

Equality & Disability Duties Screening Template

Bathing Water Policy

Review for Northern Ireland

December 2023 version



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

*Sustainability at the heart of a living,
working, active landscape
valued by everyone.*

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.

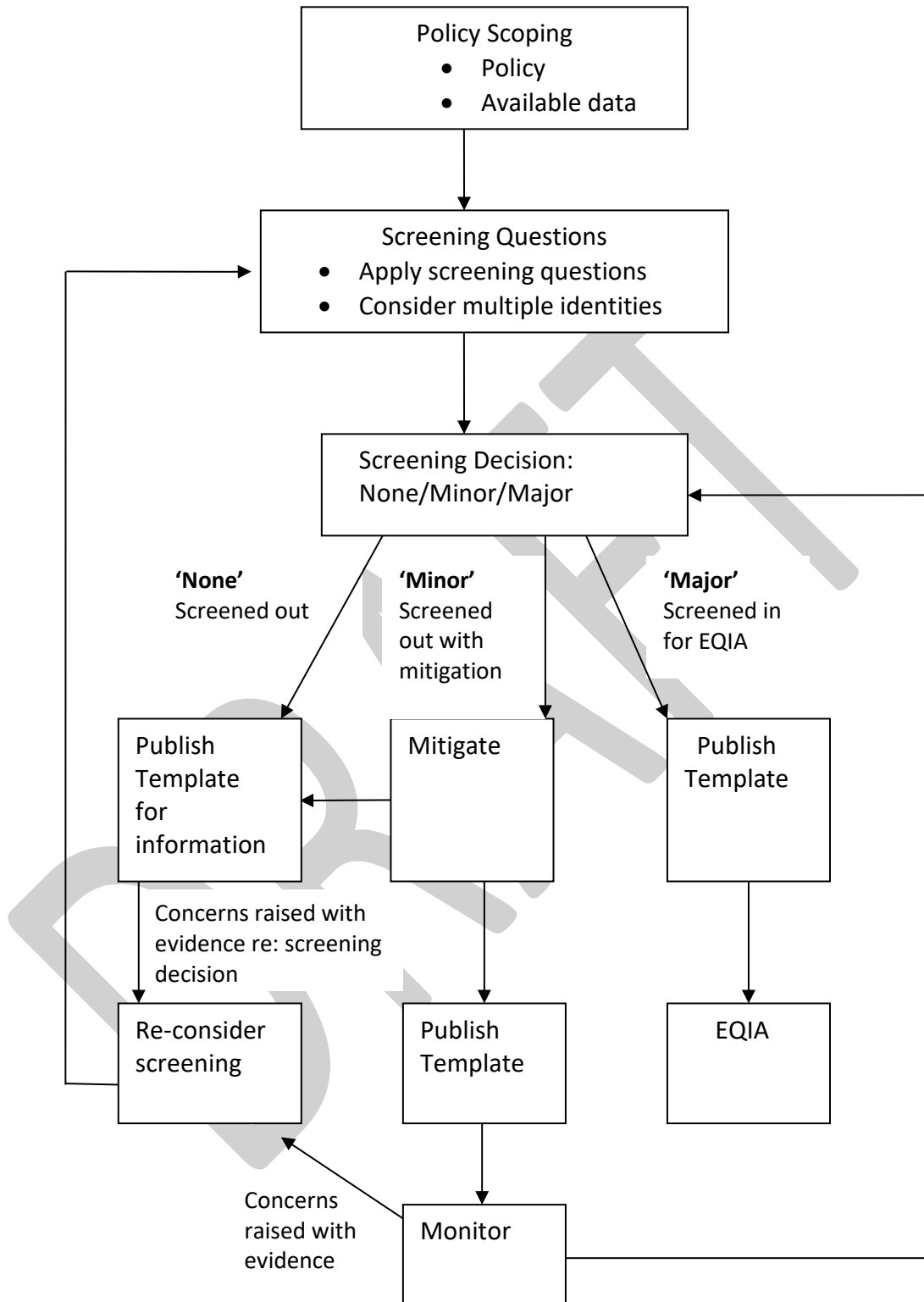
Part 3. Screening decision – guides the public authority to reach a screening decision as to whether or not there is a need to carry out an equality impact assessment (EQIA), or to introduce measures to mitigate the likely impact, or the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality 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 below.



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

Bathing Waters Policy Review for Northern Ireland

Is this an existing, revised or new policy?

Revised

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

Bathing waters are an important part of life in Northern Ireland. To keep up with demand, DAERA agreed to review bathing water sites more often than the current six-year schedule. The last review in 2022–23 led to seven new sites being officially recognised on 1st June 2025: Brompton Bay, Cushendall, Donaghadee, Drain's Bay, Portmuck, Rea's Wood, and Warrenpoint.

Bathing waters are monitored under the Quality of Bathing Water Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008. These rules help protect public health and ensure our

natural waters stay clean and safe. DAERA regularly tests water quality at designated sites and compares results against strict standards. This helps swimmers make informed choices and supports the health of our rivers, lakes, and seas.

A bathing water can be any part of the sea, a lake, or a river where lots of people swim and where bathing isn't permanently banned. It doesn't include swimming pools, spa pools, or man-made water features.

While resources may limit how many new sites can be added, DAERA is committed to recognising locations that meet the criteria and ensuring fair coverage across Northern Ireland.

On 19 November 2024, the Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) published a report titled "A Review of Implementation of the Bathing Water Regulations in Northern Ireland." This was formally presented to the Northern Ireland Assembly as part of its role under the Environment Act 2021.

The report found that Northern Ireland is generally doing a good job in applying the Bathing Water Regulations. Monitoring, reporting, and classifying bathing waters are being carried out effectively, and the overall quality of bathing waters has improved significantly since the regulations were first introduced in the 1990s. However, the report also noted that progress has slowed in recent years, with some areas showing signs of decline.

Importantly, the OEP recommended updating the regulations to reflect how people use water for recreation today. This would help ensure that the public continues to be well protected when enjoying our rivers, lakes, and coastal waters.

While the primary aim of the policy is to protect public health and improve environmental quality, it also has relevance to equality of opportunity. Access to safe, clean bathing waters can contribute to physical and mental wellbeing, recreation, and social inclusion. The review therefore has the potential to impact different Section 75 groups in different ways depending on access, mobility, awareness, and geographic distribution of designated sites. This screening seeks to assess those potential differential impacts.

Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy? Yes No (select as appropriate)

If so, explain how.

It is expected that overall the people of Northern Ireland (including Section 75 categories) will benefit from the development and implementation this policy, although more information will be needed to categorically determine if there will be either positive or negative impacts on Section 75 categories.

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

Who owns and who implements the policy?

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

Implementation factors

Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision? Yes No (select as appropriate)

If yes, are they (please select as appropriate)

Financial

Legislative

other, please specify:

Financial

Recommendations coming out from this review may result in additional work and additional costs particularly in relation to the sampling and analysis for the microbiological monitoring for any new identified bathing water sites.

Legislative

Recommendations coming out from this review may result in legislative changes to The Quality of Bathing Water Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008. The Bathing Water Regulations have a specific focus on the protection of public health and are complementary to The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 which provide an overarching framework for monitoring and management of the water environment.

The Department has a duty under the Bathing Water Regulations to encourage public participation in how it exercises its functions under these regulations and to take into account any information it has obtained from the public.

Main stakeholders affected

Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the policy will impact upon? (please select as appropriate)

- Staff**
- Service users**
- Other public sector organisations**

Voluntary/community/trade unions

Other, please specify

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

What are they?

This Policy will contribute to achieving the Programme for Government 2024-2027 'Our Plan: Doing What Matters Most' and in particular the, Environmental Improvement Plan and Lough Neagh Report and Action Plan.

Who owns them?

Programme for Government 2024-2027 'Our Plan: Doing What Matters Most'
– NI Executive
DAERA Vision - DAERA

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](#).

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:

[Census 2021 main statistics for Northern Ireland \(supplemental\)](#)

The religious beliefs across the NI community are over 42% Catholic, over 37% Protestant and other Christian, over 1% other religion and over 17% no religion. Catholics predominate in the West, North- West and South of Northern Ireland. Whereas in contrast, Protestants and other Christians are heavily represented in the East, North-East and Greater Belfast areas.

Political Opinion evidence/information:

In the Population Census 2021, 42.8% of people living here identified solely or along with other national identities as 'British', 33.3% identified solely or along with other national identities as 'Irish'. 31.5% identified solely or along with other national identities as 'Northern Irish'. It also stated that the most numerous person-based national identities were 'British only' - 31.9%; 'Irish only' - 29.1%; and 'Northern Irish only' - 19.8%.

Looking in more detail shows marked variation in national identity across Local Government Districts. Key findings are listed below:

- Six areas (Ards and North Down; Mid and East Antrim; Lisburn and Castlereagh; Antrim and Newtownabbey; Causeway Coast and Glens; and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon) have markedly more people identifying as British (solely or in combination) than Irish (solely or in combination);
- Four areas (Derry City and Strabane; Newry, Mourne and Down; Mid Ulster; and Fermanagh and Omagh) have markedly more people identifying as Irish (solely or in combination) than British (solely or in combination); and
- Belfast Local Government District has broadly similar numbers of people identifying as British (solely or in combination) or Irish (solely or in combination).

Information on political opinion is not available from the 2021 census and was not collected in the 2011 Census, but the results of elections on 5th May 2022 gives an overall picture of political opinion across Northern Ireland with Sinn Fein becoming the largest party with 29% first preference votes, followed by the Democratic Unionist Party with 21% of the votes, Alliance received 13.5%

of the votes, Ulster Unionist Party 11%, Social Democratic and Labour Party 9%, Traditional Unionist Voice 7.6%, and all other parties 8% of the votes.

Racial Group evidence/information:

The 2021 Census reported that the number of All Usual Residents who stated that they were from a White Ethnic group was 1,837,575 (96.55%) of the total population. In total, 65,604 (3.45%) of All Usual Residents belonged to ethnic minority groups. The ethnic minority groups with the highest prevalence were those belonging to the Mixed Ethnicity (14,382) categorisation, followed by those belonging to the Indian (9,881), Chinese (9,495), and Black African (8,069) ethnicity categorisations. Irish Travellers accounted for 0.14% (2,609) of the All Usual Resident population and Roma 0.08% (1,529).

Age evidence/information:

The 2021 Census of Northern Ireland states that over the decade since the 2011 Census the population increase was greatest in the older age groups. The number of people aged 65 or more rose by over 60,000, to nearly one third of a million people in Census 2021. This is nearly a 25 per cent increase on 2011 and demonstrates the scale of population change due to ageing. The share of the Northern Ireland population represented by people aged 65 years and over stood at 17.2 per cent in 2021.

The Northern Ireland 2021 Census showed that around 30% of the population was 55 years or older and around 44% were under 35 years old. [The Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report](#), May 2023 (DAERA) found that from 2022 to 2023, 80% of adults reported being very or fairly concerned about the environment.

Marital Status evidence/information:

The 2021 Census of Northern Ireland states that 46% of the population aged 16 and over were married or in a civil partnership in Census 2021. In contrast 577,000 adults (38%) were single (never married/civil partnered).

NISRA provide information on the number of marriages by type, age and location at [Marriage Statistics | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency \(nisra.gov.uk\)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/marriage-statistics). The Registrar General Northern Ireland Annual Report 2021 ([nisra.gov.uk](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/annual-report-2021)) states 7,921 marriages were registered in 2021, over twice as many as 2020 which saw 3,724 marriages, possibly due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Sexual Orientation evidence/information:

The 2021 Census of Northern Ireland states that 2.1% (31,600) of the population aged 16 and over identified as 'lesbian, gay, bisexual or other (LGB+)' and 90.0% (1,363,900) identified as 'straight or heterosexual'. Almost 8% of our population aged 16 and over (119,300) either ticked 'prefer not to say' or chose not to answer the question. Taken together, these are labelled 'No sexual orientation stated' in this report.

There are also a number of new and emerging inequalities, for which evidence is limited but would include issues such as, inequalities experienced by transgender people. As further evidence becomes available DAERA will consider the relevance for future policy development.

Men & Women generally evidence/information:

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) held a public consultation ([Topic consultation | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/topic-consultation)) on the questions to be included in the 2021 Census in 2015/16. At that time there was limited user need for a question on gender identity - therefore no gender identity question was included in the 2021 Census form.

In Northern Ireland the 2021 Census showed that 50.81% of the population was female and 49.19% male. While the overall Northern Ireland workforce has a majority of females (52%), reported in the 2021 Fair Employment Monitoring Report No.32, there are differences between the public and private sector. The public sector has a large majority of females within its composition (66%) whereas just under half (46%) of the private sector workforce is female. The 2021 Census, shows that the current population of NI consists of 967,000 females and 936,200 males, however, the future workforce balance will be

slightly male dominated as the current population split for ages 0-15 is 178,200 female with 187,200 male, a difference of 2.5%.

Disability evidence/information:

The Northern Ireland Census 2021 included a question on limiting long-term health problem or disability. One person in four (24.3% or 463,000 people) had a limiting long-term health problem or disability. The number of people with a limiting long-term health problem or disability increased from the 2011 to 2021 Census. The increase, from 374,600 people in 2011 to 463,000 people in 2021 (an increase of 23.6%), will be driven partly by our ageing population.

NI: IN PROFILE Key statistics on Northern Ireland 2021 ([NI: IN PROFILE Key statistics on Northern Ireland](#)) reports that one in five people have a disability or limiting long-term illness. With 12% of people claim Disability Living Allowance/Personal Independence Payment.

The Disability Strategy Expert Advisory Panel ([Report from the Disability Strategy Expert Advisory Panel | Department for Communities](#)) report, published in December 2020, developed by the Disability Strategy Expert Advisory Panel appointed by the Department for Communities, makes evidence-based recommendations on the scope of a new Disability Strategy. This report helps us to understand the experience of, and issues faced by disabled people including participation and leadership, economic security and autonomy of persons with disabilities. It provides valuable insights which will be used in the development of policies and strategies.

The new NI Disability Strategy, scheduled to be published as part of a suite of 4 Social Inclusion Strategies (Anti-Poverty Strategy, Disability Strategy, Gender Strategy and Sexual Orientation Strategy) in December 2021, is being developed through co design. The methods and learning from this development will be implemented to ensure the future agricultural policy proposals for Northern Ireland meet, as far as is reasonably possible, the present and future needs of persons with disabilities.

Dependants evidence/information:

According to the 2021 Census 30.7% of households contained dependents (dependent children 0-18).

NI: IN PROFILE Key statistics on Northern Ireland 2021 ([NI: IN PROFILE Key statistics on Northern Ireland](#)) reports that one in three households have a dependent child. NISRA Women in Northern Ireland 2020 report ([Women in Northern Ireland 2020-2021](#)) indicates that over the past 10 years there have been consistently more economically inactive women than men. The most common reason for inactivity among women was family and home commitments. 76% of women with dependent children were economically active, compared with 92% of men with dependent children.

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

Policy impact will apply uniformly across all Section 75 categories without prejudice. There is no evidence, to date, that these measures outlined in the Strategy will impact negatively or discriminate towards persons of different religious beliefs.

Political Opinion

Policy impact will apply uniformly across all Section 75 categories without prejudice. There is no evidence, to date, that these measures outlined in the Strategy will impact negatively or discriminate towards persons of different political opinions.

Racial Group

Policy impact will apply uniformly across all Section 75 categories without prejudice. There is no evidence, to date, that these measures outlined in the Strategy will impact negatively or discriminate across racial groups.

Age

Policy impact will apply uniformly across all Section 75 categories without prejudice. There is no evidence, to date, that these measures outlined in the Strategy will impact negatively or discriminate towards persons any particular age.

Marital status

Policy impact will apply uniformly across all Section 75 categories without prejudice. There is no evidence, to date, that these measures outlined in the Strategy will impact negatively or discriminate towards persons be they married, single or in a civil partnership.

Sexual orientation

Policy impact will apply uniformly across all Section 75 categories without prejudice. There is no evidence, to date, that these measures outlined in the Strategy will impact negatively or discriminate towards persons of different sexual orientation.

Men and Women Generally

Policy impact will apply uniformly across all Section 75 categories without prejudice. There is no evidence, to date, that these measures outlined in the Strategy will impact negatively or discriminate towards men or women generally

Disability

Policy impact will apply uniformly across all Section 75 categories without prejudice. There is no evidence, to date, that these measures outlined in the

Strategy will impact negatively or discriminate towards people living with a disability

Dependants

Policy impact will apply uniformly across all Section 75 categories without prejudice. There is no evidence, to date, that these measures outlined in the Strategy will impact negatively or discriminate towards persons with or without dependents.

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

- a) The policy is significant in terms of its strategic importance;
- b) 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;
- c) 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;
- d) 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;
- e) The policy is likely to be challenged by way of judicial review;
- f) The policy is significant in terms of expenditure.

In favour of ‘minor’ impact

- a) The policy is not unlawfully discriminatory and any residual potential impacts on people are judged to be negligible;
- b) 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;
- c) 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;
- d) 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*:

This Bathing Waters Policy Review will have no likely impacts on people or groups based on their religious belief

What is the level of impact? Minor Major None

(select as appropriate)

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

This Bathing Waters Policy Review will have no likely impacts on people or groups based on their political opinion

What is the level of impact? Minor Major None

(select as appropriate)

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

This Bathing Waters Policy Review will have no likely impacts on people or groups based on their racial group.

What is the level of impact? Minor Major None

(select as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on *Age*:

This Bathing Waters Policy Review will have no likely impacts on people or groups based on their age.

What is the level of impact? Minor Major None

(select as appropriate)

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

This Bathing Waters Policy Review will have no likely impacts on people or groups based on their marital status.

What is the level of impact? Minor Major None

(select as appropriate)

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

This Bathing Waters Policy Review will have no likely impacts on people or groups based on their sexual orientation.

What is the level of impact? Minor Major None

(select as appropriate)

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

This Bathing Waters Policy Review will have no likely impacts on men or women.

What is the level of impact? Minor Major None

(select as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on *Disability*:

This Bathing Waters Policy Review will have no likely impacts on people or groups of people living with a disability.

What is the level of impact? Minor Major None

(select as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on *Dependants*:

This Bathing Waters Policy Review will have no likely impacts on those with or without dependants.

What is the level of impact? Major None

(select as appropriate)

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

Yes No (select as appropriate)

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:

N/A

If No, provide reasons:

There is no evidence available to date of any opportunity for the Bathing Waters Policy Review to better promote equality of opportunity based on their religious beliefs

Political Opinion - If Yes, provide details:

N/A

If No, provide reasons:

There is no evidence available to date of any opportunity for the Bathing Waters Policy Review to better promote equality of opportunity based on their political opinion.

Racial Group - If Yes, provide details:

N/A

If No, provide reasons:

There is no evidence available to date of any opportunity for the Bathing Waters Policy Review to better promote equality of opportunity based on their racial group

Age - If Yes, provide details:

N/A

If No, provide reasons:

There is no evidence available to date of any opportunity for the Bathing Waters Policy Review to better promote equality of opportunity based on their age.

Marital Status - If Yes, provide details:

N/A

If No, provide reasons

There is no evidence available to date of any opportunity for the Bathing Waters Policy Review to better promote equality of opportunity based on their marital status.

Sexual Orientation - If Yes, provide details:

N/A

If No, provide reasons:

There is no evidence available to date of any opportunity for the Bathing Waters Policy Review to better promote equality of opportunity based on their sexual orientation.

Men and Women generally - If Yes, provide details:

N/A

If No, provide reasons:

There is no evidence available to date of any opportunity for the Bathing Waters Policy Review to better promote equality of opportunity men or women.

Disability - If Yes, provide details:

N/A

If No, provide reasons:

There is no evidence available to date of any opportunity for the Bathing Waters Policy Review to better promote equality of opportunity of those living with a disability.

Dependants - If Yes, provide details:

N/A

If No, provide reasons:

There is no evidence available to date of any opportunity for the Bathing Waters Policy Review to better promote equality of opportunity of those with or without dependants.

3. 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*:

There is no evidence available to date of any likely impacts from the Bathing Waters Policy Review on religious belief.

What is the level of impact? Minor Major None

(select as appropriate)

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

There is no evidence available to date of any likely impacts from the Bathing Waters Policy Review on political opinion.

What is the level of impact? Minor Major None

(select as appropriate)

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

There is no evidence available to date of any likely impacts from the Bathing Waters Policy Review on racial group.

What is the level of impact? Minor Major None

(select as appropriate)

4. 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:**

N/A

If No, provide reasons:

There is no evidence available to date of any opportunity for the Bathing Waters Policy Review to better promote good relations between people of different religious beliefs.

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

N/A

If No, provide reasons:

There is no evidence available to date of any opportunity for the Bathing Waters Review to better promote good relations between people of different political opinion.

Racial Group - If Yes, provide details:

N/A

If No, provide reasons:

There is no evidence available to date of any opportunity for the Bathing Waters Policy Review 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).

Provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned.

There are no potential impacts on people with multiple identities from the Bathing Waters Policy Review.

DRAFT

DAERA also has legislative obligations to meet under the **Disability Discrimination Order**. Questions 5 - 6 relate to these.

Consideration of Disability Duties

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

No

There is no evidence available to suggest that the implementation of the Bathing Waters Policy Review would better promote positive attitudes towards disabled people in public life.

6. Does this proposed policy or decision provide an opportunity to actively **increase the participation** by disabled people in public life?

No

There is no evidence available to suggest that the implementation of the Bathing Waters Policy Review would provide an opportunity to actively increase the participation by disabled people in public life.

Part 3. Screening decision (Please delete as appropriate)

- ~~1. “Screened in” for equality impact assessment.~~
- ~~2. “Screened out” with mitigation or an alternative policy proposed to be adopted.~~
3. “Screened out” without mitigation or an alternative policy proposed to be adopted.

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

The implementation of the Bathing Water Policy Review will help achieve a Programme for Government priority - Protecting Lough Neagh and the Environment. It will have no negative impact on any Section 75 category.

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](#)

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? Yes No (select as appropriate)

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	N/A
Social need	N/A
Effect on people’s daily lives	N/A
Relevance to a public authority’s functions	N/A
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? Yes No (select as appropriate)

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](#)

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:

All future public consultations on bathing waters will provide an opportunity for members of Section 75 groups to detail potential impacts of the proposed policies or changes on equality

Good Relations:

Relevant representation received in response to any public consultation on future reviews will be useful to monitor policy impacts on good relations.

Disability Duties:

Relevant representation received in response to any public consultation on future reviews will be useful to monitor policy impacts on promoting positive attitudes towards disabled people and the opportunity to actively increase the participation by disabled people in public life.

Part 5. 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 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.

None identified.

9. Please indicate any ways which you consider the policy positively promotes human rights.

The policy and associated legislation has a strong focus on preserving and enhancing public health allowing an increase in freedom to enjoy Northern Ireland's network of bathing waters.

Part 6 - Approval and authorisation

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: [REDACTED] **Grade:** [REDACTED]

Branch: Marine Strategy and Catchments **Date:** 20th October 2025

Signature: please insert a scanned image of your signature.

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

Name: **Grade:**

Branch: **Date:**

Signature: please insert a scanned image of your 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. 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.



Strategic
Management DAER/

For more information about equality screening, contact:

DAERA Equality Unit

Capacity, Capability, Equality & Diversity Branch

Jubilee House

111 Ballykelly Road

LIMAVADY

BT49 9HP

Email: equality@daera-ni.gov.uk

Tel: 028 7744 2027



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Annex A

Synopsis of Human Rights Act Articles & Protocols

ARTICLE 2

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.
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:
 - 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

Prohibition of torture

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

ARTICLE 4

Prohibition of slavery and forced labour

1. No one shall be held in slavery or servitude.
2. No one shall be required to perform forced or compulsory labour.

3. For the purpose of this Article the term “forced or compulsory labour” shall not include:
 - 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

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:
 - 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.
2. 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.
 3. 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.
 4. 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.
 5. 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.

ARTICLE 6

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.
2. Everyone charged with a criminal offence shall be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law.
3. Everyone charged with a criminal offence has the following minimum rights:
 - 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

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.
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.

ARTICLE 8

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.
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.

ARTICLE 9

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.
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.

ARTICLE 10

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.
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.

ARTICLE 11

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.
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.

ARTICLE 12

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

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

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

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

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.

For further information:

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