



Department of

**Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs**

[www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk)

# **Equality & Disability Duties Screening Template**

## 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.

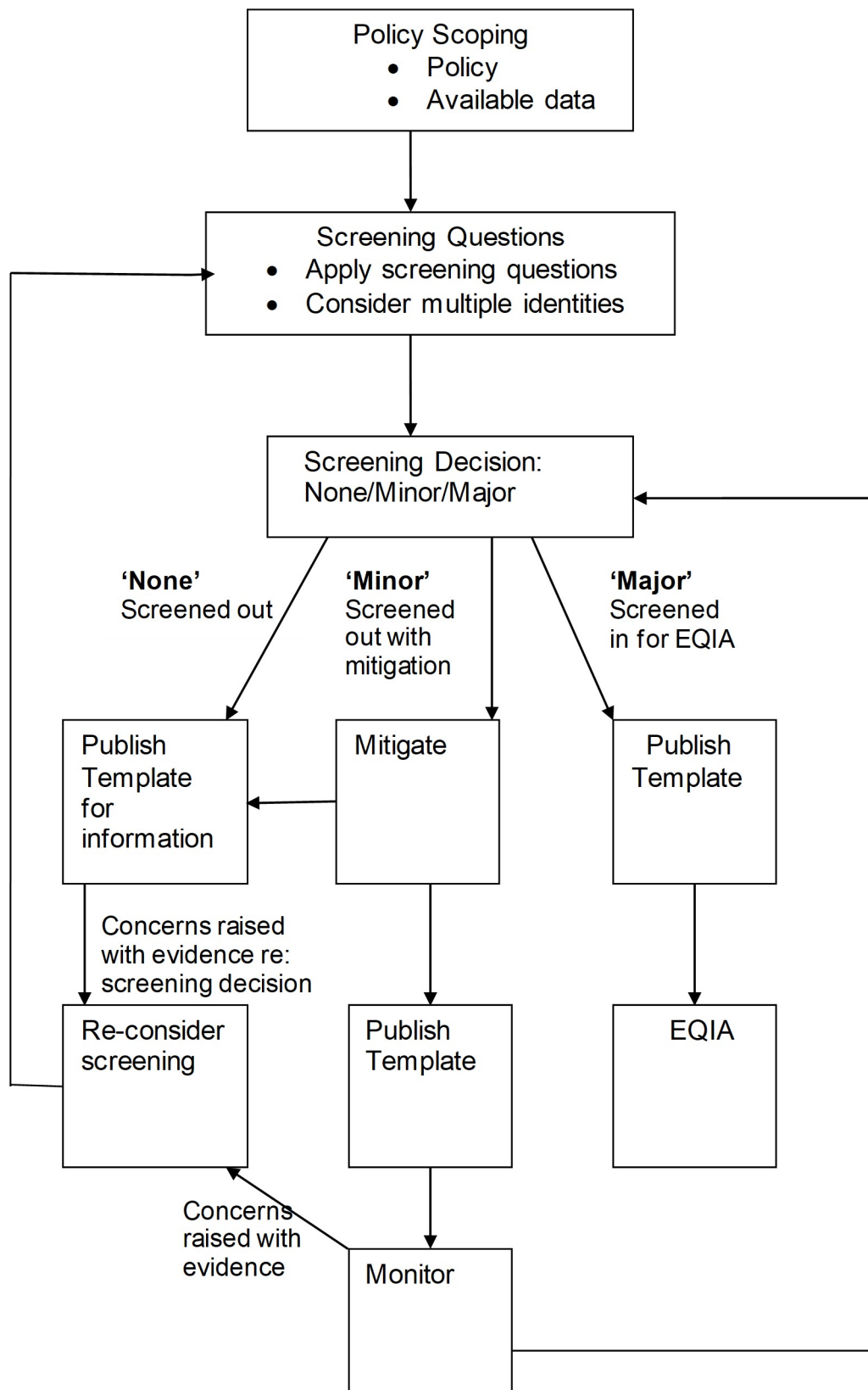
**Part 4. Monitoring** – provides guidance to public authorities on monitoring for adverse impact and broader monitoring.

**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 overleaf.

## Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) herd restrictions – Equality and Disability Screening



### **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**

Introduction of Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) herd restrictions

#### **Is this an existing, revised or a new policy?**

New policy to introduce herd restrictions in addition to the current controls aimed at eradicating BVD.

#### **Brief description of policy / decision to be screened**

BVD is a contagious disease of all cattle which reduces the productivity of affected cattle and compromises their welfare. It is mainly spread directly by infected animals. Of particular concern are persistently infected animals that result when unborn calves become infected with the virus between approximately the 30<sup>th</sup> and 120<sup>th</sup> day of gestation. These animals do not develop immunity to the disease and are persistently infected (PI) throughout their lives.

PI animals shed the virus at high levels for life and are the most significant source of infection within a herd. PI calves can look normal, but the majority die before the age of two, without reaching breeding age or slaughter weight.

There is already legislation in place which requires herd keepers to tag and test bovines that are born, on or enter a herd, after 1 March 2016 for the BVD virus. That legislation requires infectious or potentially infectious bovines to be isolated and provides that individual animals that do not have a negative BVD status cannot be moved from the herd except to

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slaughter, for rendering or under licence issued by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.

The statutory scheme has resulted in good progress in reducing the prevalence of BVD in NI. It is, however, clear that a small cohort of farmers continue to retain PI animals putting the entire eradication scheme at risk.

Further measures are, therefore, required to eradicate the disease to improve animal health, maximise farm profitability and mitigate trade barriers. Evidence from other jurisdictions indicates that the introduction of herd restrictions is the most effective measure that can be taken to combat the disease.

It is, therefore, proposed that movement restrictions should automatically be applied for a temporary period to all herds that contain one or more BVD positive animals or animals with inconclusive BVD test results after 28 days following testing. The Department is also considering taking a power to apply temporary restrictions to herds containing untested animals. This screening exercise has been carried out on the basis of such a power. The restrictions proposed would apply to herds associated with those that retain BVD positive, inconclusive or untested animals.

It is further proposed that the requirement to test bovines for BVD should extend to those animals that were born or entered herds prior to March 2016.

It is intended that the proposed policy would encourage the prompt identification and removal of PI animals and, thereby, contribute to the eradication of BVD from NI.

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

The overarching objective of the proposed policy is to contribute to the control and eradication of BVD in NI. This would result in improved animal health and increased productivity and profitability for farmers and, consequently, the wider Agri-food industry. It would also bring environmental and wider societal benefits associated with the resulting reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and antibiotic use.

### **Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy?**

**If so, explain how.**

## **Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) herd restrictions – Equality and Disability Screening**

No. The introduction of herd restrictions would affect all herd keepers in NI and there is no evidence to suggest that it would impact on any particular section 75 group within the community.

### **Who initiated or wrote the policy?**

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

### **Who owns and who implements the policy?**

DAERA

### **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 delete as appropriate)**

Legislative

### **Main stakeholders affected**

#### **Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the policy will impact upon?**

**DAERA staff-** DAERA will have a role in the collection, maintenance and sharing of information regarding movements and any enforcement action.

**Service users –** Animal Health & Welfare, NI (AHWNI) is responsible for administering the BVD eradication scheme and would provide advice and guidance to farmers on the imposition of herd restrictions. Private Veterinary Practices carry out the blood tests for BVD. Laboratory services have a role testing for the virus. Herd keepers are responsible for testing bovines in their herds and removing the disease risks associated with positive animals.

**Others-** Any provider of tag and testing kits which can meet the requirements of legislation can register to be an official provider of such tags.

### **Other policies with a bearing on this policy**

- **What are they?**

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- Existing BVD eradication scheme
- The Green Growth Strategy for NI
- ‘Changing the Culture 2019 – 2024 – One Health’
- Future Agricultural Policy for NI
- **Who owns them?**
- Existing BVD eradication scheme – DAERA is responsible for the governing legislation and enforcement of the scheme which is administered by AHWNI.
- The Green Growth Strategy for NI – DAERA leads on behalf of the NI Executive.
- **‘Changing the Culture 2019-2024 – One Health’** - The Department of Health, DAERA and the Food Standards Agency, NI
- Future Agricultural Policy for NI - 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:

The proposed revised arrangements would affect all herd keepers in NI who are affected by BVD, irrespective of their religious belief.

The DAERA report '*Equality Indicators for Northern Ireland Farmers*' (October 2018) indicates that the stated religion of just over half of farmers in NI (51%) was Protestant while just over two-fifths (42%) were Catholic and approximately 6% other religions or of no religion. This compared to the wider population whose stated religion was approximately 42% Protestant, 41% Catholic and 18% of another or no religion. The data in that report was derived from an analysis of a linked database by the Administrative Data Research Centre NI as well as data from the NI Census (2011) and EU Farm Structure Survey, NI (2010). The NI Census (2021) indicates that 45.7% of the population of NI are catholic, 43.5% are Protestant while 10.8% are other or no religion. The results of the 2021 census have only recently been published and no analysis has been carried out by DAERA as yet on the religious breakdown for farmers.

### **Political Opinion** evidence/information:

The proposed arrangements would affect all herd keepers in NI irrespective of their political opinion.

The 2018 DAERA report referred to above states that information on political opinion was not collected in the 2011 NI Census. However, as a question on national identity was included, responses to this question were analysed as a proxy measure for political opinion. Overall, 44% of farmers reported their identity as British only, 26% as Irish only and 23% as Northern Irish only. A further 8% of farmers stated another or combination national identity compared to 14% of the general population. Like the 2011 NI Census, the 2021 census does not contain information on political opinion but reports a decrease in the percentage of people in NI identifying as British and an increase in those identifying as Irish and Northern Irish. No analysis has been carried out by DAERA as yet on the national identify for farmers following publication of the 2021 census.

### **Racial Group** evidence/information:

The proposed arrangements will affect all herd keepers in NI irrespective of ethnicity.



## **Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) herd restrictions – Equality and Disability Screening**

The 2018 DAERA Report referred to above states that the proportion of farmers stating an ethnicity other than white in 2011 was too small to examine differences by farm characteristics. Black and minority ethnic people made up less than 2% of the population in NI in 2011. This is consistent with the findings of an equality impact assessment report on the DAERA 2014-20 Rural Development Programme which stated that 98.2% of the NI population is classified as white with a host of ethnic minority groups included in the remaining 1.9%. In rural areas the population is almost entirely classified as white (99.27%). The remaining 0.7% is divided among a host of different ethnic groups. The 2021 NI Census indicates that 3.45% of the population in NI is black or from minority ethnic background. No analysis has been carried out by DAERA as yet on the ethnicity of farmers following publication of the 2021 census. However, given the small percentage involved, it is likely to be difficult to examine.

### **Age** evidence/information:

The proposed arrangements will affect all herd keepers in NI irrespective of age.

The 2018 DAERA report referred to above states that in 2011 the average age of farmers in NI was 59 years. Only 8% of farmers were aged under 40 years, and more than a third (36%) were aged 65 years or older. There was little variation in the age profile of farmers by farm size, although farmers of very small farms (which account for three-quarters of all farms in NI) had a slightly older age profile than those of larger farms.

There was also little variation in age across farming activity type. However, farmers engaged in cattle and sheep farming, general cropping, and horticulture, had the oldest age profiles.

According to the EU Farm Structure Survey 2016 for NI, the median age for farmers in NI in 2016 was 58 years, with 6% of farmers under 35 years old. However, these figures refer only to the principal farmer in each business rather than to all farmers. In the 2016 survey, 22% of managers (i.e. persons responsible for the running of the farm) were under 45 and 31% were 65 or over.

While the NI Census 2021 provides data on age profiling across NI. It does not break those figures down in terms of occupation.

### **Marital Status** evidence/information:

## **Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) herd restrictions – Equality and Disability Screening**

The proposed arrangements would affect all herd keepers in NI irrespective of their marital status.

The 2018 DAERA report referred to above states that almost three quarters (73%) of farmers were married, with the proportion of married farmers increasing with farm size; 84% of farmers of large farms were married, compared to 71% of farmers of very small farms. Conversely, twice as many farmers (18%) of very small farms were single as farmers of medium sized (9%) or large farms (9%). As indicated above, the report was collated using data from 2010 EU Farm Structure Survey and the 2011 NI Census.

According to the EU Farm Structure Survey 2016 for NI, 30% of farmers in NI had no spouse, and approximately half (48%) of farmers' spouses contributed to the work of the farm. Statistics for marital status have not yet been published from the 2021 Census.

### **Sexual Orientation** evidence/information:

The proposed arrangements would affect all herd keepers in NI irrespective of their sexual orientation.

Information on sexual orientation has not been published yet from the NI Census 2021.

In 2016, the Rainbow Project presented initial findings from the first specific study on the experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender (LGB&T) people in NI based on whether they live in a rural or urban area. It does not provide data on the number of LGB&T people in rural areas in NI.

### **Men & Women generally** evidence/information:

The proposed arrangements would affect all herd keepers in NI irrespective of their sex.

The 2018 DAERA report referred to above, which was based on data from 2010 EU Farm Structure Survey and the 2011 NI Census, states that only 9% of those whose main occupation was farming were female. Female farmers were more likely than their male counterparts to farm on very small farms - 87% of women farmers had small farms compared to 75% of male farmers.

A higher proportion of female (86%) than male farmers (78%) were engaged in cattle and sheep farming, and a much lower proportion (4% of

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female compared to 12% of male farmers) were dairy farmers. Female farmers were also more likely to farm in Less Favoured Areas. Forty-four percent of women farmers farmed in Severely Disadvantaged Areas compared to 39% of male farmers.

Some of the gender differences in farm characteristics may be partly due to the differing age profiles of male and female farmers. Female farmers had an older age profile than their male counterparts, with 4% of female farmers aged under 40, compared to 8% of male farmers, and 45% of female farmers aged 65 or over, compared to 35% of male farmers.

According to the EU Farm Structure Survey 2016 for NI, 53,877 persons contributed to the work on farms in the 12 months ending March 2016. The survey found that 96% of farmers were male and 4% female; 76% of workers were male and 24% female and that 5% of farms were managed by females.

The NI Census 2021 data on sexual orientation will not be published until winter 2022 at the earliest.

### **Disability** evidence/information:

The proposed arrangements would affect all herd keepers in NI irrespective of whether or not they suffer from a disability.

The 2018 DAERA report referred to above reported that almost a third (30%) of farmers stated that they had a long-term illness or disability which limited their daily activities, with the incidence of disability inversely related to farm size. As indicated above, the report was collated using data from the 2010 EU Farm Structure Survey and the 2011 NI Census.

The proportion of farmers of very small farms stating that their activities were limited a lot (16%) was twice that of farmers of large farms (8%).

Farmers in disadvantaged areas (16%) were slightly more likely than lowland farmers (12%) to state that their activities were limited.

Some of the differences in farm characteristics by disability may be partly due to the variation in age profiles of those with and without disabilities.

The incidence of those reporting that their activities were limited either a little or a lot rises steeply with age.

Data on health, disability and unpaid care have yet to be published from the 2021 Census.

### **Dependants’ evidence/information:**

The 2018 DAERA report indicated that two fifths (40%) of all farm households contained children under 18 years old, elderly disabled people, or both. Households of medium sized farms were slightly more likely than smaller or larger farms to contain dependants, as were the households of farmers engaged in pig, poultry or mixed farming. As indicated above, the report was collated using data from the 2010 EU Farm Structure Survey and the 2011 NI Census.

Farm households in Disadvantaged Areas (41%) were slightly more likely than those in lowland areas (38%) to contain dependants.

The 2021 NI Census data on household composition has yet to be published but it reports the average household size has decreased to 2.44.

### **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***

The proposals relate to the eradication of a disease in animals. People in this equality category will have no particular needs, experiences or priorities.

#### ***Political Opinion***

As above.

#### ***Racial Group***

As above.

#### ***Age***

As above.

#### ***Marital status***

As above.

#### ***Sexual orientation***

As above.

***Men and Women Generally***

As above.

***Disability***

As above.

***Dependants***

As above.

**Part 2. Screening questions**

**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**

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- 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**

- a) The policy has no relevance to equality of opportunity or good relations.
- b) 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*:**

It is DAERA's opinion that this policy would have no impact on equality of opportunity for this group.

DAERA will review any section 75 issues raised during the relevant public consultation and section 75 issues will also be considered during the implementation stage of any proposals that are progressed following consultation.

##### **What is the level of impact?**

None

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

It is DAERA's opinion that this policy would have no impact on equality of opportunity for this group.

DAERA will review any section 75 issues raised during the relevant public consultation and section 75 issues will also be considered during the implementation stage of any proposals that are progressed following consultation.

##### **What is the level of impact?**

None

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

## **Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) herd restrictions – Equality and Disability Screening**

It is DAERA's opinion that this policy would have no impact on equality of opportunity for this group.

It is, however, mindful that some people who work in farming may not have English as a first language. DAERA will therefore ensure that people responding to the consultation have the opportunity to request information in another language.

DAERA will review any section 75 issues raised during the relevant public consultation and section 75 issues will also be considered during the implementation stage of any proposals that are progressed following consultation.

### **What is the level of impact?**

None

### **Details of the likely policy impacts on *Age*:**

It is DAERA's opinion that this policy would have no impact on equality of opportunity for this group.

DAERA will review any section 75 issues raised during the relevant public consultation and section 75 issues will also be considered during the implementation stage of any proposals that are progressed following consultation.

### **What is the level of impact?**

None

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

It is DAERA's opinion that this policy would have no impact on equality of opportunity for this group.

DAERA will review any section 75 issues raised during the relevant public consultation and section 75 issues will also be considered during the implementation stage of any proposals that are progressed following consultation.

### **What is the level of impact?**

None

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

It is DAERA's opinion that this policy would have no impact on equality of opportunity for this group.



DAERA will review any section 75 issues raised during the relevant public consultation and section 75 issues will also be considered during the implementation stage of any proposals that are progressed following consultation.

**What is the level of impact?**

None

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

It is DAERA's opinion that this policy would have no impact on equality of opportunity for this group.

DAERA will review any section 75 issues raised during the relevant public consultation and section 75 issues will also be considered during the implementation stage of any proposals that are progressed following consultation.

**What is the level of impact?**

None

**Details of the likely policy impacts on *Disability*:**

It is DAERA's opinion that this policy would have no impact on equality of opportunity for this group.

DAERA will review any section 75 issues raised during the relevant public consultation and section 75 issues will also be considered during the implementation stage of any proposals that are progressed following consultation.

**What is the level of impact?**

None

**Details of the likely policy impacts on *Dependants*:**

It is DAERA's opinion that this policy would have no impact on equality of opportunity for this group.

DAERA will review any section 75 issues raised during the relevant public consultation and section 75 issues will also be considered during the implementation stage of any proposals that are progressed following consultation.

**What is the level of impact?**

None

**2. Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories? No (please delete 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:**

The proposed policy relates to the eradication of a disease in animals. As such, it is not envisaged that religious belief would be impacted.

DAERA actively seeks opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity and during the relevant consultation will review any equality issues identified in light of responses to the consultation and, as part of the implementation stage, of any proposals that are progressed following consultation.

The proposals in the consultation will be subject to a comprehensive and robust communications and promotions plan to ensure that all those in the farming industry, rural communities and other key stakeholders are encouraged to engage.

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

N/A

**If No, provide reasons:**

The proposed policy relates to the eradication of a disease in animals. As such, it is not envisaged that political opinion would be impacted.

DAERA actively seeks opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity and during the relevant consultation will review any equality issues identified in light of responses to the consultation and, as part of the implementation stage, of any proposals that are progressed following consultation.

The proposals in the consultation will be subject to a comprehensive and robust communications and promotions plan to ensure that all those in the farming industry, rural communities and other key stakeholders are encouraged to engage.

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

N/A

**If No, provide reasons:**

The proposed policy relates to the eradication of a disease in animals. As such, it is not envisaged that ethnicity will be impacted.

DAERA actively seeks opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity and during the relevant consultation will review any equality issues identified in light of responses to the consultation and, as part of the implementation stage, of any proposals that are progressed following consultation.

The proposals in the consultation will be subject to a comprehensive and robust communications and promotions plan to ensure that all those in the farming industry, rural communities and other key stakeholders are encouraged to engage.

**Age – If Yes, provide details:**

N/A

**If No, provide reasons:**

The proposed policy relates to the eradication of a disease in animals. As such, it is not envisaged that individuals would be impacted differently on the basis of their age.

DAERA actively seeks opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity and during the relevant consultation will review any equality issues identified in light of responses to the consultation and, as part of the implementation stage, of any proposals that are progressed following consultation.

The proposals in the consultation will be subject to a comprehensive and robust communications and promotions plan to ensure that all those in the farming industry, rural communities and other key stakeholders are encouraged to engage.

**Marital Status – If Yes, provide details:**

N/A

**If No, provide reasons**

The proposed policy relates to the eradication of a disease in animals. As such, it is not envisaged that individuals would be impacted differently on the basis of their marital status.

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DAERA actively seeks opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity and during the relevant consultation will review any equality issues identified in light of responses to the consultation and, as part of the implementation stage, of any proposals that are progressed following consultation.

The proposals in the consultation will be subject to a comprehensive and robust communications and promotions plan to ensure that all those in the farming industry, rural communities and other key stakeholders are encouraged to engage.

### **Sexual Orientation – If Yes, provide details:**

N/A

### **If No, provide reasons:**

The proposed policy relates to the eradication of a disease in animals. As such, it is not envisaged that individuals would be impacted differently on the basis of their sexual orientation.

DAERA actively seeks opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity and during the relevant consultation will review any equality issues identified in light of responses to the consultation and, as part of the implementation stage, of any proposals that are progressed following consultation.

The proposals in the consultation will be subject to a comprehensive and robust communications and promotions plan to ensure that all those in the farming industry, rural communities and other key stakeholders are encouraged to engage.

### **Men and Women generally – If Yes, provide details:**

N/A

### **If No, provide reasons:**

The proposed policy relates to the eradication of a disease in animals. As such, it is not envisaged that individuals would be impacted differently on the basis of their sex.

DAERA actively seeks opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity and during the relevant consultation will review any equality issues identified in light of responses to the consultation and, as part of the implementation stage, of any proposals that are progressed following consultation.

## **Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) herd restrictions – Equality and Disability Screening**

The proposals in the consultation will be subject to a comprehensive and robust communications and promotions plan to ensure that all those in the farming industry, rural communities and other key stakeholders are encouraged to engage.

### **Disability – If Yes, provide details:**

N/A

### **If No, provide reasons:**

The proposed policy relates to the eradication of a disease in animals. As such, it is not envisaged that individuals would be impacted differently if they suffered from a disability.

DAERA actively seeks opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity and during the relevant consultation will review any equality issues identified in light of responses to the consultation and, as part of the implementation stage, of any proposals that are progressed following consultation.

The proposals in the consultation will be subject to a comprehensive and robust communications and promotions plan to ensure that all those in the farming industry, rural communities and other key stakeholders are encouraged to engage.

### **Dependants – If Yes, provide details:**

N/A

### **If No, provide reasons:**

The proposed policy relates to the eradication of a disease in animals. As such, it is not envisaged that individuals would be impacted differently on the basis of whether or not they have dependants.

DAERA actively seeks opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity and during the relevant consultation will review any equality issues identified in light of responses to the consultation and, as part of the implementation stage, of any proposals that are progressed following consultation.

The proposals in the consultation will be subject to a comprehensive and robust communications and promotions plan to ensure that all those in the farming industry, rural communities and other key stakeholders are encouraged to engage.

**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*:**

The proposed policy relates to the eradication of a disease in animals. As such, it would not impact on good relations between people of different religious beliefs.

DAERA is proactive in improving good relations between people of different religious belief and during the relevant public consultation will review any issues identified in light of responses to the consultation and as part of the implementation stage of any proposals that are progressed following consultation.

The proposals in the consultation will be subject to a comprehensive and robust communications and promotions plan to ensure that all those in the farming industry, rural communities and other key stakeholders are encouraged to engage.

**What is the level of impact?** None

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

The proposed policy relates to the eradication of a disease in animals. As such, it would not impact on good relations between people of different political opinion.

DAERA is proactive in improving good relations between people of different political opinions and during the relevant consultation will review any issues identified in light of responses to the consultation and as part of the implementation stage of any proposals that are progressed following consultation.

The proposals in the consultation will be subject to a comprehensive and robust communications and promotions plan to ensure that all those in the farming industry, rural communities and other key stakeholders are encouraged to engage.

**What is the level of impact?** None

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

## **Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) herd restrictions – Equality and Disability Screening**

The proposed policy relates to the eradication of a disease in animals. As such, it would not impact on good relations between people from different racial groups.

DAERA is proactive in improving good relations between people from different racial groups and during the relevant consultation will review any issues identified in light of responses to the consultation and as part of the implementation stage of any proposals that are progressed following consultation.

The proposals in the consultation will be subject to a comprehensive and robust communications and promotions plan to ensure that all those in the farming industry, rural communities and other key stakeholders are encouraged to engage.

**What is the level of impact?** None

### **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:**

The proposed policy relates to the eradication of a disease in animals. As such, it is not envisaged that it presents opportunities to promote good relations between people of different religious beliefs.

DAERA is proactive in improving good relations between people of different religious beliefs and during this consultation will review any issues identified in light of responses to the consultation and as part of the implementation stage of any proposals that are progressed following consultation. DAERA will take all available opportunities to improve good relations if any are identified.

#### ***Political Opinion* – If Yes, provide details**

N/A

#### **If No, provide reasons**

## Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) herd restrictions – Equality and Disability Screening

The proposed policy relates to the eradication of a disease in animals. As such, it is not envisaged that it presents opportunities to promote good relations between people of political opinions.

DAERA is proactive in improving good relations between people of different political opinions and during this consultation will review any issues identified in light of responses to the consultation and as part of the implementation stage of any proposals that are progressed following consultation. DAERA will take all available opportunities to improve good relations if any are identified.

### **Racial Group – If Yes, provide details**

N/A

### **If No, provide reasons**

The proposed policy relates to the eradication of a disease in animals. As such, it is not envisaged that it presents opportunities to promote good relations between people from different racial groups.

DAERA is proactive in improving good relations between people of different political opinions and during this consultation will review any issues identified in light of responses to the consultation and as part of the implementation stage of any proposals that are progressed following consultation. DAERA will take all available opportunities to improve good relations if any are identified.

## **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).*

**None.** There is no available evidence to indicate potential impacts on people with multiple identities. However, the responses to the consultation will be monitored to inform the position.

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



The proposed policy relates the eradication of a disease in animals. As such, it is not envisaged that people with multiple identities will be adversely impacted.

### Consideration of Disability Duties

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

The proposed arrangements are applicable to herd keepers in NI and do not provide an obvious opportunity to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people. The position will, however, be reviewed in response to the consultation exercise.

The proposals will also be subject to a comprehensive and robust communications and promotions plan to ensure that all those in the farming industry, rural communities and other key stakeholders are encouraged to engage with that consultation process. In terms of that communication, in line with DAERA policy, full consideration will be given to how it communicates with those with a disability and any reasonable adjustments may need to be put in place.

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

The proposed arrangements are applicable to herd keepers in NI and do not provide an obvious opportunity to increase the participation by disabled people in public life. The position will, however, be reviewed in response to the consultation exercise.

### Part 3. Screening decision

#### **‘Screened out’ without mitigation or an alternative policy proposed to be adopted.**

The proposed policy is focused on the eradication of a disease.

DAERA has considered a range of data as detailed above. It has not identified any adverse impact on any section 75 grouping as a result of the policy proposals. This is not surprising given that the policy proposals

## Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) herd restrictions – Equality and Disability Screening

would affect all herd keepers in NI irrespective of whether or not they fall into one of the section 75 groupings.

The potential to promote equality of opportunity and good relations between the groups limited given that the focus of the consultation is on disease control. The proposals will, however, be subject to a comprehensive and robust communications and promotions plan to ensure that all those in the farming industry, rural communities and other key stakeholders are encouraged to engage. It will ensure that the consultation is available on request in a range of formats to address a disability, if required. DAERA will also consider any responses to the consultation which indicate that there is a potential adverse impact on each of the section 75 groups or potential for positive promotion of good relations and equality of opportunity between them.

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.

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

N/A – no impact on any of the section 75 groups or opportunity better promotion is envisaged.

## **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.**

<b>Priority criterion</b>	<b>Rating (1-3)</b>
Effect on equality of opportunity and good relations	
Social need	
Effect on people’s daily lives	
Relevance to a public authority’s functions	
<b>Total score</b>	

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?**

**If yes, please provide details.**

## 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 consider all comments generated from the relevant public consultation and associated stakeholder engagement.

**Good Relations:** DAERA will consider all comments generated from the relevant public consultation and associated stakeholder engagement.

**Disability Duties:** DAERA will consider all comments generated from the relevant public consultation and associated stakeholder engagement.

## Part 5. Consideration of Human Rights

1. **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	<b>Article 2</b>	No
Prohibition of torture, inhuman or degrading treatment	<b>Article 3</b>	No
Prohibition of slavery and forced labour	<b>Article 4</b>	No
Right to liberty and security	<b>Article 5</b>	No
Right to a fair and public trial	<b>Article 6</b>	No
Right to no punishment without law	<b>Article 7</b>	No
Right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence	<b>Article 8</b>	No
Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion	<b>Article 9</b>	No
Right to freedom of expression	<b>Article 10</b>	No
Right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association	<b>Article 11</b>	No

## Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) herd restrictions – Equality and Disability Screening

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

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

None.

DAERA has considered whether any aspects of the policy proposals in the consultation which would have an adverse impact on human rights. The only convention right that could conceivably be impacted would be the right to property contained in Article 1 of Protocol 1. The Department is, however, satisfied that its proposals would not deprive any herd keeper of his or her possessions as the herd keeper would retain ownership of the animals even if movements in and out of their herds are restricted and herd keepers would also remain in control of when those restrictions are lifted. The Department is satisfied that any control on the use of a herd keeper's property that might result from the imposition of herd restrictions would serve a legitimate general or public interest and would be proportionate.

DAERA will, of course, consider any human rights issues that may be identified as part of the consultation process.

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

DAERA will consider all opportunities which arise from the consultation to positively promote human rights.

### **Part 6 - Approval and authorisation**

## **Screening Checklist**

Before signing off this screening template please confirm that you have completed all the actions listed below.

I can confirm that all the actions listed below have been completed –

- I have explained any technical issues in plain English (easily understood by a 12 year old)
- I have 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:** Michelle Matthews  
**Branch:** AHS & TSE

**Grade:** Staff Officer  
**Date:** 12/10/2022

**Signature:** 

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

**Name:** Robert Huey  
**Branch:** VSAHG

**Grade:** Grade 3  
**Date:** 13/10/2022

**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.

## **Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) herd restrictions – Equality and Disability Screening**

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

For more information about equality screening, contact –

### **DAERA Equality Unit**

Equality, Diversity & Public Appointments Branch

Jubilee House

111 Ballykelly Road

Limavady

BT49 9HP

Email: [equality@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:equality@daera-ni.gov.uk)

[Tel: 028 7744 2027](tel:02877442027)



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

[www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://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;

## **Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) herd restrictions – Equality and Disability Screening**

(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.

## **Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) herd restrictions – Equality and Disability Screening**

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.

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.

## **Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) herd restrictions – Equality and Disability Screening**

### **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.

## **Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) herd restrictions – Equality and Disability Screening**

### **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

## **Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) herd restrictions – Equality and Disability Screening**

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