

Appendix I - Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) Template

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

1A. Name of Public Authority.

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)

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

Development of the interim Waste Prevention Programme (WPP) for Northern Ireland.

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

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

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

From Waste to Worth: the new Northern Ireland Waste Prevention Programme.

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

To reduce the generation of waste at its source, thereby conserving resources, minimising environmental impact, and supporting a transition to a circular economy.

To achieve this aim and in keeping with the outcomes of the PfG, the programme focuses on the following objectives; Reduce Resource Use, Promote Reuse and Repair, Influence Consumer Behaviour, Support Circular Economy Principles, Engage Businesses and Public Sector, Monitor and Report Progress & Reduce Environmental Impact.

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

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

Other Definition (Provide details and the rationale below).

A definition of 'rural' is not applicable.

Details of alternative definition of 'rural' used.

N/A

Rationale for using alternative definition of 'rural'.

N/A

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

N/A

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

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

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

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

N/A

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

There is no evidence to suggest that the WPP will impact those in rural areas differently from those in urban areas.

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

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

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

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

There are a range of waste-related obligations contained within the Waste Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011. The Waste Prevention Programme brings these together in a single document to collate the Waste Prevention measures for meeting these obligations and moving waste up the waste hierarchy.

As such, the WPP does not introduce any new policy measures and will not impact on the citizens of Northern Ireland, including those in rural areas. All waste prevention, re-use, recycling, recovery, disposal and landfill diversion measures contained within the WPP will be assessed and delivered separately at policy level.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pre-consultation stakeholder engagement has been ongoing across the wider waste sector, local councils, and business support organisations throughout the process to date. This ongoing engagement has been used to identify opportunities and barriers that may exist to implementing designing and implementing the programme.

When implemented, the programme will not impact the citizens of Northern Ireland as, the WPP does not introduce any new policy measures. All waste prevention, re-use, recycling, recovery, disposal and landfill diversion measures contained within the WPP will be assessed and delivered separately at policy level.

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

As far as the RNIA for the WPP is concerned, there are no identified social and economic needs of people in rural areas. All waste prevention, re-use, recycling, recovery, disposal and landfill diversion measures contained within the WPP will be assessed and delivered separately at policy level.

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

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

N/A

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

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

As far as the RNIA for the WPP is concerned, there are no social and economic needs of people in rural areas to consider. All waste prevention, re-use, recycling, recovery, disposal and landfill diversion measures contained within the WPP will be assessed and delivered separately at policy level.

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

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

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

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

N/A

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

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

The WPP does not introduce any new policy measures and will not impact on the citizens of Northern Ireland, including those in rural areas. All waste prevention, re-use, recycling, recovery, disposal and landfill diversion measures contained within the WPP will be assessed and delivered separately at policy level.

This Programme merely brings a range of waste-related obligations together in a single document to collate the Waste Prevention measures for meeting these obligations and moving waste up the waste hierarchy. These issues must influence the development of the individual policies themselves, for which a rural needs assessment will be completed.

SECTION 6 - Documenting and Recording

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

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

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Position/Grade:	Deputy Principal
Division/Branch	ERPD – Resources and Waste Strategy Branch
Signature:	<i>E. Kelly</i>
Date:	24/03/2026
Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:	Carmel McDowell
Position/Grade:	G7
Division/Branch:	Resources and Waste Strategy
Signature:	<i>Carmel McDowell</i>
Date:	02 April 2026