

DRD SECTION 75 EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY SCREENING ANALYSIS FORM 2005

Section 1

Introduction

This form is intended to help you to consider whether a new policy (either internal or external) or legislation will require a full equality impact assessment (EQIA). Those policies identified as having significant implications for equality of opportunity must be subject to full EQIA.

The form will provide a record of the factors taken into account if a policy is screened out, or excluded for EQIA. It will provide a basis for consultation on the outcome of the screening exercise and will be referenced in the quarterly review of progress made to the Minister and in the Annual Report to the Equality Commission. Copies of completed forms should be retained on file within business areas and reference should be made to the outcome of the screening exercise and subsequent consultation in any submission made to the Minister.

Background

The Legal Background

Under section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the Department is required to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity:

- between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
- between men and women generally;
- between persons with a disability and persons without; and
- between persons with dependants and persons without.

The main groups within each of the nine categories, highlighted above, are identified at Appendix 1.

In addition, without prejudice to its obligations above, the Department is also required, in carrying out its functions relating to Northern Ireland, to have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious beliefs, political opinion or racial group.

Advice on Completion of the Screening Form

It is important that the screening form is completed carefully and thoughtfully. Your Divisional or Agency Equality Officer and the Department's Equality Unit in room 413A will be happy to assist with all aspects of the screening process and will help with the completion of the form, if required.

Further advice on the screening process can be accessed at Section 4 of the Equality Commission's Guide to the Statutory Duties.

Policies included for EQIA

If, after screening, it is decided that a policy will require a full EQIA, a decision will be required on the priority and timing of the assessment. The screening form should be noted accordingly, signed off and copied to the Equality Unit for inclusion in the EQIA programme.

Policies excluded for EQIA

If a decision is taken to screen out the policy or where there is ambiguity about the equality implication of the proposal, the screening form should be signed off by a senior officer responsible for the policy and a copy sent to the Equality Unit to arrange for consultation. Copies of all screening out forms will be placed on the Department's consultation website.

Section 2 – Policy to be Screened

Definition of Policy

There have been some difficulties in defining what constitutes a policy in the context of Section 75. To be on the safe side it is recommended that you consider changes to or any new initiatives, proposals, schemes or programmes as policies. The policies covered in the Equality Scheme EQIA programme are a reasonable guide both to the nature of external departmental policies and the level at which they should be considered.

The revised Guidance from The Equality Commission emphasises that the Statutory duties apply to internal policies (relating to people who work for the organisation) as well as external policies (relating to those who are, or could be, served by the organisations).

It is important to remember that even if a full EQIA has been carried out in respect of an “overarching” policy or strategy, it will still be necessary for the policy maker to consider if a further EQIA needs to be carried out in respect of those policies cascading from the overarching strategy.

OFMDFM Guidance on Legislative Procedures (Primary and Subordinate) sets out clearly the stages at which equality of opportunity considerations should be taken into consideration in the development of legislation.

Overview of Policy Proposals

The aims and objectives of the policy must be clear and well defined. You must take into account any available data of evidence that will enable you to come to a decision on whether or not a policy may or may not have a differential impact on any of the S75 categories. Evidence may be qualitative and or quantitative and may include research or internal information and or experience in relation to service and customer monitoring exercises. Where appropriate, arrangements should be made to obtain any data necessary to assist screening.

2.1 Please insert below a brief description of the policy/legislation, including the title and all the main aims and objectives

Title	'Expanding the Strategic Road Improvement Programme' (SRI)
Aims	<p>The proposed Expanded SRI programme, like the RSTN TP, is based on the guidance set out in the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) and the Regional Transportation Strategy (RTS). This programme of road improvements seeks to expand on the Regional Strategic Transport Plan 2015 (RSTN TP), which was published in June 2005.</p> <p>The objectives of this policy are the same as that defined by the RSTN TP :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To support the Spatial Development Strategy in the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) based on hubs, corridors and gateways;• To develop and maintain the RSTN to enhance accessibility on an integrated basis for all users, including freight;• To examine access to regional gateways and cross border links with an emphasis on improving connections from the 5 key transport and 4 link corridors;• To identify a set of targets, performance indicators and other outputs that can be used to measure progress against strategic objectives; and• To provide input into local development plans prepared by DoE Planning Service.

It is essential that all the aims/objectives of the policy be clearly and fully defined.

2.2 On whom will the policies/legislation impact? Please specify

All road users in Northern Ireland and the general public who may be affected by road proposals.

Precise details are not known on individual scheme routes at this stage.

2.3 Who is responsible for (a) devising and (b) delivering the policy, eg is it DRD, a Whitehall Department or EU? What is the relationship and have they considered this issue and any equality issues?

(a) Department for Regional Development, Roads Service and Network Development Branch (NDB).

2.4 What linkages are there to other NI Departments/NDPBs in relation to this policy/legislation?

There are linkages to other departments, particularly DOE in terms of Environment and Planning.

These linkages will be dealt with at scheme development stage.

2.5 What data are available to facilitate the screening of this policy/legislation?

The data used for the RTS and the RSTN TP has assisted in the screening process for this policy. The draft consultation document seeks to build on the existing RSTN TP. The RSTN TP and its associated Equality Impact Assessment were published just over a year ago and are up-to date reference documents in terms of data.

2.6 Is additional data required to facilitate screening? If so, give details of how and when it will be obtained.

No additional data required.

See Appendix 4 of the Equality Commission Practical Guidance on EQIA which provides a list of Sources of S75 data or speak to Central Statistics Research Branch, (Stephanie Harcourt ext 40878) or DRD Equality Unit (Liz Stewart, ext 40867, or Ciaran Crosbie ext 40850).

Section 3 – Screening Analysis

In cases where there is no available quantitative evidence, you will need to take a pragmatic, common sense judgement as to whether the policy/legislation you are screening may have a particular/differential impact on any of the groups. Discussions with Equality Unit, Statistics Branch and organisations representing the Section 75 Groups will be important and helpful at this stage in obtaining qualitative evidence of impacts. Every effort should be made to ensure that assessments are evidence based.

The following criteria must be considered when screening.

3.1 Is there any evidence of higher or lower participation or uptake by the following Section 75 groups?

	Yes	No
Religious belief		✓
Political opinion		✓
Racial group		✓
Age		✓
Marital status		✓
Sexual orientation		✓
Men and Women generally		✓
Disability		✓
Dependency		✓

Please give details

This programme seeks to expand on the existing RSTN TP. The SRI Programme will be to the benefit of all groups, as described in the EQIA carried out for the RSTN TP (section 9.3. in that document refers and can be accessed at www.drdni.gov.uk)

3.2 Is there evidence that any of the following Section 75 groups have different needs, experiences, issues and priorities in relation to this policy issue?

	Yes	No
Religious belief		✓
Political opinion		✓
Racial group		✓
Age		✓
Marital status		✓
Sexual orientation		✓
Men and Women generally		✓

Disability		✓
Dependency		✓

Please give details

All groups will benefit directly and/or indirectly from improvements to the transport infrastructure in their area/region.

- 3.3 Have consultations with the relevant representative organisations or individuals within any of the Section 75 categories, indicated that policies of this type create problems specific to them?**

	Yes	No
Religious belief		✓
Political opinion		✓
Racial group		✓
Age		✓
Marital status		✓
Sexual orientation		✓
Men and Women generally		✓
Disability		✓
Dependants		✓

Please give details of any consultations carried out, and any problems identified.

Extensive consultations were undertaken as part of the RTS and RSTN TP process. There were a limited number of responses (13 in total) to the latter. No significant impacts were identified on any Section 75 group.

The EQIA for the RSTN TP did indicate there may be potential for differential impact on religious belief or political opinion, as the schemes are location specific. However, it is anticipated the SRI Programme will address this concern as there is a balance of schemes across Northern Ireland.

- 3.4 Is there an opportunity to better promote equality of opportunity or community relations by altering the policy, or by working with others, in Government, or in the larger community in the context of this policy?**

Yes

No ✓

Please give details

The SRI Programme promotes equality of opportunity for all road users across Northern Ireland as a region.

- 3.5 It may be that a policy/legislation has a differential impact on a certain Section 75 group, as the policy has been developed to address an existing or historical inequality or disadvantage. If this is the case, please give details below:**

No, schemes have been appraised in accordance with the governments 5 key criteria; safety, environment, economy, accessibility and integration. They have been chosen on the basis of improving the travel conditions for all road users across Northern Ireland.

- 3.6 Please consider if there is any way of adapting the policy to promote better equality of opportunity or good relations.**

Please give details

This programme of improvements promotes improved access and will benefit all road users.

Section 4

EQIA Recommendation

You should consider carefully in this section whether full EQIA is necessary, particularly where answers to any questions in Section 3 are affirmative.

- 4.1 Full EQIA procedures should be carried out on policies considered to have significant implications for equality of opportunity. Please fill in the following grid in relation to the policy/legislation.

Prioritisation Factors	Significant Impact	Moderate Impact	Low Impact
Social Need.			✓
Effect on people's daily lives.			✓
Effect on economic, social and human rights.			✓
Strategic significance		✓	
Financial significance		✓	

Please give details

Moderate impact is likely on transport movements on our key strategic corridors and our economic generation.

- 4.2 In view of the considerations in Section 3 and 4 do you consider that this policy/legislation should be subject to a full EQIA? Please give reasons for your considerations. If you are unsure, please consult with affected groups and revisit the screening analysis accordingly. Yes/No/Unsure

No.

An extensive EQIA was carried out for the RSTN TP in June last year. This confirmed that there was no significant impact on any Section 75 group. This policy builds on the schemes that were included in this plan.

The EQIA carried out on both the RDS , RTS and the RSTN TP has helped inform this screening process.

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- 4.3 If an EQIA is considered necessary please comment on the priority and timing in light of the factors in table 4.1.**

N/A

- 4.4 If an EQIA is considered necessary is any data required to carry it out/ensure effective monitoring?**

Please give details


N/A

Section 5

Endorsement

I can confirm that the proposed policy has been screened for equality of opportunity and good relations implications and has been screened out for equality impact assessment/requires a full equality impact assessment.

Signed:



Agency/Division:

ROADS SERVICE

Date:

19.7.06

Section 6

Consultation – For Completion by Equality Unit

Date

Screening result recorded:

19/7/06

Placed on website:

31/7/06

Issued for consultation:

31/7/06

Outcome of consultation:

Screening out completed:

31/7/06

Screening to be reconsidered:

Give reasons:

Agency/Division notified date:

19/7/06

PLEASE FORWARD A COPY OF THE COMPLETED FORM TO:

**DRD EQUALITY UNIT
ROOM 413A
CLARENCE COURT
10-18 ADELAIDE STREET
BELFAST
BT2 8GB**

**QUERIES TO: LIZ STEWART EXT 40867 Liz.Stewart@drdni.gov.uk
 CIARAN CROSBIE EXT 40824 Ciaran.Crosbie@drdni.gov.uk**

Main Groups Relevant to the Section 75 Categories	
<u>Category</u>	<u>Main Groups</u>
Religious belief	Protestants; Catholics; people of non-Christian faiths; people of no religious belief
Political opinion	Unionists generally; Nationalists generally; members/supporters of any political party
Racial Group	White people; Chinese; Irish Travellers; Indians; Pakistanis; Bangladeshis; Black Africans; Black Caribbean people; people with mixed ethnic group
"Men and women generally"	Men (including boys); women (including girls); trans-gendered people
Marital status	Married people; unmarried people; divorced or separated people; widowed people
Age	For most purposes, the main categories are: children under 18, people aged between 18-65, and people over 65. However, the definition of age groups will need to be sensitive to the policy under consideration
"Persons with a disability"	Disability is defined as: A physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities as defined in Sections 1 and 2 and Schedules 1 and 2 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995
"Persons with dependants"	Persons with personal responsibility for the care of a child; persons with personal responsibility for the care of a person with an incapacitating disability; persons with personal responsibility for the care of a dependant elderly person
Sexual orientation	Heterosexuals; bi-sexuals; gays; lesbians