice between public authorities to improve knowledge and understanding of the needs of people in rural areas. It also encourages the development of new and innovative solutions to addressing poverty and social isolation in rural areas which take account of the particular circumstances facing people in rural areas.

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.

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:	NIGEL QUINN
Position/Grade:	DP
Division/Branch	SUSTAINABLE RURAL COMMUNITIES
Signature:	
Date:	1 MARCH 2018
Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:	NIALL HEANEY
Position/Grade:	GRADE 7
Division/Branch:	SUSTAINABLE RURAL COMMUNITIES
Signature:	
Date:	1 MARCH 2018