

Equality & Disability Duties Screening Template

December 2023 version



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.

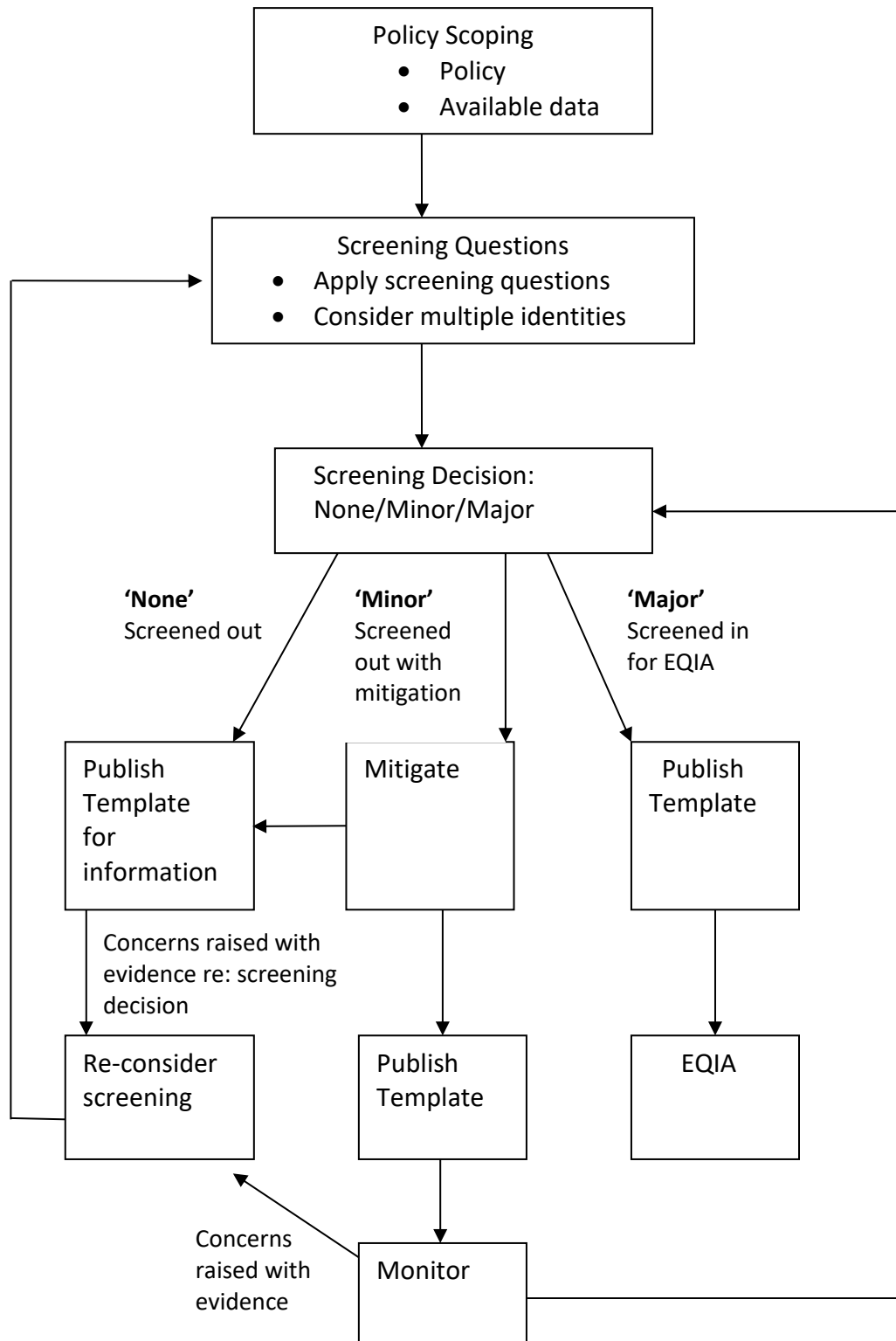
Part 3. Screening decision – guides the public authority to reach a screening decision as to whether or not there is a need to carry out an equality impact assessment (EQIA), or to introduce measures to mitigate the likely impact, or the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality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

Clean Air Strategy for Northern Ireland

Is this an existing, revised or new policy?

This is a new strategy specifically for Northern Ireland. Since 2007, Northern Ireland has been included in the DEFRA Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland 2007 (UK AQS), and in earlier revisions dated 2003 and 2000. The 2007 UK wide strategy was superseded in England in April 2023 but remains in place for Northern Ireland until the publication of Northern Ireland's first Clean Air Strategy. Key elements of the 2007 strategy including standards and objectives for each pollutant have been incorporated into this draft strategy, to ensure there is no diminution of standards in air quality in Northern Ireland.

Brief Decision of the Policy / decision being screened and

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

Northern Ireland's first Clean Air Strategy (herein referred to as the Clean Air Strategy or 'CAS') aims to deliver cleaner air for all, in Northern Ireland and beyond, for the benefit of human health and the natural environment. The focus is on prevention rather than mitigation or abatement and the actions we can each take in our daily lives to reduce air pollution. This strategy identifies policy areas for further development and sets out specific actions to improve air quality in Northern Ireland from today and into the future.

The aim of the strategy is: To improve air quality across Northern Ireland by 2032 for the benefit of human health and the environment.

The three key goals to be achieved by 2032 are:

1. To improve air quality to support better human health and prevent ill health and premature deaths associated with air pollution
2. To reduce air pollution for a cleaner environment
3. To increase public awareness of air quality issues and empower the public to take personal action to improve air quality.

There are many wide-ranging benefits to having clean air for all to breathe. Those who are likely to benefit most include the more vulnerable people in our society, both young and old, and in particular, those who suffer ill-health such as asthma, heart conditions, strokes, or any circulatory related medical condition.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), which is part of the World Health Organisation (WHO), has identified outdoor air pollution a leading environmental cause of cancer deaths. Some air pollutants are known to also be teratogenic, that is, they are substances which pass through the placenta and disrupt the development of unborn babies. Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) from incomplete burning of oil, coal, gas or wood are one example of a teratogen and PAHs are present in Northern Ireland's air.

Furthermore, in a stark report from the British Heart Foundation (BHF) released in 2023, Air Pollution and Mortality on the Island of Ireland, 936 deaths in Northern Ireland were attributed to fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) air pollution, with 314 of these deaths being attributed to circulatory diseases. We must do more to save lives and improve our air quality. Doing nothing is not an option.

By having an effective strategy in place to tackle air pollution, DAERA will be taking pro-active, preventative measures to protect people who are most at risk to poor air quality, as a result of pollution, particularly in densely populated urban areas.

There is no doubt that cleaner outdoor air, will reduce deaths and illness among those who are vulnerable to air pollution and protect future generations to come.

Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy? No

If so, explain how.

No, it is not envisaged that any Section 75 categories might be expected to benefit more than others from this strategy. This strategy strives to deliver clean air for all, as outlined in the aim above.

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

The Strategy was initiated by the Department's former Minister, Michelle McIlveen, Minister for the Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (from 6 May 2016 to 26 January 2017). Subsequent Ministers have endorsed the need for this Strategy. Minister Muir has approved the draft which accompanies this impact assessment.

It is also a legislative requirement under Part III Air Quality of the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002:-

Air quality strategy

10.—(1) The Department shall prepare and publish a statement (in this Part referred to as “the strategy”) containing policies with respect to the assessment or management of the quality of air.

The CAS also includes aspects of the 2007 UK wide air quality strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to ensure there is no reduction in environmental standards.

The 2007 UK wide strategy has recently been superseded in England, but remains in place for Northern Ireland until the publication of this NI Clean Air Strategy. Key elements of the 2007 strategy including standards and objectives for each pollutant have been incorporated into this Strategy to ensure there is no diminution of standards in air quality in Northern Ireland.

The Strategy has been written by the Air and Environmental Quality branch within DAERA. Actions and text in the strategy have also been provided by other teams within DAERA as well as DfE and DfI.

Who owns and who implements the policy?

Once agreed, the Northern Ireland Executive will own the Northern Ireland Clean Air Strategy. Air and Environmental Quality Branch, within DAERA will lead the implementation of the Strategy, in partnership with other NICS Departments. The implementation of the Strategy will also depend upon partnership between NICS Departments and NI's eleven District Councils and the public making the necessary behavioural changes.

Implementation factors

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

If yes, are they (please select as appropriate)

Financial

There is a financial element to this Strategy. Current legislation allows DAERA to operate a grant to District Councils. Under part III Air Quality of the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002, Financial assistance:

18.—(1) The Department may make grants or loans to any body or person for the purposes of or in connection with—

- (a) carrying out an air quality review;
- (b) carrying out an assessment under Article 11 or 13;
- (c) preparing and implementing an action plan; and
- (d) the assessment or management of the quality of air.

(2) Grants or loans made by the Department under this Article—

- (a) shall be of such amounts; and
- (b) shall be made on such terms and conditions (including in the case of grants, conditions as to repayment), as may be determined by the Department.

The proposed Strategy will review this legislation. This may impact the existing Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) grant which is currently paid to district councils. However, it is not the intention to reduce the amount of grant payable,

it is intended to simplify administration of the grant and bid for additional funds, as a significant amount of additional financial support will need to be invested in Northern Ireland to help improve air quality.

There are a wide range of action proposed in the current draft of the Clean Air Strategy, which will be the responsibility for DAERA to deliver. Additional finances and a wide range of resources will be needed to deliver these actions, for example a review of the monitoring network; or public awareness campaigns.

The final decisions on the necessary finance support to implement the Strategy on a long-term basis, have yet to be made. It is anticipated that funding will either be sourced from the proceeds of the Carrier Bag Levy (CBL) as is currently the case, or from Direct Running Costs. Both sources have funded previous versions of this grant in the past. Failure to sufficiently fund this grant, would have a direct, negative impact on the aim and outcomes within this Strategy.

Legislative

There is a legislative element to this Strategy.

The Draft NI Clean Air Strategy contains a number of proposed actions relating to policy and legislation. Any policy legislative changes or new policies or legislation changes will be subject to the relevant procedures by the Department with responsibility, such as consultation and equality screening.

Existing Legislation

Air quality: provisional common framework sets out how the UK government and devolved governments propose to work together in air quality policy areas now that we have left the European Union.

The Framework sets out how DAERA will work with other administration on policies that aim to reduce harmful emissions and concentrations of air pollutants that can damage human health and the environment. This includes national emission ceilings and ambient air quality. At the time of writing, the provisional common framework has received ministerial approval from all four governments.

This agreement includes policies and regulations that aim to reduce harmful emissions and concentrations of air pollutants that can damage human health

and the environment, including in relation to national emission ceilings and ambient air quality. This includes regulations that implement international commitments under the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP) and the Kiev Protocol (on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers) to the UNECE Aarhus Convention.

Its scope covers retained EU law and devolved/reserved Competence and includes the principle Directives that have protected air quality prior to our departure:

- The Ambient Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC)
- Fourth Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC)
- National Emission Ceilings Directive (2016/2284/EC)

Another Common Framework has been developed covering industrial emissions and the setting of the Best Available Techniques (BAT) under the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED). The close relationship of the working areas means reference to each may be helpful in understanding the wider context.

Northern Ireland Legislation supporting air quality
The Air Quality Standards Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010; These Regulations implement Council Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe; and Council Directive 2004/107/EC relating to arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air.

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002; Part III makes provision for implementing Council Directive 96/62 EC (repealed) and for otherwise preventing and controlling air pollution.

Air Quality Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003; These Regulations prescribe the relevant authorities for particular provisions of Part III of the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002. Part III of the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 requires district councils to review the quality of air within their area.

Clean Air (Northern Ireland) Order 1981; The purpose of smoke control legislation is to maintain good air quality and to limit smoke pollution. District councils may declare all or part of their district a smoke control area, in order to restrict the amount of smoke emitted from chimneys in the area.

The Smoke Control Areas (Authorised Fuels) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013; These Regulations revoke and replace with amendments the Smoke Control Areas (Authorised Fuels) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012. The

Regulations list fuels to be authorised fuels for the purposes of Article 2(2) of the.

The Sulphur Content of Solid Fuel Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998; These Regulations contribute towards the implementation, as respects Northern Ireland, of Council Directive 80/779/EEC on air quality limit values and guide values for sulphur dioxide and suspended particulates.

Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022; Requirement for climate action plans, which must take air quality into account and must include annual targets on air quality. The Department for Infrastructure must develop sectoral plans for transport which set a minimum spend on active travel from the overall transport budgets of 10%.

Revised or new legislation

A strong existing legislative structure in place which underpins this strategy. However, the CAS is proposing an important action on amending annual mean particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) limits, targets and objectives through a Northern Ireland Statutory Rule – ‘The Air Quality (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026’.

The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002; Part III makes provision for implementing Council Directive 96/62 EC (repealed) and for otherwise preventing and controlling air pollution. Article 15 provides powers for making new regulations making provisions prescribing standards relating to the quality of air.

In Northern Ireland existing air quality annual mean limit values, target values and objectives for particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) are set out in Air Quality Standards Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010 and Air Quality Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003. The annual mean limit value and objective for PM₁₀ is 40 µg/m³ and the annual mean limit and target value for PM_{2.5} is 25 µg/m³.

The Air Quality (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 have been drafted by DAERA officials to implement the proposed new annual mean limit value and objective for PM₁₀ of 20 µg/m³, limit value for PM_{2.5} of 10 µg/m³, and target value for PM_{2.5} of 8 µg/m³ which would be required to be met by 1 January 2028.

Changes in legislation may lead to regulatory divergence and DAERA will need to work closely with all our neighbouring counterparts to ensure any divergence is not to the detriment of air quality standards in any of the administrations.

other, please specify:

This is a cross-cutting Strategy and some of the actions fall the other NICS Department to implement i.e. Department of Infrastructure (DfI) are responsible for infrastructure, traffic emission caused by congestion at poorly designed road junction or due to traffic-light sequencing, can only be resolved by DfI, not DAERA. Another example would be that Department for Economy (DfE) are responsible for energy policy and Northern Ireland's Energy Strategy.

Many other examples exist throughout the Clean Air Strategy (CAS) and specific actions include for example; DfI - Produce Local Draft Transport Plans and Conduct diesel particulate filters tests; Achieve a fair and just transition to phasing out of coal, manufactured solid fuels and unseasoned wood for home heating – DfE could be an important partner in delivering this with DAERA.

The success of the CAS is therefore directly related the other NICS Departments, who have agreed to the actions within their Department's remit, delivering on their commitment. If they fail to honour theses agreed actions, this will detract from the intended aim and outcome of the Strategy.

Main stakeholders affected

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

Staff

Additional staff resources will be required to deliver this strategy.

Service users

The general public and NI Air Quality website service users

Other public sector organisations

Due to the cross-cutting nature of this strategy other civil service departments will have a role in delivery, including - DfE, DfI, EA, DfC, DoH.

Local councils through delivery of the Local Air Quality Management process and additional air quality monitoring.

Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) in RoI

~~Voluntary/community/trade unions~~

Other, please specify

The public in Northern Ireland
Charities including environmental and health charities
Academia/Educational

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

What are they?

Programme for Government 2024-2027 'Our Plan: Doing What Matters Most'
The Air Quality (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026
Environmental Improvement Plan
Green Growth Strategy
Future Agricultural Policy
Energy Strategy - Path to Net Zero Energy
Draft Ammonia Strategy for Northern Ireland
Draft Wildfire Strategy
New Biodiversity Strategy for Northern Ireland
Peatland Strategy
Marine Plan for Northern Ireland
The Fuel Poverty Strategy
A Cancer Strategy for Northern Ireland 2022-2032
New Decade, New Approach Deal
The forthcoming UK Chemicals Strategy
Clean Air Strategy for Ireland
Environmental Mission Statement for Infrastructure Development and Management
Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022
Climate Action Plan
Regional Development Strategy for Northern Ireland 2035
DfI Transport Strategy
Better Regulation

Who owns them?

Programme for Government 2024-2027 ‘Our Plan: Doing What Matters Most’ (Northern Ireland Executive)
 The Air Quality (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 (DAERA)
 Environmental Improvement Plan (DAERA)
 Green Growth Strategy (DAERA)
 Future Agricultural Policy (DAERA)
 Energy Strategy - Path to Net Zero Energy (Department for the Economy)
 Draft Ammonia Strategy for Northern Ireland (DAERA)
 Draft Wildfire Strategy (DAERA)
 New Biodiversity Strategy for Northern Ireland (DAERA)
 Peatland Strategy (DAERA)
 Marine Plan for Northern Ireland (DAERA)
 The Fuel Poverty Strategy (Department for Communities)
 A Cancer Strategy for Northern Ireland 2022-2032 (Department of Health)
 New Decade, New Approach Deal (Northern Ireland Executive)
 The forthcoming UK Chemicals Strategy (Defra)
 Clean Air Strategy for Ireland Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC)
 Environmental Mission Statement for Infrastructure Development and Management (DfI)
 Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (DAERA)
 Climate Action Plan (DAERA)
 Regional Development Strategy for Northern Ireland 2035 (DfI)
 DfI Transport Strategy (Department for Infrastructure)
 Better Regulation (DfE)

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 contained two religion questions, the first on “current religion” and a follow-up question on “religion brought up in” which is also referred to as “religion of upbringing”.

The 2021 results show the NI wide breakdown as follows:

Catholic 805,200 (42.3%); Presbyterian Church in Ireland 316,100 (16.6%); Church of Ireland 219,800 (11.5%); Methodist Church in Ireland 44,700 (2.4%); Other Christian (incl Christian related) 130,400 (6.9%); Other religions 25,500 (1.3%); No religion 331,000 (17.4%); and Not stated 30,500 (1.6%). The total of all usual residence is 1,903,178.

Political Opinion evidence/information:

Information on political opinion was not collected in the Population Census 2021, however it did include a question on national identity. In the 2021 Census, 42.8 % 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 31.9%, Irish 29.1% and Northern Irish 19.8%.

Northern Ireland Assembly Election Results 2022 indicate political opinion in Northern Ireland. The results were: Sinn Féin 29%; Democratic Unionist Party 21.3%; Alliance Party 13.5%; Ulster Unionist Party 11.2%; Social Democratic & Labour Party 9.1%; Traditional Unionist Voice 7.6%; Green Party 1.9%; Aontú 1.5%; People Before Profit 1.1%; Others 3.7%.

(Source [NI Assembly Election 2022 - Results | The Electoral Office for Northern Ireland](#))

The Northern Ireland Local Council Elections 2023 results also indicate political opinion. The results were: Sinn Féin 30.9%; Democratic Unionist Party 23.3%; Alliance Party 13.3%; Ulster Unionist Party 10.9%; Social Democratic & Labour Party 8.7%; Traditional Unionist Voice 3.9%; Green Party 1.7%; People Before Profit 1.0%; Aontú 0.9%; Others 5.3%.

(Source <https://www.eoni.org.uk/results-data/local-council-elections-2023-results>)

Racial Group evidence/information:

Census 2021 data estimates and classifies usual residents in Northern Ireland by ethnic group. The estimates are as at census day, 21 March 2021. The ethnic group classification used is a 13-category classification.

The 2021 results show the Northern Ireland 1,903,179 usual residents and the breakdown is as follows:

White 1,837,575; Irish Traveller 2,609; Roma 1,529; Indian 9,881; Chinese 9,495; Filipino 4,451; Pakistani 1,596; Arab 1,817; Other Asian 5,244; Black African 8,069; Black Other 2,963; Mixed 14,382; and Other ethnicities 3,568.

Age evidence/information:

The Census 2021 estimates usual residents in Northern Ireland by broad age bands. The estimates are as at census day, 21 March 2021. The breakdown for the 1,903,179 Northern Ireland usual residents is as follows:

Female, all ages 967,048. The age category breakdown is as follows; 0-14 years 365,217; 15-39 years 594,361; 40-64 years 617,125; 65+ years 326,477.

Male, all ages 936,132. The age category breakdown is as follows; 0-14 years 187,086; 15-39 years 296,346; 40-64 years 302,422; 65+ years 150,278.

Marital Status evidence/information:

The Census 2021 gathered data on usual residents aged 16 and over in Northern Ireland, by their marital and civil partnership status. The estimates are at census day, 21 March 2021.

The classifications were; Single (never married or never registered a civil partnership)/Married/In a civil partnership/Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a civil partnership)/Divorced or formerly in a civil partnership which is now legally dissolved/Widowed or surviving partner from a civil partnership.

The Census 2021 estimates usual residents in Northern Ireland at census day, 21 March 2021, as 1,903,179. This broken down as follows:

All usual residents aged 16 and over 1,514,743; Single (never married or never registered a civil partnership) 576,708; Married 690,509; In a civil partnership 2,742; Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a civil partnership) 57,272; Divorced or formerly in a civil partnership which is now legally dissolved 91,128; Widowed or surviving partner from a civil partnership 96,384.

Sexual Orientation evidence/information:

The Census 2021 gathered data on usual residents aged 16 and over in Northern Ireland, by their by sexual orientation. The estimates are at census day, 21 March 2021.

The classifications were; Straight or heterosexual/Gay or lesbian/Bisexual/Other sexual orientation/Prefer not to say/Not stated.

The Census 2021 estimates usual residents in Northern Ireland at census day, 21 March 2021, as 1,903,179. This broken down as follows:

All usual residents aged 16 and over 1,514,743; Straight or heterosexual 1,363,859; Gay or lesbian 17,713; Bisexual 11,306; Other sexual orientation 2,597; Prefer not to say 69,307; Not stated 49,961.

Men & Women generally evidence/information:

Census 2021 Population and household estimates for Northern Ireland:

The usually resident population of Northern Ireland on census day, 21 March 2021, was 1,903,180 people. The population comprised 967,048 females (50.81%) and 936,123 males (49.19%).

Disability evidence/information:

The Census 2021 estimates households in Northern Ireland, with at least one usual resident, by whether or not any residents have a limiting long-term health problem or disability. The estimates are as at census day, 21 March 2021. The breakdown for the 768,810 households in Northern Ireland is as follows:

No residents have a limiting long-term health problem or disability 423,945;

1 resident has a limiting long-term health problem or disability 258,537;
2 or more residents have a limiting long-term health problem or disability 86,328.

Dependants evidence/information:

The Census 2021 estimates number and percentage of households with: No children in household; No dependent children in household/All children in household non-dependent; One dependent child (aged 0-4/5-11/12-18 years); Two dependent children (youngest aged 0-4/5-11/12-18 years); Three or more dependent children (youngest aged 0-4/5-11/12-18 years).

The estimates are as at census day, 21 March 2021. The breakdown for the 768,809 households in Northern Ireland is as follows:

No children in household 423,956; No dependent children in household/All children in household non-dependent 120,314. The total with no children in household/No dependent children in household/All children in household non-dependent is 544,270.

The households with dependent children in Northern Ireland (total households minus the households with no children in household/No dependent children in household/All children in household non-dependent) is 224,539.

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

Taking into account the information referred to above on religious belief, there are no different needs, experiences or priorities to be considered as a result of NI's first Clean Air Strategy. This Strategy strives to deliver clean air for all irrespective of religious belief. Actions within the strategy are based on scientific data and are applied to the benefit of human health and the environment.

Political Opinion

Taking into account the information referred to above on political opinion, there are no different needs, experiences or priorities to be considered as a result of NI's first Clean Air Strategy. This Strategy strives to deliver clean air for all irrespective of political opinion. Actions within the strategy are based on scientific data and are applied to the benefit of human health and the environment.

Racial Group

Taking into account the information referred to above on Racial Group, there may be different needs, experiences or priorities to be considered as a result of NI's first Clean Air Strategy. This Strategy strives to deliver clean air for all irrespective of Racial Group, however, accessibility to the information provided to help those who are vulnerable to the impacts of poor air quality, should be considered. While actions within the strategy are based on scientific data and are applied to the benefit of human health and the environment, information provided must be easy to access, available in a range of languages for those from different Racial Groups.

Age

Taking into account the information referred to above on age, there are no different needs, experiences or priorities to be considered as a result of NI's first Clean Air Strategy. This Strategy strives to deliver clean air for all irrespective of age. Actions within the strategy are based on scientific data and are applied to the benefit of human health and the environment.

Marital status

Taking into account the information referred to above on marital status, there are no different needs, experiences or priorities to be considered as a result of NI's first Clean Air Strategy. This Strategy strives to deliver clean air for all irrespective of marital status. Actions within the strategy are based on

scientific data and are applied to the benefit of human health and the environment.

Sexual orientation

Taking into account the information referred to above on sexual orientation, there are no different needs, experiences or priorities to be considered as a result of NI's first Clean Air Strategy. This Strategy strives to deliver clean air for all irrespective of sexual orientation. Actions within the strategy are based on scientific data and are applied to the benefit of human health and the environment.

Men and Women Generally

Taking into account the information referred to above on men and women generally, there are no different needs, experiences or priorities to be considered as a result of NI's first Clean Air Strategy. This Strategy strives to deliver clean air for all irrespective of men and women generally. Actions within the strategy are based on scientific data and are applied to the benefit of human health and the environment.

Disability

Taking into account the information referred to above on disability, there may be different needs, experiences or priorities to be considered as a result of NI's first Clean Air Strategy. This Strategy strives to deliver clean air for all irrespective of disability.

Making our air cleaner has the potential to have a positive impact on individuals with disabilities, who may be disproportionately affected by poor air quality and more vulnerable to environmental risks. Improving air quality directly reduces the incidence of disability associated with serious illness, such as respiratory and cardiovascular conditions, lowers the risk of chronic condition exacerbations, and improves overall functional independence. However, accessibility to the information provided to help those who are vulnerable to the impacts of poor air quality, should be considered. While actions within the strategy are based on scientific data and are applied to the benefit of human health and the environment, information provided must be easy to access, available in a range of formats e.g. for the visually impaired or those with learning disabilities and be simple to understand.

Dependants

Taking into account the information referred to above on dependants, there are no different needs, experiences or priorities to be considered as a result of NI's first Clean Air Strategy. This Strategy strives to deliver clean air for all irrespective of dependants. Actions within the strategy are based on scientific data and are applied to the benefit of human health and the environment.

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 Strategy strives to deliver clean air for all irrespective of Religious Belief. Actions within the Strategy are based on scientific data and are applied to the benefit of human health and the environment.

What is the level of impact? None

(select as appropriate)

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

This Strategy strives to deliver clean air for all irrespective of Political Opinion. Actions within the Strategy are based on scientific data and are applied to the benefit of human health and the environment.

What is the level of impact? None

(select as appropriate)

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

This Strategy strives to deliver clean air for all irrespective of Racial Group. Actions within the Strategy are based on scientific data and are applied to the benefit of human health and the environment.

What is the level of impact? None

(select as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on *Age*:

This Strategy strives to deliver clean air for all irrespective of Age. Actions within the Strategy are based on scientific data and are applied to the benefit of human health and the environment.

What is the level of impact? None

(select as appropriate)

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

This Strategy strives to deliver clean air for all irrespective of Marital Status age. Actions within the Strategy are based on scientific data and are applied to the benefit of human health and the environment.

What is the level of impact? None

(select as appropriate)

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

This Strategy strives to deliver clean air for all irrespective of Sexual Orientation. Actions within the Strategy are based on scientific data and are applied to the benefit of human health and the environment.

What is the level of impact? None

(select as appropriate)

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

This Strategy strives to deliver clean air for all irrespective of Men or Women. Actions within the Strategy are based on scientific data and are applied to the benefit of human health and the environment.

What is the level of impact? None

(select as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on *Disability*:

Making our air cleaner has the potential to have a positive impact on individuals with disabilities, who may be disproportionately affected by poor air quality and more vulnerable to environmental risks. Improving air quality directly reduces the incidence of disability associated with serious illness, such as respiratory and cardiovascular conditions, lowers the risk of chronic condition exacerbations, and improves overall functional independence. However, it is noted that the new proposed limits, targets and objectives set out in the strategy, are largely already being met at monitoring stations across Northern Ireland.

What is the level of impact? Minor (select as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on *Dependants*:

This Strategy strives to deliver clean air for all irrespective of Dependants. Actions within the Strategy are based on scientific data and are applied to the benefit of human health and the environment.

What is the level of impact? None

(select as appropriate)

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

Yes

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:

Not applicable

If No, provide reasons:

There are no opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people of differing Religious Belief. Actions within the Strategy are based on scientific data and are applied to the benefit of human health and the environment.

Political Opinion - If Yes, provide details:

Not applicable

If No, provide reasons:

There are no opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people of differing Political Opinion. Actions within the Strategy are

based on scientific data and are applied to the benefit of human health and the environment.

Racial Group - If Yes, provide details: Yes

There are possible opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people from different Racial Groups. While actions within the Strategy are based on scientific data and are applied to the benefit of human health and the environment, consideration has been given to making this Strategy available in different languages.

If No, provide reasons:

Not applicable

Age - If Yes, provide details:

Not applicable

If No, provide reasons:

There are no opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people of differing Age. Actions within the Strategy are based on scientific data and are applied to the benefit of human health and the environment.

Marital Status - If Yes, provide details:

Not applicable

If No, provide reasons

There are no opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people of differing Marital Status. Actions within the Strategy are based on scientific data and are applied to the benefit of human health and the environment.

Sexual Orientation - If Yes, provide details:

Not applicable

If No, provide reasons:

There are no opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people of differing Sexual Orientation. Actions within the Strategy are based on scientific data and are applied to the benefit of human health and the environment.

Men and Women generally - If Yes, provide details:

Not applicable

If No, provide reasons:

There are no opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for Men and Women generally. Actions within the Strategy are based on scientific data and are applied to the benefit of human health and the environment.

Disability - If Yes, provide details: Yes

There are possible opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people with Disabilities. While actions within the Strategy are based on scientific data and are applied to the benefit of human health and the environment, consideration has been given to making this Strategy available in different formats e.g. for the visually impaired or those with learning disabilities and be simple to understand. DAERA will publish an 'Easy-Read' version of the Strategy.

If No, provide reasons:

Not applicable

Dependants - If Yes, provide details:

Not applicable

If No, provide reasons:

There are no opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people with Dependents. Actions within the Strategy are based on scientific data and are applied to the benefit of human health and the environment.

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*:

It is unlikely that this Strategy will impact on good relations between people of different religious belief in any way.

What is the level of impact? None

(select as appropriate)

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

It is unlikely that this Strategy will impact on good relations between people of different Political Opinion in any way.

What is the level of impact? None

(select as appropriate)

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

It is unlikely that this Strategy will impact on good relations between people of different Racial Group in any way.

What is the level of impact? 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:**

Not applicable

If No, provide reasons:

There are no opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different Religious Belief. This Strategy is based on scientific data and the actions within it are applied to the benefit of human health and the environment, irrespective of Religious Belief.

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

Not applicable

If No, provide reasons:

There are no opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different Political Opinion. This Strategy is based on scientific data and the actions within it are applied to the benefit of human health and the environment, irrespective of Political Opinion.

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

Not applicable

If No, provide reasons:

While opportunities have been identified to promote accessibility to different Racial Groups, no opportunities have been identified to better promote good relations between people of different Racial Groups. This Strategy is based on scientific data and the actions within it are applied to the benefit of human health and the environment, irrespective of Racial Grouping.

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.

Based on the findings of this Screening Assessment, people may fall into a 'disabled minority ethnic people' grouping. Therefore, further consideration is needed for this grouping and how this Strategy could impact these people. There are no Census 2021 data for this grouping.

The Racial Equality Strategy 2015 – 2025¹ (<https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/ofmdfm/racial-equality-strategy-2015-2025.pdf>) also recognises this grouping.

¹ The Executive Office has just completed a consultation on the Strategic Approach to Racial Equality Post-2025 (closed 3rd June 2026) <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-framework-race-relations>

As there was a gap in the data for this multiple identities grouping, DAERA statisticians compiled data specific to disabled minority ethnic people, from the 2021 Census.

Twelve ethnic grouping were identified other than 'White'. The groupings were; Irish Traveller; Roma; Indian; Chinese; Filipino; Pakistani; Arab; Other Asian; Black African; Black Other; Mixed; and Other ethnicities.

Health Problem or Disability (Long-term) were sub-divided into three categories; Day-to-day activities not limited; Day-to-day activities limited a little; Day-to-day activities limited a lot.

The results are as follows:

White; Day-to-day activities not limited, 1,382,570; Day-to-day activities limited a little, 240,173; Day-to-day activities limited a lot, 241,832.

Irish Traveller; Day-to-day activities not limited, 1,487; Day-to-day activities limited a little, 468; Day-to-day activities limited a lot, 655.

Roma; Day-to-day activities not limited, 1,176; Day-to-day activities limited a little, 139; Day-to-day activities limited a lot, 213.

Indian; Day-to-day activities not limited, 9,134; Day-to-day activities limited a little, 514; Day-to-day activities limited a lot, 231.

Chinese; Day-to-day activities not limited, 8,461; Day-to-day activities limited a little, 721; Day-to-day activities limited a lot, 313.

Filipino; Day-to-day activities not limited, 4,171; Day-to-day activities limited a little, 236; Day-to-day activities limited a lot, 42.

Pakistani; Day-to-day activities not limited, 1,402; Day-to-day activities limited a little, 127; Day-to-day activities limited a lot, 70.

Arab; Day-to-day activities not limited, 1,512; Day-to-day activities limited a little, 179; Day-to-day activities limited a lot, 126.

Other Asian; Day-to-day activities not limited, 4,736; Day-to-day activities limited a little, 343; Day-to-day activities limited a lot, 162.

Black African; Day-to-day activities not limited, 7,314; Day-to-day activities limited a little, 537; Day-to-day activities limited a lot, 217.

Black Other; Day-to-day activities not limited, 2,697; Day-to-day activities limited a little, 174; Day-to-day activities limited a lot, 92.

Mixed; Day-to-day activities not limited, 12,566; Day-to-day activities limited a little, 1,086; Day-to-day activities limited a lot, 730.

Other ethnicities; Day-to-day activities not limited, 2,931; Day-to-day activities limited a little, 355; Day-to-day activities limited a lot, 282.

In summary, this data shows a total of 8,012 people (almost 14%) people from Ethnic Grouping other than White, whose Day-to-day activities were limited a little or a lot. This is compared to 57,587 whose Day-to-day activities were not limited.

This is in comparison to 482,005 people (almost 35%) from a White Ethnic Grouping, whose Day-to-day activities are limited a little or a lot. There were 1,382,570 in this Grouping whose Day-to-day activities were not limited.

Disabled Ethnic Grouping other than White are therefore a lower percentage of the community in Northern Ireland.

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?

Yes, this proposed strategy provides an opportunity for DAERA to better promote positive attitudes towards disabled people, by committing to providing health data and messaging relation to air quality, human health and the environment, available in a range of formats to assist people with disabilities. Examples include; Paper Copy; Large Print; Braille; Audio CD/MP3; and other languages.

Also, through the NI Direct Translation Service, the nidirect website now translates into over 100 languages at click of button. AEQ provides air quality advice and guidance linked to our Strategy, for indirect. This information can now be translated.

Furthermore, an Easy Read version of the strategy will also be published. This will simplify the complex scientific terminology and substantial content of the strategy into a short version, to ensure clear messaging linked to air quality can be accessed by as wide a range of people as possible.

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

Yes, this proposed Strategy provides a potential opportunity to increase the participation by disabled people in public life, through the Air Quality Forum that will be established following publication of the final draft of the Strategy.

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.

Taking into account the information and analysis presented in this Screening Assessment, there are no major or minor impacts on any Section 75 Group that would warrant an equality impact assessment to be conducted.

This Screening Assessment has help to identify opportunities to make air quality data more accessible and identified there is a multiple identity consideration. The initial proposals have been reassessed, to address these very important equality matters.

Should the strategy change in any way, or unforeseen equality problems arise as the implementation of the strategy progresses, this approach not to conduct an equality impact assessment, will be reviewed and re-assessed.

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.

As an equality impact assessment will not be carried out, consideration has been given to whether the policy should be mitigated, or an alternative policy be introduced. As this strategy represents no minor or major risks to Section 75 equality categories, no further mitigation or alternative policy will be required. However, this will be kept under review as the policy is developed and should additional risks become apparent through responses to the public consultation, a full assessment will be carried out and mitigation/intervention will be introduced as a priority.

If the decision is to subject the policy to an equality impact assessment, please provide details of the reasons.

Not applicable

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? No (select as appropriate)

If so, **give the reasons** to support your decision, together with the proposed changes/amendments or alternative policy.

Not applicable

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	N/A

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

Is the policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities? No, not applicable (select as appropriate)

If yes, please provide details.

Not applicable

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:

DAERA will seek feedback from stakeholder groups through the public consultation of the strategy and through the development process of drafting 'The Air Quality (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland)
--

2026'². DAERA will consider any comments or feedback received as part of the public consultation in relation to equality.

We will also use data from the next Census and compare this against the 2021 Census data detailed within this screening document. We may use information made available by NISRA via mid-year estimates, if relevant.

Good Relations:

DAERA will seek feedback from stakeholder groups through the public consultation of the CAS and through the development process of The Air Quality (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026. DAERA will consider any comments or feedback received as part of the public consultation, particularly in relation to effective communication and ways good relations can be enhanced.

We will also use relevant data from the next Census and compare this against the 2021 Census data detailed within this screening document. We may use information made available by NISRA via mid-year estimates, if relevant.

Disability Duties:

DAERA will seek feedback from stakeholder groups through the public consultation of the CAS and through the development process of The Air Quality (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026. DAERA will consider any comments or feedback received as part of the public consultation, particularly in relation to effective communication, accessibility and ways the strategy can be enhanced for those with disabilities.

We will also use data from the next Census and compare this against the 2021 Census data detailed within this screening document. We may use information made available by NISRA via mid-year estimates, if relevant.

Part 5. Consideration of Human Rights

² DAERA are amending annual mean particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) limits, targets and objectives through a Northern Ireland Statutory Rule – 'The Air Quality (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026'. Public consultation to launch in June 2026.

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	Yes /No
Prohibition of torture, inhuman or degrading treatment	Article 3	Yes /No
Prohibition of slavery and forced labour	Article 4	Yes /No
Right to liberty and security	Article 5	Yes /No
Right to a fair and public trial	Article 6	Yes /No
Right to no punishment without law	Article 7	Yes /No
Right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence	Article 8	Yes /No
Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion	Article 9	Yes /No
Right to freedom of expression	Article 10	Yes /No
Right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association	Article 11	Yes /No

Right to marry and to found a family	Article 12	Yes /No
The prohibition of discrimination	Article 14	Yes /No
Protection of property and enjoyment of possessions	Protocol 1 Article 1	Yes /No
Right to education	Protocol 1 Article 2	Yes /No
Right to free and secret elections	Protocol 1 Article 3	Yes /No

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

No adverse impacts on human rights have been identified.

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

The strategy positively promotes the human right, ‘The prohibition of discrimination’ as having identified opportunities to make air quality information more accessible to people with disabilities, or disabled minority ethnic people, DAERA has positively promoted the importance of human rights, by taking action in this respect. Furthermore, the public consultation will allow the public to provide their views on the draft policies in the strategy, which supports the right to freedom of expression. Should valid concerns arise through the consultation alerting to a section 75 category being affected by the policy then appropriate mitigation will be considered.

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: Kate Fitzsimmons

Grade: EPA (DP)

Branch: Air and Environmental Quality

Date: 10/07/2026

Signature: please insert a scanned image of your signature.



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

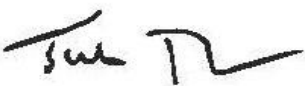
Name: Julie Thompson

Grade: Deputy Secretary

Branch: Environment, Marine & Fisheries

Date: 15/07/2026

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 form will be placed on the DAERA website and a link provided to the Department's Section 75 consultees.



Strategic
Management DAERA

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

An Roinn
**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department o'
**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

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:

Equality Unit,
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