# 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**

Cessation of funding for local government/ councils, which has been historically provided to support the enforcement of non-farmed animal welfare laws, under the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (“WoAA 2011”)

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

This is a revised policy.

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

During the development of the WoAA 2011, the then Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development (the ARD Committee), accepted the principle of local government adopting a new animal welfare role in Northern Ireland, with regards to non-farmed animals. However, members of the Committee had concerns about the ability of local councils to fund this new animal welfare enforcement work.

During the Bill’s passage through the Assembly, the then Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, Michelle Gildernew, MLA, agreed with the ARD Committee that the powers for councils to appoint inspectors would not commence until 12 months after the 2011 Act received Royal Assent. This lead-in period was intended to provide councils with sufficient time to prepare for their new animal welfare role. The Northern Ireland Executive agreed to this policy and the Assembly voted and agreed that non-farmed animal welfare enforcement would be carried out by councils from April 2012.

The then Minister committed to provide funding to local councils for enforcement work. This was initially set at £760k in the first year, rising £20k per annum for each of the following 3 years in the comprehensive spending review period from 2011/12 to 2014/15 (inclusive).

Local councils began to exceed this budget allocation in the 2013/14 year. Councils stated that animal welfare service was “demand-led”, and cost of delivery was increasing due to a rise in the number of animal welfare cases. Additional resource funding was reallocated from within DAERA Divisional budgets to offset the pressures identified by the councils. Subsequently, the CSR period was extended to include the 2015/16 year and budget cover was revisited in 2014/15 (increased to £1.12m) and then again in 2015/16 (increased £1.25m), following representations from the councils.

The Department has maintained an annual resource budget of £1.25m for non-farmed animal welfare since 2015/16 (as agreed by successive DAERA Ministers) and currently has appropriate approvals in place to continue funding at this level until 2023/24. Councils can also make funding available to support this service, if they choose to.

Due to inescapable financial pressures and other statutory funding obligations in the 23/24 financial year, there is insufficient resource to provide funding to councils. Therefore, the Department wishes to cease the provision of funding to councils.

**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?**

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) has initiated this policy.

The Permanent Secretary, as Accounting Officer, must ensure that the Department fulfils its statutory requirements, but also has an obligation to live within the Department’s allocated budget for the 2023/24 year. Consequently, the Permanent Secretary has been presented with options for budget reductions, so that the Department can achieve a balanced budget. One option under consideration is the complete cessation of funding to councils, for the delivery of a non-farmed animal welfare enforcement service. The Department is not legally obligated to provide funding for this service and it is noted that councils enforcement of the WoAA 2011 is discretionary.

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

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) currently funds councils for the provision of a non-farmed animal welfare enforcement service. However, councils are statutorily responsible for the enforcement under the WoAA 2011.

**Implementation factors**

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

No.

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

**Financial**

**Legislative**

**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**: N/A

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

* **What are they?**

N/A.

* **Who owns them?**

N/A.

**Available evidence**

Evidence to help inform the screening process may take many forms. Public authorities should ensure that their screening decision is informed by relevant data. The Commission has produced this guide to [signpost to S75 data](https://www.equalityni.org/ECNI/media/ECNI/Publications/Employers%20and%20Service%20Providers/Public%20Authorities/S75DataSignpostingGuide.pdf).

What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories.

*Please ensure all data used is the most current and up to date available. You should verify this by contacting the Departmental Statisticians.*

**Religious belief** evidence/information:

No data is available on the religious beliefs of individuals who own non-farmed (companion) animals. However, Census 2021 figures show the following breakdown of ‘religious belief or religion brought up in’ throughout the Northern Ireland population:

* Catholic – 46%
* Protestants & other Christian religions – 43%
* Other religions – 1%
* None – 9%

There is no evidence that the keeping of animals whether they are farmed animals or domestic pets or other animals and the adherence to animal welfare legislation, is impacted by or determined by religion.

Consequently, there is no evidence to suggest that the revised policy will impact negatively on people in this category.

**Political Opinion** evidence/information:

No data is available on the political opinions of individuals who own non-farmed (companion) animals. 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%

There is no evidence that the keeping of animals whether they are farmed animals or domestic pets or other animals and the adherence to animal welfare legislation, is impacted by or determined by political opinion.

Consequently, there is no evidence to suggest that the revised policy will impact negatively on people in this category.

**Racial Group** evidence/information:

No data is available on the racial makeup of individuals who own non-farmed (companion) animals. However, Census 2021 figures show 97% of the population identify as White.

There is no evidence that the keeping of animals whether they are farmed animals or domestic pets or other animals and the adherence to animal welfare legislation, is impacted by or determined by racial group.

Consequently, there is no evidence to suggest that the revised policy will impact negatively on people in this category.

**Age** evidence/information:

No data is available on the age of individuals who own non-farmed (companion) animals. However, Census 2021 figures show the following age breakdown for the Northern Ireland population:

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

There is no evidence that the keeping of animals whether they are farmed animals or domestic pets or other animals and the adherence to animal welfare legislation, is impacted by or determined by age.

Consequently, there is no evidence to suggest that the revised policy will impact negatively on people in this category.

**Marital Status** evidence/information:

No data is available on the marital status of individuals who own non-farmed (companion) animals. However, Census 2021 figures show the following marital status breakdown for the Northern Ireland population:

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

There is no evidence that the keeping of animals whether they are farmed animals or domestic pets or other animals and the adherence to animal welfare legislation, is impacted by or determined by marital status.

Consequently, there is no evidence to suggest that the revised policy will impact negatively on people in this category.

**Sexual Orientation** evidence/information:

No data is available on the sexual orientation of individuals who own non-farmed (companion) animals. However, Census 2021 figures show the following marital status breakdown for the Northern Ireland population:

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

There is no evidence that the keeping of animals whether they are farmed animals or domestic pets or other animals and the adherence to animal welfare legislation, is impacted by or determined by sexual orientation.

Consequently, there is no evidence to suggest that the revised policy will impact negatively on people in this category.

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

No holistic data is available on the gender of individuals who own non-farmed (companion) animals. However, Census 2021 figures show the following figures for the NI population as a whole:

* Female – 51%
* Male – 49%

There is no evidence that the keeping of animals whether they are farmed animals or domestic pets or other animals and the adherence to animal welfare legislation, is impacted by or determined by whether the owner is a man or a woman.

Consequently, there is no evidence to suggest that the revised policy will impact negatively on people in this category.

**Disability** evidence/information:

No data is available on the disability status of individuals who own non-farmed (companion) animals 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 Northern Ireland population:

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

There is no evidence that the keeping of animals whether they are farmed animals or domestic pets or other animals and the adherence to animal welfare legislation, is impacted by or determined by whether the owner has a disability.

Consequently, there is no evidence to suggest that the revised policy will impact negatively on people in this category.

**Dependants** evidence/information:

No data is available on the number of dependants of individuals who are involved with the ownership of non-farmed (companion) animals. However, Census 2021 figures show the following household structure figures on dependants for the Northern Ireland population:

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

There is no evidence that the keeping of animals whether they are farmed animals or domestic pets or other animals and the adherence to animal welfare legislation, is impacted by or determined by whether the owner has dependants.

Consequently, there is no evidence to suggest that the revised policy will impact negatively on people in this category.

**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, experience or priorities in relation to this policy.

***Political Opinion***

Political opinion does not create any specific needs, experience or priorities in relation to this policy.

***Racial Group***

Racial groups do not create any specific needs, experience or priorities in relation to this policy.

***Age***

Age does not create any specific needs, experience or priorities in relation to this policy.

***Marital status***

Marital status does not create any specific needs, experience or priorities in relation to this policy.

***Sexual orientation***

Sexual orientation does not create any specific needs, experience or priorities in relation to this policy.

***Men and Women Generally***

Men and Women generally do not create any specific needs, experience or priorities in relation to this policy.

***Disability***

Disability does not create any specific needs, experience or priorities in relation to this policy.

***Dependants***

Dependants does not create any specific needs, experience or priorities in relation to this policy.

**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*:**

There is no evidence to suggestion that the keeping of animals and the adherence to animal welfare legislation is impacted by or determined by religious belief. Therefore, no impacts are expected either generally, or specifically to equality of opportunity, related to religious belief, because of this policy change.

**What is the level of impact?**

None. There is no evidence to suggestion that the keeping of animals and the adherence to animal welfare legislation is impacted by or determined by religious belief.

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

There is no evidence to suggestion that the keeping of animals and the adherence to animal welfare legislation is impacted by or determined by political opinion. Therefore, no impacts are expected either generally, or specifically to equality of opportunity, related to political opinion, because of this policy change.

**What is the level of impact?**

None. There is no evidence to suggestion that the keeping of animals and the adherence to animal welfare legislation is impacted by or determined by political opinion.

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

There is no evidence to suggestion that the keeping of animals and the adherence to animal welfare legislation is impacted by or determined by racial grop. Therefore, no impacts are expected either generally, or specifically to equality of opportunity, related to racial group, because of this policy change.

**What is the level of impact?**

None. There is no evidence to suggestion that the keeping of animals and the adherence to animal welfare legislation is impacted by or determined by racial group.

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

There is no evidence to suggestion that the keeping of animals and the adherence to animal welfare legislation is impacted by or determined by age. Therefore, no impacts are expected either generally, or specifically to equality of opportunity, related to age, because of this policy change.

**What is the level of impact?**

None. There is no evidence to suggestion that the keeping of animals and the adherence to animal welfare legislation is impacted by or determined by age.

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

There is no evidence to suggestion that the keeping of animals and the adherence to animal welfare legislation is impacted by or determined by marital status. Therefore, no impacts are expected either generally, or specifically to equality of opportunity, related to marital status, because of this policy change.

**What is the level of impact?**

None. There is no evidence to suggestion that the keeping of animals and the adherence to animal welfare legislation is impacted by or determined by marital status.

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

There is no evidence to suggestion that the keeping of animals and the adherence to animal welfare legislation is impacted by or determined by sexual orientation. Therefore, no impacts are expected either generally, or specifically to equality of opportunity, related to sexual orientation, because of this policy change.

**What is the level of impact**?

None. There is no evidence to suggestion that the keeping of animals and the adherence to animal welfare legislation is impacted by or determined by sexual orientation.

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

There is no evidence to suggestion that the keeping of animals and the adherence to animal welfare legislation is impacted by or determined by gender. Therefore, no impacts are expected either generally, or specifically to equality of opportunity, related to gender because of this policy change.

**What is the level of impact?**

None. There is no evidence to suggestion that the keeping of animals and the adherence to animal welfare legislation is impacted by whether the person is a man or a woman.

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

There is no evidence to suggestion that the keeping of animals and the adherence to animal welfare legislation is impacted by or determined by disability status. Therefore, no impacts are expected either generally, or specifically to equality of opportunity, related to disability status, because of this policy change.

**What is the level of impact?**

None. There is no evidence to suggestion that the keeping of animals and the adherence to animal welfare legislation is impacted by or determined by disability.

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

There is no evidence to suggestion that the keeping of animals and the adherence to animal welfare legislation is impacted by or determined by whether the individual has dependants. Therefore, no impacts are expected either generally, or specifically to equality of opportunity, related to this category, because of this policy change.

**What is the level of impact?**

None. There is no evidence to suggestion that the keeping of animals and the adherence to animal welfare legislation is impacted by or determined by this category.

1. **Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories?**

No. This policy relates to the cessation of funding by the Department, to support delivery of council provided non-farmed animals enforcement of the WoAA 2011. It does not create an opportunity to promote equality of opportunity for particular section 75 categories.

**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:**

This policy relates to the cessation of funding support for the council non-farmed animal enforcement service. This policy does not lend itself to promote equality of opportunity related to religious belief, as a result.

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

**If No, provide reasons:**

This policy relates to the cessation of funding support for the council non-farmed animal enforcement service. This policy does not lend itself to promote equality of opportunity related to political opinion, as a result.

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

**If No, provide reasons:**

This policy relates to the cessation of funding support for the council non-farmed animals enforcement service. This policy does not lend itself to promote equality of opportunity related to any racial group, as a result.

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

**If No, provide reasons:**

This policy relates to the cessation of funding support for the council non-farmed animals enforcement service. This policy does not lend itself to promote equality of opportunity related to age, as a result.

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

**If No, provide reasons**

This policy relates to the cessation of funding support for the council non-farmed animals enforcement service. This policy does not lend itself to promote equality of opportunity related to marital status, as a result.

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

**If No, provide reasons:**

This policy relates to the cessation of funding support for the council non-farmed animal enforcement service. This policy does not lend itself to promote equality of opportunity related to sexual orientation, as a result.

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

**If No, provide reasons:**

This policy relates to the cessation of funding support for the council non-farmed animal enforcement service. This policy does not lend itself to promote equality of opportunity related to gender, as a result.

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

**If No, provide reasons:**

This policy relates to the cessation of funding support for the council non-farmed animal enforcement service. This policy does not lend itself to promote equality of opportunity related to disability status, as a result.

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

**If No, provide reasons:**

This policy relates to the cessation of funding support for the council non-farmed animal enforcement service. This policy does not lend itself to promote equality of opportunity related for persons with 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*:** (insert text here)

This policy will apply to all persons in Northern Ireland and therefore will have 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*:** (insert text here)

This policy will apply to all persons in Northern Ireland and therefore will have no impact on good relations between people with different political opinions.

**What is the level of impact?**

None.

**Details of the likely policy impacts on *Racial Group*:** (insert text here)

This policy will apply to all persons in Northern Ireland and therefore will have no impact on good relations between 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:**

This policy will apply to all persons in Northern Ireland and therefore will have no opportunity to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief.

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

**If No, provide reasons**

This policy will apply to all persons in Northern Ireland and therefore will have no opportunity to better promote good relations between people with different political opinions.

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

**If No, provide reasons**

This policy will apply to all persons in Northern Ireland and therefore will have no opportunity to better promote good relations between people of different racial groups. **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).*

This policy relates to the cessation of funding support for the council non-farmed animal enforcement service. The policy will apply to all persons in Northern Ireland and therefore there will be no impact on people with multiple identities.

**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?**

This policy relates to the cessation of funding support for the council non-farmed animal enforcement service. The policy will apply to all persons in Northern Ireland and therefore, there is 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?**

This policy relates to the cessation of funding support for the council non-farmed animal enforcement service. The policy will apply to all persons in Northern Ireland; therefore, no opportunity exists to actively increase the participation by disabled people in public life.

**Part 3. Screening decision**

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

This policy relates to the cessation of funding support for the council non-farmed animal enforcement service. The policy will apply to all persons in Northern Ireland and there are no differential impacts on any section 75 groups or implications 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.**

**N/A.**

**Timetabling and prioritising**

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

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

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

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

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

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

No.

**If yes, please provide details.** N/A

**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:**

There is no evidence to suggest that this policy will have any impact on equality, good relations and disability duties. Furthermore, there is no mechanism to capture or determine whether enforcement of the WoAA 2011 by councils has an impact on equality, good relations and disability duties. Nevertheless, the Department will continue to have open channels of communication with councils/ other stakeholder and monitor for any unintended negative consequences.

**Good Relations:**

There is no evidence to suggest that this policy will have any impact on equality, good relations and disability duties. Furthermore, there is no mechanism to capture or determine whether enforcement of the WoAA 2011 by councils has an impact on equality, good relations and disability duties. Nevertheless, the Department will continue to have open channels of communication with councils/ other stakeholder and monitor for any unintended negative consequences.

**Disability Duties:**

There is no evidence to suggest that this policy will have any impact on equality, good relations and disability duties. Furthermore, there is no mechanism to capture or determine whether enforcement of the WoAA 2011 by councils has an impact on equality, good relations and disability duties. Nevertheless, the Department will continue to have open channels of communication with councils/ other stakeholder and monitor for any unintended negative consequences.

**Part 5. Consideration of Human Rights**

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

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

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

8. **Please explain any adverse impacts on human rights that you have identified**

No adverse 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:** Christopher Andrews **Grade:** G7

**Branch:** Animal Identification and Welfare Policy

**Signature:** signed: C. Andrews

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

**Name:** Robert Huey **Grade:** Chief Veterinary Officer

**Group:** Veterinary Services Animal Health Group

**Signature:** 

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

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



For more information about equality screening, contact –

DAERA Equality Unit

Equality, Diversity & Public Appointments Branch

Ballykelly House

111 Ballykelly Road

LIMAVADY  
BT49 9HP

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

Tel: 028 7744 2027



**Annex A**

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

***Article 2***

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

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

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

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

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

***Article 3***

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

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

***Article 4***

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

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

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

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

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

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

***Article 5***

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

***Article 6***

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

***Article 7***

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

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

***Article 8***

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

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

***Article 9***

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

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

***Article 10***

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

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

***Article 11***

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

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

***Article 12***

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

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

***Article 14***

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

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

**Protocol 1**

***Article 1***

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

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

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

**Protocol 1**

***Article 2***

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

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

**Protocol 1**

***Article***

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

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