

## Appendix I - Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) Template

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

#### 1A. Name of Public Authority.

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)

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

Review of NIEA Regulatory Charging Policy April 2021 – March 2023

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

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

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

NIEA Regulatory Charging Policy April 2021 – March 2023.

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

The NIEA Regulatory Charging Policy impacts businesses and operations regulated under Waste, Water and Pollution Control legislation. This two year extension to the Policy will allow sufficient time to procure and manage a suitably qualified consultancy to undertake a complete root and branch review of the regulatory charging policy. This is an opportunity to develop a sustainable long term regulatory charging policy that is also consistent with the other regulatory agencies within the UK, and addresses any requirements under EU-Transition and any anomalies within the current regulatory charging policy.

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

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

Other Definition (Provide details and the rationale below).

A definition of 'rural' is not applicable.

*Details of alternative definition of 'rural' used.*

*Rationale for using alternative definition of 'rural'.*

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

The NIEA Regulatory Charging Policy impacts businesses and operations regulated under Waste, Water and Pollution Control legislation. Below is a list of those activities regulated and the associated charging schemes:

1. Registration of Carriers - Waste Management Charging (NI) Scheme
2. PPC activities - Pollution Prevention & Control (Industrial Emissions) Charging Scheme (NI)
3. Waste Management Licensing - Waste Management Charging (NI) Scheme
4. Water Abstraction and Impoundment - Water Abstraction & Impoundment Licensing Fees & Charges Scheme
5. Discharge Consents - Discharge of Effluent into Waterways and Underground Strata (Fees & Charges) Scheme (NI)
6. Discharge Consents - Fees and Charges in respect of Costs associated with the regulation of Discharges made by NIW – Scheme No 1
7. Radioactive Substances Act - Radioactive Substances (Fees & Charges) Scheme (NI)
8. Emissions Trading Scheme - The Greenhouse Gas Emissions Charging Scheme (NI)

These regulated activities apply to the whole of Northern Ireland and not to any specific geographical area. NIEA maintains public registers of the operators regulated under these schemes. The exception to note is that holders of domestic consents are almost always members of the public. This policy will have a very minor impact on the overall cost of their application for consent. Their equality and human rights are also unlikely to be impacted.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The NIEA Regulatory Charging Policy impacts businesses and operations regulated under Waste, Water and Pollution Control legislation.  
(Refer to 1F above)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Empty response box for question 3C.

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

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

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

The NIEA Regulatory Charging Policy impacts businesses and operations regulated under Waste, Water and Pollution Control legislation.  
(Refer to 1F above)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

The NIEA Regulatory Charging Policy applies to those businesses and activities regulated under Waste, Water and Pollution Control Regulations.

The NIEA Regulatory Charging Policy ensures that NIEA fully recovers the cost of regulating activities associated with its environmental legislation. It provides the facility to apply annual inflationary rises, as well as the opportunity to address over and under recovery that may arise in particular charging regimes. This is achieved largely through receipt of fees and charges set out in relevant charging schemes which are updated and published on an annual basis.

The current Regulatory Charging Policy covers the period April 2016 to the end of March 2021. It is proposed to extend the current Policy by a further two years until March 2023.

This two year timescale will allow sufficient time to procure and manage a suitably qualified consultancy to undertake a complete root and branch review of the regulatory charging policy. This is an opportunity to develop a sustainable long term regulatory charging policy that is also consistent with the other regulatory agencies within the UK, and addresses any requirements under EU-Transition and any anomalies within the current regulatory charging policy.

**SECTION 6 - Documenting and Recording**

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

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

|                                                     |                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:</b> | [REDACTED]                     |
| <b>Position/Grade:</b>                              | [REDACTED]                     |
| <b>Division/Branch</b>                              | NIEA, Red Regulation Unit      |
| <b>Signature:</b>                                   | [REDACTED]                     |
| <b>Date:</b>                                        | 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2020 |
| <b>Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:</b>   | [REDACTED]                     |
| <b>Position/Grade:</b>                              | [REDACTED]                     |
| <b>Division/Branch:</b>                             | NIEA, Red Regulation Unit      |
| <b>Signature:</b>                                   | [REDACTED]                     |
| <b>Date:</b>                                        | 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2020 |