

10 Key Questions to ask before commencing a Section 1 Activity

1. Is the activity which my organisation is going to engage in subject to **Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016**?
2. Have I read the publication **A Guide to the Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) for Public Authorities (Revised)**?
3. Do I understand what the **due regard duty** is?
4. Do I understand the 6 step **Rural Needs Impact Assessment** process?
5. Have I obtained a copy of the **Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) Template**?
6. Am I aware of the need to undertake a proportional **Rural Needs Impact Assessment** *and* to document each step of the process on the **RNIA Template** in order to help provide evidence that the due regard duty has been complied with?
7. Have I consulted **DAERA's Rural Needs website** to determine what help and support is available to me?
8. Do I know that advice is available from DAERA's **Sustainable Rural Communities Branch**, my organisation's **Rural Needs Co-Ordinator** and the **Rural Community Network**?
9. Have I completed Section 1 of the **RNIA Template**?
10. Have I considered which of the methods and information sources set out in Section 3 of the **RNIA Template** I will need to utilise in order to understand the social and economic needs of people in rural areas which are relevant to the Section 1 Activity?

*You should seek to ensure that you are able to answer **YES** to all 10 questions before commencing a Section 1 Activity*

Section 1 Activity means the development, adoption, implementation or revision of a policy, strategy or plan, or the design or delivery of a public service