**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND RURAL AFFAIRS**

**Equality and Human Rights**

**Screening Template**

November 2020



**DAERA Equality** and **Human Rights**

# Screening Template

DAERA has a statutory duty to screen. This includes our strategies and plans, policies, legislative developments; and new ways of working such as – the introduction, change or end of an existing service, grant funding arrangement or facility. This screening template is designed to help business areas consider the likely equality and human rights impacts of their proposed decisions on different groups of customers, service users, staff and visitors.

Before carrying out an equality screening exercise it is important that you have received the necessary training and know the current effective guidance first (see HPRM (Trim) link below for Guidance Document). To find out about the training needed, contact - [equalitydiversitypublicappointments@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:equalitydiversitypublicappointments@daera-ni.gov.uk). All screening exercises must be supported by evidence and Quality Assured by Equality Unit prior to being cleared at Grade 3 level.



The accompanying Screening Guidance note provides straightforward advice on how to carry out equality screening exercises. Detailed information about the Section 75 equality duties**[[1]](#footnote-1)** and what they mean in practice is available on the Equality Commission’s website.

Please note: Only plain English**[[2]](#footnote-2)** should be used in all sections of this document.

The screening template has 4 sections to complete. These are:

**Section A** - asks you to provide details about the policy / decision that is being screened.

**Section B** - has 4 key questions that require you to outline the likely impacts on equality groups, and all supporting evidence.

**Section C** - has 4 key questions in relation to obligations under the Disability Discrimination Order and the Human Rights Act.

**Section D** - is the formal record of the screening decision.

Section A

Details about the policy / decision to be screened – In plain English

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| --- |
| Title of policy / decision to be screened:-  The Direct Payments to Farmers (Simplifications) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 |

|  |
| --- |
| Brief description of policy / decision to be screened:-  The United Kingdom leaving the EU and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is the most significant change in policy affecting the agri-food sector in over 40 years. It means that our policies no longer have to be constrained by the existing EU rules and gives us the opportunity to develop new approaches and support systems which better address the needs of Northern Ireland agriculture and the environment.  DAERA has therefore reviewed its approach to the current direct agricultural support schemes and identified a number of improvements/simplifications to the rules governing the scheme for the 2021 scheme year.  The improvements/simplifications seek to make the schemes simpler for both applicants and those administering the schemes.  This Statutory Rule gives legal effect to the improvements/simplifications. |

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| Aims and objectives of the policy / decision to be screened:-  The following improvements/simplifications are being introduced from the beginning of the 2021 scheme year –  **Remove the Greening requirements for the 2021 scheme year and incorporate the Greening Payment into BPS entitlement unit values.**  The Greening requirements are a set of conditions beneficial to the environment and apply to all Basic Payment Scheme applicants. This change represents a simplification in that applicants will no longer be required to meet the Greening requirements. However the value of their overall payment will remain unchanged as the Greening payment will be incorporated into BPS entitlement values. This includes a technical adjustment to capping levels for the 2021 scheme year. This will ensure that claimants will notice no change in the level of funding they receive.  **Retain the ban on ploughing or conversion of Environmentally Sensitive Permanent Grassland but increase the penalty for breaching the requirement.**  This improvement will lift the ban on ploughing or conversion of Environmentally Sensitive Permanent Grassland which is currently a Greening requirement and incorporate it under the BPS rules. This will have the effect of increasing the value of penalties that will be applied if an applicant breaches the ban. A total of 3 applicants were found to have breached this requirement in the 2 year period running from 1 January 2018 until 31 December 2019.  **Limit the number of entitlements that can be allocated or topped up from the Regional Reserve to 90 for each application, bringing it into line with the Young Farmers Payment**.  The maximum number of hectares on which payment can be made under the Young Farmers Payment (YFP) has been set at 90 hectares. There is currently no limit set for the number of entitlements that can be allocated or topped up from the Regional Reserve (RR) (the RR allows DAERA to allocate payment entitlements or to top up existing entitlements to certain categories of farmers), so we propose to set a limit of 90 entitlements that can be allocated or topped up from the Reserve. At present the number of RR applications being approved which are above 90ha is relatively small at around 10 per year. It is considered that a limit of 90 is appropriate given that allocations from the RR can amount to €330/ha (€29,700 would be the maximum with a limit of 90) per year. This will prevent very large allocations from the Reserve to individual farm businesses which are difficult to justify but which cannot at present be prevented. It will also reduce the incentive to submit speculative claims or those which seek to exploit the Reserve.  **Limit to 3, the number of times an applicant and the number of times a farm business can submit an application for the Young Farmers Payment and the Regional Reserve.**  The aim of limiting the number of times an applicant can apply is to prevent repetitive claims year after year from those who hope eventually just scrape through the scheme screening rules. As part of the assessment process applicants can be required to attend an interview to assess their head of holding status and experience has shown that some applicants, who have not previously been able to demonstrate this, apply year after year hoping eventually to pass the assessment process. While the number of repetitive applications are low, there is the potential for abuse of the scheme where the applicant is not in control of the farm business in practice and will not be in future, but seeks to use the knowledge gained from the application process in previous years to convince the Department otherwise.  Such applications can absorb considerable DAERA resource to assess and these cases can also go through the Review of Decision process year after year.  All previously rejected applicants or businesses will be able to apply in 2021 and have their application assessed against scheme criteria. However if a rejection in 2021 is the 3rd (or more) such rejection, and the applicant or business subsequently submits another application it would be automatically rejected without going through the assessment process.  Based on 2020 applications to the YFP and RR 15 applicants would have submitted their application having been rejected once before, 3 would have submitted their application having been rejected twice before and 1 would have already been rejected on 3 occasions. There are therefore only a very small number of individuals/businesses that make repetitive applications and that would be effected by this change.  **Remove offset penalties by limiting over declaration penalties to 100% of the amount due based on the area determined (prior to penalty)**  As part of the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) application process applicants are required to declare the land on which they intend to claim payment. Some applicants declare more land than they actually have. At present, in some cases where the over declaration is large, the over declaration penalty exceeds the payment due (prior to penalty). In such cases the payment is zero and the outstanding part of the over declaration penalty is offset against future BPS payments made to the business over the next 3 years (i.e. the outstanding penalty will reduce these subsequent payments until the penalty is cleared). In 2019 scheme year, offset penalties totaling €51,908 were applied to 16 businesses. These offset penalties are complicated to administer as they involve checking the business across a number of scheme years and the purpose they serve is questionable as a reduction of the payment to zero would be an adequate deterrent against a speculative claim involving the declaration of a large proportion of ineligible land. Offset penalties will be ended by limiting the over declaration penalty to the payment due prior to the penalty being applied.    In addition to the improvements/changes/simplifications set out above the Regulations also introduce the following technical adjustments -  Change the definition of a farmer and holding so that it is confined to Northern Ireland. This means that in future farmers will make applications to DAERA in relation to land in Northern Ireland and to the relevant authority in relation to land located elsewhere. This change is necessary given that agricultural support policy will diverge in the UK in future. Farmers who have land in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland will continue to make separate applications to the relevant authorities in respect of where land is located.  Introduce technical changes in relation to coupled support to ensure that in future it remains possible to introduce coupled support schemes in Northern Ireland. The changes include the replacement of the Defra Secretary of State with DAERA as regards regulation making power as future schemes will be the sole responsibility of DAERA.  Remove the limit of 3% on the increase of the Basic Payment Scheme to provide more flexibility on maximising expenditure within the budget allocation. This is a technical change that will allow DAERA more flexibility in managing budget allocations. |

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| **On whom will the policy / decision impact?**  Consider the internal and external impacts (both actual or potential)  Staff    service users  rural community  **X**  other public sector organisations  voluntary / community groups / trade unions  others, please specify  The Direct Payments to Farmers (Simplifications) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 will apply equally to all applicants claiming Direct Agricultural Support |

|  |
| --- |
| Are there linkages to other NI Departments / NDPBs? *Under the new Programme for Government there is an emphasis on shared responsibility between departments & this should be considered when answering this question.*  No linkage to other NI Departments or NDPBs is envisaged. |

Section B

**Available evidence**

What evidence or information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy? Set out all evidence below along with details of the different groups you have met and or consulted with to help inform your screening assessment.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Section 75 category** | **Details of evidence or information and engagement** |
| **Religious belief** | The DAERA Farm Equality Indicators Report 2018 states that 52% of farms in Northern Ireland were farmed by a member of the Protestant community and 42% by a member of the Catholic community. |
| **Political opinion** | The DAERA Farmer Equality Indicators Report 2018 suggests that national identity is a reasonable proxy indicator for the Unionist/Nationalist divide. 44% of farmers have reported their identity as British only, 26% as Irish only and 23% as Northern Irish only. |
| **Racial group** | The 2011 census indicates that 99% of the rural population are white and it therefore stands to reason that the farming population would follow a similar pattern. A small number of migrant workers are also employed within the farming industry. This would support the view that the amendment is likely to affect more white beneficiaries. |
| **Age** | The DAERA Farm Equality Indicators Report 2018 showed that 36% of farmers are 65 years and over with 8% under forty years of age. |
| **Marital status** | The DAERA Farm Equality Indicators data shows that around 73% of all farmers are married and living with a wife/husband. |
| **Sexual orientation** | There is no data held on the number of lesbian, gay or bisexual persons in NI as no national census has ever asked people to define their sexuality. Information provided by sexual orientation groups in response to pre-consultation on the NIRDP 2007-2013 suggest a figure of 10% of the population being lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB) and is generally accepted as a reasonable estimate. |
| **Men & women generally** | The DAERA Farm Equality Indicators 2018 data showed that 91% of farmers in Northern Ireland are males. Farm Structure Survey data revealed that female workers accounted for 24% of the total workforce and 5% of farms were managed by women. Research has further shown that up to 50% of women (on farms) work off the farm and in many cases, the primary motivation is to provide supplemental income to farm income. |
| **Disability** | The DAERA Farmer Equality Indicators 2018 data indicated, that while a high proportion of farmers (30%) suffered from a disability limiting their day to day activities, there was also a difference by farm type with 9% of arable farms reporting a disability that limited their day to day activities compared with 77% who indicated that a disability did not limit their day to day activities. |
| **Dependants** | The most recent data from the 2018 DAERA Farmer Equality Indicators report revealed that almost 40% of households supported by family farms included one or more dependents. On arable farms, 30% of farmers had one or more dependent. |

|  |
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| **No evidence held? Outline how you will obtain it:** *If you do not know you must seek advice from the project manager prior to completing this document.* |

1. **What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories? What is the level of impact?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Section 75 category** | **Details of likely impact** | **Level of impact? Minor/Major/None** |
| **Religious belief** | None – the Statutory Rule introduces simplifications/improvements to the rules governing direct agricultural support schemes. The rules apply equally to all applicants. | None. |
| **Political opinion** | As above. | None. |
| **Racial group** | As above. | None. |
| **Age** | As above. | None. |
| **Marital status** | As above. | None. |
| **Sexual orientation** | As above. | None. |
| **Men and women generally** | As above. | None. |
| **Disability** | As above. | None. |
| **Dependants** | As above. | None. |

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Section 75 category** | **If Yes, provide details** | **If No, provide reasons** |
| **Religious belief** |  | No – The legislation proposed will be applicable to all individuals and businesses claiming direct agricultural support. There is therefore no facility to better promote equality of opportunity. |
| **Political opinion** |  | As above. |
| **Racial group** |  | As above. |
| **Age** |  | As above. |
| **Marital status** |  | As above. |
| **Sexual orientation** |  | As above. |
| **Men and women generally** |  | As above. |
| **Disability** |  | As above. |
| **Dependants** |  | As above. |

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Good relations category** | **Likely impact?** | **Level of impact? Minor/Major/None** |
| **Religious belief** | None – the Statutory Rule introduces simplifications/improvements to the rules governing direct agricultural support schemes. The rules apply equally to all applicants. | None |
| **Political opinion** | As above | None |
| **Racial group** | As above | None |

1. **Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group? *Think People!***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Good relations category** | **If Yes, provide details** | **If No, provide reasons** |
| **Religious belief** |  | None - the Statutory Rule introduces simplifications/improvements to the rules governing direct agricultural support schemes. The rules apply equally to all applicants. As such, there are no opportunities to promote good relations between people of different religious beliefs, political opinion or racial group. |
| **Political opinion** |  | None – reasons as above |
| **Racial group** |  | None – reasons as above |

Section C

DAERA also has legislative obligations to meet under the Disability Discrimination Order and Human Rights Act Questions 5 -9 relate to these two areas.

Consideration of Disability Duties

5. Does this proposed policy or decision provide an opportunity for DAERA to better **promote positive attitudes** towards disabled people?

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| --- |
| **Explain your assessment in full**  No – the Statutory Rule introduces simplifications/improvements to the rules governing direct agricultural support schemes. The rules apply equally to all applicants.It does not allow for wider changes which could 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?

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| --- |
| **Explain your assessment in full**  **No. T**he Statutory Rule introduces simplifications/improvements to the rules governing direct agricultural support schemes. The rules apply equally to all applicants.It does not allow for wider changes which could promote positive attitudes towards disabled people. |

Consideration of Human Rights

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

Consideration of Human Rights (cont)

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| --- |
| 8. **Please explain any adverse impacts on human rights that you have identified**  No adverse impact on Human Rights have been identified |

|  |
| --- |
| 9. **Please indicate any ways which you consider the policy positively promotes human rights**  The policy does not create any opportunity to promote human rights |

**Monitoring Arrangements**

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.*

Outline what data you will collect in the future in order to monitor the impact of this policy or decision on equality, good relations and disability duties.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Equality** | **Good Relations** | **Disability Duties** |
| The policy is required to implement simplifications/improvements to the rules governing direct agricultural support schemes. These rules apply equally to all applicants. It is not foreseen to have any equality impacts. This policy will be reviewed on an ongoing basis following implementation and any identified impacts on s75 stakeholders will be addressed. | The policy is required to implement simplifications/improvements to the rules governing direct agricultural support schemes. These rules apply equally to all applicants. It is not foreseen to have any opportunities for good relations. This policy will be reviewed on an ongoing basis following implementation and any identified impacts on good relations will be addressed. | The policy is required to implement simplifications/improvements to the rules governing direct agricultural support schemes. These rules apply equally to all applicants. It is not foreseen to have any impacts on disability duties. This policy will be reviewed on an ongoing basis following implementation and any identified impacts on disability duties will be addressed. |

Section D – Summary Sheet

Formal Record of Screening Decision

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| --- |
| **Title of Proposed Policy / Decision being screened**  The Direct Payments to Farmers (Simplifications) Regulations (Northern Ireland) |

I can confirm that the proposed policy / decision has been screened for –

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | equality of opportunity and good relations |
|  | disabilities duties; and |
|  | human rights issues |

On the basis of the answers to the screening questions, I recommend that this policy / decision is –

\***place an X in the appropriate box below**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | \***Screened In** – Necessary to conduct a full EQIA |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | \***Screened Out** – No EQIA necessary (no impacts)  Provide a brief note here to explain how this decision was reached:   * The policy is required to implement simplifications/improvements to the rules governing direct agricultural support schemes. These rules apply equally to all applicants. Therefore, it will have no additional impacts on s.75 equality categories. * There is no scope within it to improve good relations, attitudes towards or participation of disabled people. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | \* **Screened Out -** Mitigating Actions (minor impacts)  Provide a brief note here to explain how this decision was reached:   * Describe clearly the mitigating actions and / or policy changes that will now be introduced * Explain how these actions will address the inequalities: |

**DAERA Equality** and **Human Rights**

# 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 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 |

**Formal Record of Screening Decision** (cont.)

***Have you issued this document to Equality Unit prior to obtaining Grade 3 signature?***

***YES***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Screening assessment completed by (Staff Officer level or above) -** | |
| Name: Sharon Cabecinha | Grade: Principal (G7) |
|  | Date: 21January 2021 |
| Branch: Transition Policy Division | |
|  | |

|  |
| --- |
| Signature: please insert a scanned image of your signature below |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Screening decision approved by (must be Grade 3 or above) -** | |
| Name: Norman Fulton | Grade: Grade 3 |
|  | Date: 26 January 2021 |
| Branch: | |

|  |
| --- |
| Signature: |

Please save the final signed version of the completed screening form in the HPRM container below as soon as possible after completion and forward the HPRM link to Equality Branch at [equalitydiversitypublicappointments@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:equalitydiversitypublicappointments@daera-ni.gov.uk). 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: [equalitydiversitypublicappointments@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:equalitydiversitypublicappointments@daera-ni.gov.uk)

Tel: 028 7744 2027

**August 2019**



**Annex A**

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

***Article 2***

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

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

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

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

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

***Article 3***

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

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

***Article 4***

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

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

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

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

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

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

***Article 5***

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

***Article 6***

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

***Article 7***

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

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

***Article 8***

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

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

***Article 9***

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

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

***Article 10***

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

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

***Article 11***

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

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

***Article 12***

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

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

***Article 14***

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

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

**Protocol 1**

***Article 1***

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

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

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

**Protocol 1**

***Article 2***

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

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

**Protocol 1**

***Article***

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

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

1. ECNI ‘Section 75 of the NI Act 1998: A Guide for Public Authorities’ April 2010. [www.equalityni.org](http://www.equalityni.org) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Should be easily understood by a 12 year old. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)