



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

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.

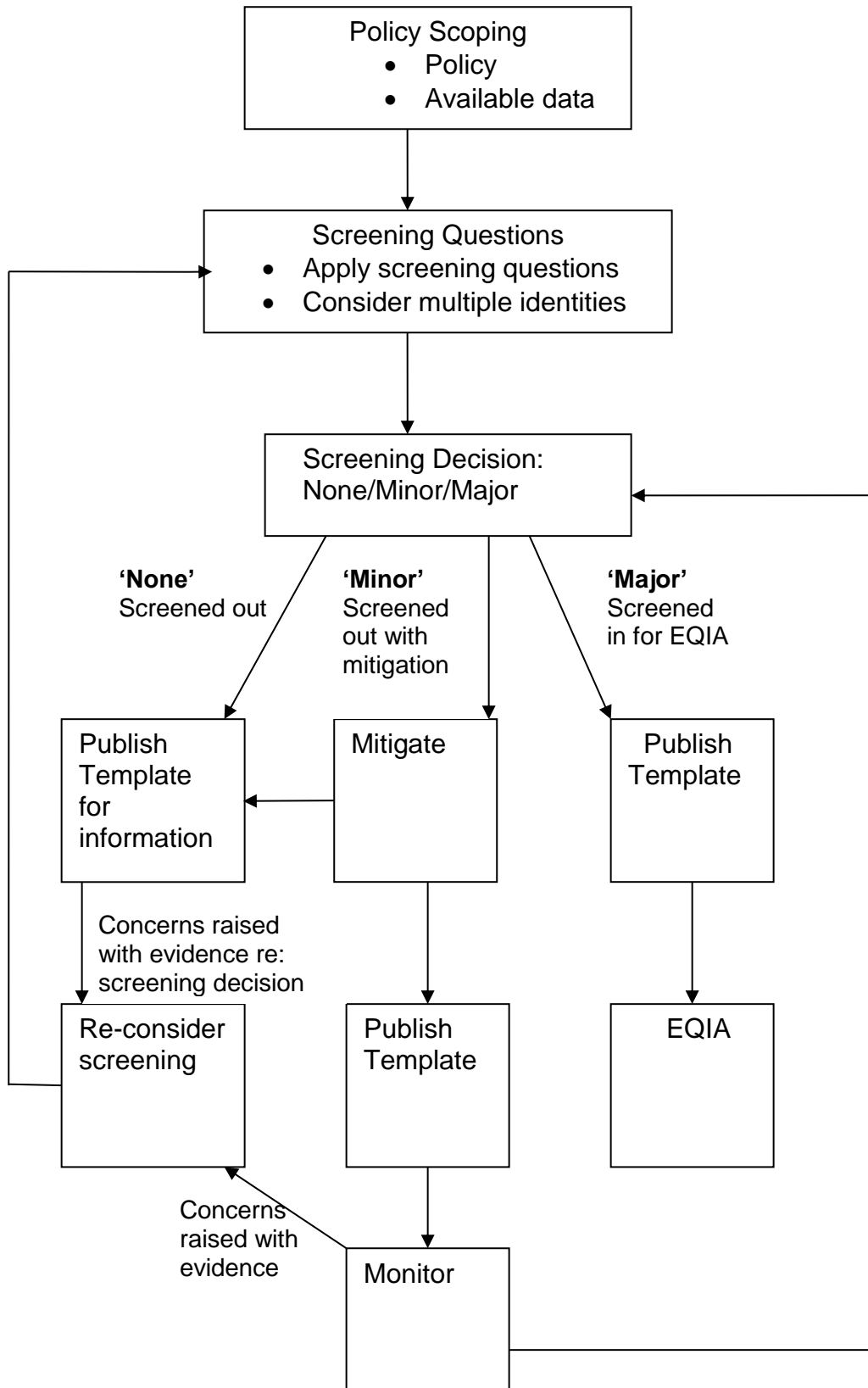
Part 3. Screening decision – guides the public authority to reach a screening decision as to whether or not there is a need to carry out an equality impact assessment (EQIA), or to introduce measures to mitigate the likely impact, or the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality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



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

Northern Ireland Food Strategy Framework

Is this an existing, revised or a new policy?

New Strategic Framework

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

Northern Ireland has never before had a Food Strategy Framework that brings together the connections between food, and economic, social, health and environmental benefits. The draft Framework being equality screened is a proposed new high level overarching policy which has been developed collaboratively with a wide range of stakeholders including from the public, private, and voluntary and community sector. The draft Framework sets the long term strategic direction for food policy initiatives in Northern Ireland and the consultation aims to seek views from the general public and stakeholders on the proposed vision, set of eight principles and six priority areas. The aim of the draft Northern Ireland Food Strategy Framework is to align “food” responsibilities across government departments and ensure coherence across food policies that affect all our lives and help to improve economic, environmental, health and social outcomes for everyone living in Northern Ireland.

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

If so, explain how.

All categories may be expected to generally benefit from the draft Framework. The draft NI Food Strategy Framework has the potential to positively impact all people in Northern Ireland as it seeks to deliver on health, education, economic, environmental and societal goals.

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

Prior to the restoration of the Assembly, it was agreed that DAERA officials would begin to explore with the Department for Economy, and other NI Departments and interested parties, the merits, scope and content of a possible Food Strategy Framework which would develop strategic alignment across NI Departments and help shape a future food system for Northern Ireland.

The draft NI Food Strategy Framework has been developed by DAERA in consultation with other Departments.

Who owns and who implements the policy?

DAERA, on behalf of the NI Executive, are developing a Green Growth Strategy. The proposed Food Strategy Framework will form part of the Green Growth Strategy.

A new DAERA-led cross-departmental Food Programme Board has been established which will be responsible for the publication of an agreed Food Strategy Framework for Northern Ireland (phase one), subject to Executive approval. Following publication of an agreed Food Strategy Framework, responsibilities will evolve to programme implementation and delivery (phase two). The Board comprises representatives from all NI Departments that are responsible for aspects of food. The Board will engage with key stakeholders and will report to the inter-Ministerial Group within the governance arrangements for Green Growth

Implementation factors

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

As this is a draft framework which is setting a direction, there should be no implementation factors at this point. Any subsequent policies emanating from the final agreed Framework will be subject to their own equality screening and implementation considerations.

Main stakeholders affected

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

Staff across NICS departments who have policy responsibilities in food. These include staff within DAERA, DfE, DE, DoH, DfC, DoJ,

Other public sector organisations – including FSA NI/Invest NI, Education Authority Public Health Agency, Prison Service etc.

Voluntary/community/trade unions

other, please specify –agri food industry, academia, general public, Environmental NGOs and Community Groups

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

• What are they?

Examples of links to existing Strategies / Policies.

- Department of Health: Making Life Better, A Fitter Future for All, Obesity strategy
- Department for Communities: Anti-Poverty (under development and potential for Food Poverty).
- DAERA: Rural Framework, Knowledge Framework, Environment Strategy
- Green Growth Strategy (under development), Agricultural Policy Framework, Waste Prevention Programme 2019: Stopping Waste in its Tracks
- Department for Economy: Economic Strategy, Skills Strategy, Innovation Strategy, Tourism Strategy, 10X Economy: An Economic Vision for a decade of innovation and 10X Skills Strategy, FE/ HE Strategies, Circular Economy Strategic Framework (CESF) (under development).
- Northern Ireland Prison Service: Improving Health Within Criminal Justice.
- Department of Finance and Department of Justice: Public Procurement Policy.
- Department of Justice: Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Strategy.
- Department of Education & Department of Health: Food in Schools Policy

• Who owns them?

Department of Health, Department for Communities, DAERA, Department for Economy, Department of Finance, Department of Justice, Department of Education.

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:

Consideration has been given to the Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey¹ (2020) and the NI Census (2011)². The 2011 Census of Northern Ireland found that 45 per cent of the population were either Catholic or brought up as Catholic, while 48 per cent belonged to or were brought up in Protestant, Other Christian or Christian-related denominations. A further 0.9 per cent belonged to or had been brought up in Other Religions and Philosophies, while 5.6 per cent neither belonged to, nor had been brought up in, a religion. In the 2020 Life and Times Survey 41% of the respondents viewed themselves as part of the Protestant Community, 26% as Catholic and 33% as neither. 4% of respondents considered themselves as part of a minority ethnic community while 93 % did not. There will be no specific reference to religious belief included in this consultation document as it would not be proportionate to gather such information. The draft Northern Ireland Food Strategy Framework will be the subject of a consultation exercise and any comments will be taken into consideration about whether the planned Strategic Objectives or Actions will impact on any specific Section 75 groups.

Political Opinion evidence/information:

As above -Consideration has been given to the Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey (2020)¹ The Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey 2020 found that 19% of the Northern Ireland population describe themselves as nationalist, 35% as unionist and 42% held neither political opinion. There will be no specific reference to political opinion included in this consultation document as it would not be proportionate to gather such information. However, the policy is subject to public consultation and should any section 75 issues be raised they will be considered.

Racial Group evidence/information:

As above -Consideration has been given to the Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey (2020)¹ and the 2011 NI Census². The 2011 Census found that over 98% of the population state their ethnic origin to be white; in rural areas, the population is almost entirely classified

¹ [NI Life and Times Survey - 2020 \(ark.ac.uk\)](http://ark.ac.uk)

² [2011 Census - Key Statistics for Northern Ireland - Report \(nisra.gov.uk\)](http://nisra.gov.uk)

as white (99.4%). There will be no specific reference to racial groups included in this consultation document as it would not be proportionate to gather such information. However, the policy is subject to public consultation and should any section 75 issues be raised they will be considered.

Age evidence/information:

As above -Consideration has been given to the Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey (2020)¹ and the 2011 NI Census². The 2011 Census showed that around 25% of the population was 55 years or older and around 47% were under 35 years old. While the 2020 Life and Times Survey reported 36% were 55 years or older and a further 26% were under 35 and 38% were between 35 and 55 years of age. ³The Mid-year Population Estimates³ show that by mid-2019, the proportion of the population aged 0 to 15 years has decreased from 25.4 per cent in mid-1994 to 20.9 per cent in mid-2019. This is a decrease of 17.8% since mid-1994 to mid-2019. However, Northern Ireland still had the highest proportion of children aged under 16 years of age of any country within the UK in mid-2019. The proportion of the population who are of working age (i.e. people aged 16 to 64 years) has remained relatively stable over the period. The proportion of the population aged 65 and over has experienced the largest increase over the 25 year period (1994 to 2019) , with a distinct accelerated growth in this population occurring from mid-2007. As a result the proportion of the population aged 65 and over has increased by 28.1 per cent from mid-1994 to mid-2019. The proportion of the population who are of working age (i.e. people aged 16 to 64 years) has remained relatively stable over the period.

The population aged 85 and over increased by 2.7 per cent (from 37,700 to 38,700) between mid-2018 and mid-2019, representing 2.0 per cent of the population. The draft Northern Ireland Food Strategy Framework will be the subject of a consultation exercise and any comments will be taken into consideration about whether the planned Strategic Objectives or Actions will impact on any specific Section 75 groups.

Marital Status evidence/information:

As above -Consideration has been given to the Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey (2020)¹ and the 2011 NI Census². The 2011 Census showed that around 48% of the population were married or in a civil partnership, and 36% were single.

There will be no specific reference to marital status included in this consultation document as it would not be proportionate to gather such information. However, the policy is subject to public consultation and should any section 75 issues be raised they will be considered.

Sexual Orientation evidence/information:

There are no data on the number of lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB) persons in NI as no national census has ever asked people to define their sexuality. The 2011 Census showed that those in a registered same-sex civil partnership was 0.09%. The Office for National Statistics (ONS)⁴ show that, for Northern Ireland, the percentage of people identifying themselves as LGB in 2018 was 1.2%

There will be no specific reference to sexual orientation included in this consultation document as it would not be proportionate to gather such information. However, the policy is

³ Page 3, 2019 Mid-year Population Estimates - statistical bulletin (nisra.gov.uk)

⁴ [Sexual orientation, UK - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/people-in-the-uk/sexual-orientation)

subject to public consultation and should any section 75 issues be raised they will be considered.

Men & Women generally evidence/information:

Consideration has been given to the Northern Ireland Life, and Times Survey (2020)¹ the 2011 NI Census² and the Quarterly Labour Force Survey⁴ The 2011 Census showed that 49% of the population were male and 51% female.

The estimated employment rate in NI for those aged 16-64 in 2020 was 74.8% for males (432,000) and 66.5% for females (392,000). The estimated economic inactivity rate (16-64) was 22.8% for males (132,000) and 31.6% for females (186,000) .The number of self-employed (aged 16+) in Northern Ireland was estimated at 134,000 in 2019, equivalent to just over 15% of all employed people aged 16+. Self-employment was more likely among employed men than women, 22% of all employed men were self-employed, compared with 8% of all employed women .

The Quarterly Labour Force Survey⁵ shows that for Jan-Mar 2020 the self-employment rate for men in NI was 22.7% (104,000) compared to 7.7% (32,000) for women. For Jan-Mar 2021 the rate substantially decreased for men 15.6% (67,000) although it slightly increased for women with 8% (33,000) and this is likely to be as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. There will be no specific reference to whether a respondent is male or female included in this consultation document as it would not be proportionate to gather such information. However, the policy is subject to public consultation and should any section 75 issues be raised they will be considered.

Disability evidence/information:

Consideration has been given to the Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey (2020)¹ and the 2011 NI Census² . The 2011 Census of Northern Ireland² showed that around 12% of the population found their day to day activities to be limited a lot due to a disability and around 9% found their activities limited a little. There will be no specific reference to whether a respondent considers themselves to have a disability included in this consultation document as it would not be proportionate to gather such information. However, the policy is subject to public consultation and should any section 75 issues be raised they will be considered.

Dependants evidence/information:

Consideration has been given to the Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey (2020)¹ and the 2011 NI Census² The 2011 Census of Northern Ireland² showed that 34% of family households contained dependent children. NISRA household projections by size show that by 2027, when a further review of this policy is anticipated, one person households are projected to increase by 5.65% and two person households are projected to increase by 6.5%, while five or more person households are projected to have decreased by 1.5%. The birth rate in NI has consistently fallen from 2012 to 2018. There will be no specific reference to whether a respondent considers themselves to have a disability included in this consultation document as it would not be proportionate to gather such information. However, the policy is subject to public consultation and should any section 75 issues be raised they will be considered.

⁵ Labour Force Survey Annual Summary 2020 (nisra.gov.uk)

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. _None. No equality issues identified. The draft framework is subject to public consultation and should any religious belief issues be raised they will be considered.

Political Opinion

None. No equality issues identified. The draft framework is subject to public consultation and should any political opinion issues be raised they will be considered.

Racial Group

None. No equality issues identified. The draft framework is subject to public consultation and should any racial group issues be raised they will be considered.

Age

None. No equality issues identified. The draft framework is subject to public consultation and should any age issues be raised they will be considered.

Marital status

None. No equality issues identified. The draft framework is subject to public consultation and should any marital status issues be raised they will be considered.

Sexual orientation

None. No equality issues identified. The draft framework is subject to public consultation and should any sexual orientation issues be raised they will be considered.

Men and Women Generally

None. No equality issues identified. The draft framework is subject to public consultation and should any men and women generally issues be raised they will be considered.

Disability

None. No equality issues identified. The draft framework is subject to public consultation and should any disability issues be raised they will be considered.

Dependants

None. No equality issues identified. The draft framework is subject to public consultation and should any dependant issues be raised they will be considered.

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

- 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*:

The draft NI Food Strategy Framework proposals, including the vision, principles and priority areas, are neutral as regards religious belief and therefore are considered to have no impact on the equality of opportunity for those affected and no differential impacts on the S.75 category are anticipated.

What is the level of impact? None

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

The draft NI Food Strategy Framework proposals, including the vision, principles and priority areas, are neutral as regards political opinion and therefore are considered to have no impact on the equality of opportunity for those affected and no differential impacts on the S.75 category are anticipated.

What is the level of impact? None

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

The draft NI Food Strategy Framework proposals, including the vision, principles and priority areas, are neutral as regards racial groups and therefore are considered to have no impact on the equality of opportunity for those affected and no differential impacts on the S.75 category are anticipated.

What is the level of impact? None

Details of the likely policy impacts on *Age*:

The draft NI Food Strategy Framework proposals, including the vision, principles and priority areas, are neutral as regards age and therefore are considered to have no impact on the equality of opportunity for those affected and no differential impacts on the S.75 category are anticipated.

What is the level of impact? None

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

The draft NI Food Strategy Framework will have no impact on equality of opportunity for those affected and no differential impacts on the S.75 category are anticipated.

What is the level of impact? None

Details of the likely policy impacts on *Sexual Orientation*

The draft NI Food Strategy Framework will have no impact on equality of opportunity for those affected and no differential impacts on the S.75 category are anticipated.

What is the level of impact? None

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

The draft NI Food Strategy Framework will have no impact on equality of opportunity for those affected and no differential impacts on the S.75 category are anticipated.

What is the level of impact? None

Details of the likely policy impacts on *Disability*:

The draft NI Food Strategy Framework will have no impact on equality of opportunity for those affected and no differential impacts on the S.75 category are anticipated.

What is the level of impact? None

Details of the likely policy impacts on *Dependants*:

The draft NI Food Strategy Framework will have no impact on equality of opportunity for those affected and no differential impacts on the S.75 category are anticipated.

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**

Detail opportunities of how this policy could promote equality of opportunity for people within each of the Section 75 Categories below:

Religious Belief - If No, provide reasons:

As this is a draft framework, there are no immediate opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity. Any specific future interventions will be subject to their own equality Impact assessment. However, food has the potential to make a positive contribution to many of today's significant societal challenges for example health and well-being and food poverty. DAERA actively seeks opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity and during this consultation will review any issues identified in light of responses to the consultation. The proposals in the consultation will be subject to a comprehensive and robust communications and promotions plan to ensure that all key stakeholders including the general public are encouraged to engage. DAERA will monitor the consultation responses for issues around section 75. Any that are identified will be taken into account, with proportionate mitigations, as appropriate, as the Framework is progressed to final Executive approval and publication.

Political Opinion If No, provide reasons:

As this is a draft framework, there are no immediate opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity. Any specific future interventions will be subject to their own equality Impact assessment. However, food has the potential to make a positive contribution to many of today's significant societal challenges for example health and well-being and food poverty. DAERA actively seeks opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity and during this consultation will review any issues identified in light of responses to the consultation. The proposals in the consultation will be subject to a comprehensive and robust communications and promotions plan to ensure that all key stakeholders including the general public are encouraged to engage. DAERA will monitor the consultation responses for issues around section 75. Any that are identified will be taken into account, with proportionate mitigations, as appropriate, as the Framework is progressed to final Executive approval and publication.

Racial Group - If No, provide reasons:

As this is a draft framework, there are no immediate opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity. Any specific future interventions will be subject to their own equality Impact assessment. However, food has the potential to make a positive contribution to many of today's significant societal challenges for example health and well-being and food poverty. DAERA actively seeks opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity and during this consultation will review any issues identified in light of responses to the consultation. The proposals in the consultation will be subject to a comprehensive and robust communications and promotions plan to ensure that all key stakeholders including the general public are encouraged to engage. DAERA will monitor the consultation responses for issues around section 75. Any that are identified will be taken into account, with proportionate mitigations, as appropriate, as the Framework is progressed to final Executive approval and publication.

Age - If No, provide reasons:

As this is a draft framework, there are no immediate opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity. Any specific future interventions will be subject to their own equality Impact assessment. However, food has the potential to make a positive contribution to many of today's significant societal challenges for example health and well-being and food poverty. DAERA actively seeks opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity and during this consultation will review any issues identified in light of responses to the consultation. The proposals in the consultation will be subject to a comprehensive and robust communications and promotions plan to ensure that all key stakeholders including the general public are encouraged to engage. DAERA will monitor the consultation responses for issues around section 75. Any that are identified will be taken into account, with proportionate mitigations, as appropriate, as the Framework is progressed to final Executive approval and publication.

Marital Status - If No, provide reasons

As this is a draft framework, there are no immediate opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity. Any specific future interventions will be subject to their own equality Impact assessment. However, food has the potential to make a positive contribution to many of today's significant societal challenges for example health and well-being and food poverty. DAERA actively seeks opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity and during this consultation will review any issues identified in light of responses to the consultation. The proposals in the consultation will be subject to a comprehensive and robust communications and promotions plan to ensure that all key stakeholders including the general public are encouraged to engage. DAERA will monitor the consultation responses for issues around section 75. Any that are identified will be taken into account, with proportionate mitigations, as appropriate, as the Framework is progressed to final Executive approval and publication.

Sexual Orientation - If No, provide reasons:

As this is a draft framework, there are no immediate opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity. Any specific future interventions will be subject to their own equality Impact assessment. However, food has the potential to make a positive contribution to many of today's significant societal challenges for example health and well-being and food poverty. DAERA actively seeks opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity and during this consultation will review any issues identified in light of responses to the consultation. The proposals in the consultation will be subject to a comprehensive and robust communications and promotions plan to ensure that all key stakeholders including the general public are encouraged to engage. DAERA will monitor the consultation responses for issues around section 75. Any that are identified will be taken into account, with proportionate mitigations, as appropriate, as the Framework is progressed to final Executive approval and publication.

Men and Women generally - If No, provide reasons:

As this is a draft framework, there are no immediate opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity. Any specific future interventions will be subject to their own equality Impact assessment. However, food has the potential to make a positive

contribution to many of today's significant societal challenges for example health and well-being and food poverty. DAERA actively seeks opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity and during this consultation will review any issues identified in light of responses to the consultation. The proposals in the consultation will be subject to a comprehensive and robust communications and promotions plan to ensure that all key stakeholders including the general public are encouraged to engage. DAERA will monitor the consultation responses for issues around section 75. Any that are identified will be taken into account, with proportionate mitigations, as appropriate, as the Framework is progressed to final Executive approval and publication.

Disability - If No, provide reasons:

As this is a draft framework, there are no immediate opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity. Any specific future interventions will be subject to their own equality Impact assessment. However, food has the potential to make a positive contribution to many of today's significant societal challenges for example health and well-being and food poverty. DAERA actively seeks opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity and during this consultation will review any issues identified in light of responses to the consultation. The proposals in the consultation will be subject to a comprehensive and robust communications and promotions plan to ensure that all key stakeholders including the general public are encouraged to engage. DAERA will monitor the consultation responses for issues around section 75. Any that are identified will be taken into account, with proportionate mitigations, as appropriate, as the Framework is progressed to final Executive approval and publication.

Dependants - If No, provide reasons:

As this is a draft framework, there are no immediate opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity. Any specific future interventions will be subject to their own equality Impact assessment. However, food has the potential to make a positive contribution to many of today's significant societal challenges for example health and well-being and food poverty. DAERA actively seeks opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity and during this consultation will review any issues identified in light of responses to the consultation. The proposals in the consultation will be subject to a comprehensive and robust communications and promotions plan to ensure that all key stakeholders including the general public are encouraged to engage. DAERA will monitor the consultation responses for issues around section 75. Any that are identified will be taken into account, with proportionate mitigations, as appropriate, as the Framework is progressed to final Executive approval and publication.

- 3. To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?**

Please provide details of the likely policy impact and determine the level of impact for each of the categories below i.e. either minor, major or none.

Details of the likely policy impacts on *Religious belief*:

There is no evidence available at this time to suggest it will benefit one group more than another group. Should any opportunities present themselves as a result of the proposed public consultation, they will be considered. The proposals in the consultation will be subject to a comprehensive and robust communications and promotions plan to ensure that all key stakeholders and the general public are encouraged to engage.

What is the level of impact? None

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

There is no evidence available at this time to suggest it will benefit one group more than another group. Should any opportunities present themselves as a result of the proposed public consultation, they will be considered. The proposals in the consultation will be subject to a comprehensive and robust communications and promotions plan to ensure that all key stakeholders and the general public are encouraged to engage

What is the level of impact? None

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

There is no evidence available at this time to suggest it will benefit one group more than another group. Should any opportunities present themselves as a result of the proposed public consultation, they will be considered. The proposals in the consultation will be subject to a comprehensive and robust communications and promotions plan to ensure that all key stakeholders and the general public 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 No, provide reasons:

As this is a draft framework, there are no immediate opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious beliefs, political opinion or racial group. Any specific future interventions will be subject to their own equality Impact assessment. However, food has the potential to make a positive contribution to many of today's significant societal challenges for example health and well-being and food poverty.

Political Opinion - If No, provide reasons

As this is a draft framework, there are no immediate opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious beliefs, political opinion or racial group. Any specific future interventions will be subject to their own equality Impact assessment. However, food has the potential to make a positive contribution to many of today's significant societal challenges for example health and well-being and food poverty

Racial Group - If No, provide reasons

As this is a draft framework, there are no immediate opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious beliefs, political opinion or racial group. Any specific future interventions will be subject to their own equality Impact assessment. However, food has the potential to make a positive contribution to many of today's significant societal challenges for example health and well-being and food poverty

Additional considerations

Multiple identity

Generally speaking, people can fall into more than one Section 75 category. Taking this into consideration, are there any potential impacts of the policy/decision on people with multiple identities? If so, please detail below.

(For example; disabled minority ethnic people; disabled women; young Protestant men; and young lesbians, gay and bisexual people).

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

There is no evidence at this time that there will be any potential impacts of the policy on people with multiple identities. However, the policy is subject to public consultation and should any issues be raised they will be considered.

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?

As this is a draft framework, there are no immediate opportunities to better promote positive attitudes towards disabled people. Any specific future interventions will be subject to their own equality Impact assessment. However, food has the potential to make a positive contribution to many of today's significant societal challenges for example health and well-being and food poverty.

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

As this is a draft framework, there are no immediate opportunities to increase the participation by disabled people. Any specific future interventions will be subject to their own equality Impact assessment. However, food has the potential to make a positive contribution to many of today's significant societal challenges for example health and well-being and food poverty.

Part 3. Screening decision (Please delete as appropriate)

1. “Screened out” without mitigation

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

At this time, the department do not anticipate that the draft Food Strategy Framework will impact on any particular group of persons other than in one minor way. The public consultation will give opportunity for views to be gathered and considered. The NI Food Strategy Framework has the potential to positively impact all people from all walks of life in Northern Ireland and it is unlikely to have any negative impact upon anyone within any S75 category.

If the decision is not to conduct an equality impact assessment the public authority should consider if the policy should be mitigated or an alternative policy be introduced - please provide details.

N/a

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

N/a

All public authorities' equality schemes must state the authority's arrangements for assessing and consulting on the likely impact of policies adopted or proposed to be adopted by the authority on the promotion of equality of opportunity. The Commission recommends screening and equality impact assessment as the tools to be utilised for such assessments. Further advice on equality impact assessment may be found in a separate Commission publication: [A Practical Guide to Equality Impact Assessment](#)

Mitigation

When the public authority concludes that the likely impact is 'minor' and an equality impact assessment is not to be conducted, the public authority may consider mitigation to lessen the severity of any equality impact, or the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity or good relations.

Can the policy/decision be amended or changed or an alternative policy introduced to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations? Yes / No (delete as appropriate)

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

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	
Social need	
Effect on people’s daily lives	
Relevance to a public authority’s functions	
Total score	1

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: Any data captured from the public consultation will be considered. Any new programmes delivered under the Framework will be subject to S75 data monitoring

Good Relations: Any data captured from the public consultation will be considered. Any new programmes emerging from the Framework will be subject to S75 data monitoring

Disability Duties: Any data captured from the public consultation will be considered. Any new programmes emerging from the Framework will be subject to S75 data monitoring

Part 5. Consideration of Human Rights

6. The Human Rights Act (HRA) 1998 brings the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) into UK law and it applies in N Ireland. Indicate below by deleting Yes/No as appropriate, any potential adverse impacts that the policy or decision may have in relation to human rights issues.

See Annex A for brief synopsis on each of the Human Rights Articles & Protocols

Right to Life	Article 2	No
Prohibition of torture, inhuman or degrading treatment	Article 3	No
Prohibition of slavery and forced labour	Article 4	No
Right to liberty and security	Article 5	No
Right to a fair and public trial	Article 6	No
Right to no punishment without law	Article 7	No
Right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence	Article 8	No
Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion	Article 9	No
Right to freedom of expression	Article 10	No

Right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association	Article 11	No
Right to marry and to found a family	Article 12	No
The prohibition of discrimination	Article 14	No
Protection of property and enjoyment of possessions	Protocol 1 Article 1	No
Right to education	Protocol 1 Article 2	No
Right to free and secret elections	Protocol 1 Article 3	No

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

No adverse impact on human rights have been identified

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

The Food Strategy Framework proposes as a principle the “right to food - everyone in society has the right to adequate, available and accessible, safe and nutritious food”. This principle may offer an opportunity to 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: Louise Brady

Grade: SO

Branch: Future Food Policy

Date: 31August 2021

Signature: please insert a scanned image of your signature

Louise Brady

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

Name: Norman Fulton

Grade: 3

Branch: Food and Farming Gp

Date: 21/9/21

Signature: please insert a scanned image of your signature

Norman Fulton

Note: A copy of the Screening Template, for each policy screened should be ‘signed off’ and approved by a senior manager responsible for the policy, made

easily accessible on the public authority's website as soon as possible following completion and made available on request.

Please save the final signed version of the completed screening form in the CM container (AE2-19-11940) below as soon as possible after completion and forward the CM link to Equality Branch at equality@daera-ni.gov.uk. The screening template must be saved to the container in **HTML format** (not PDF) in order to comply with accessibility requirements. The screening form will be placed on the DAERA website and a link provided to the Department's Section 75 consultees.



Strategic
Management DAERA

For more information about equality screening, contact –

DAERA Equality Unit
Equality, Diversity & Public Appointments Branch
Ballykelly House
111 Ballykelly Road
LIMAVADY
BT49 9HP

Email: equality@daera-ni.gov.uk

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



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