

Invest NI Section 75 Screening

Summary of Policy Proforma Invest NI

TITLE: BioBusinessNI Ltd – core operating costs support

Invest NI is committed to achieving a successful economy in Northern Ireland which will provide equal opportunities for all. It is fully mindful of its responsibilities across the spectrum of Equality, Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion Strategy and Human Rights.

Section 75 of the NI Act 1998 requires Invest NI, in carrying out all its functions, powers and duties, relating to Northern Ireland, 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
 - to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people,
 - to encourage participation by disabled people in public life; and
- between persons with dependents and persons without.

What does this policy/programme aim to achieve for the customer? (who does it mainly affect)?	BioBusinessNI Ltd (BioBusinessNI) is an industry member-based body which represents, supports and enhances the competitiveness of businesses within the Life Sciences sector in Northern Ireland.
What does this policy/programme aim to achieve for Invest NI? (provide the main objectives).	<p>The SFA support provided by Invest NI is aimed at assisting Life Sciences businesses in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Invest NI's Corporate Plan 2008-2011 states that, inter alia, Invest NI seeks to:</p> <p>Shift the Sectoral Focus towards higher value-added activities — through FDI in target sectors such as financial services and ICT. Life Sciences is included in the sectors designated as identified for Sectoral Focus.</p> <p>Frontier Technologies — build upon specialist strengths in the private and public research bases to create, attract and sustain high-value companies. Biotechnology is included as a Frontier Technology.</p>

	<p>Therefore it is evident that support for BioBusinessNI fits well with Invest NI's goals and strategy.</p> <p>Invest NI also commits to strengthening existing target sectors through company interventions that increase innovation, by proactively supporting, amongst other activities, industry associations where effective.</p>
Where did the policy/programme originate? (ie is this solely an Invest NI programme or are we working in partnership with any other department/ organisation ?)	BioBusinessNI was established in 2004, with Invest NI providing core support at that time. Invest NI monitors BioBusinessNI on annual targets over each period of funding. On the basis that evaluations of prior funding have been positive and the economic appraisal of new funding proposals are positive, then Invest NI continues to recommend core funding for BioBusinessNI. BioBusinessNI has received funding from other organisations e.g. InterTradeIreland however that would relate to separate activities from those funded by Invest NI.
How is this policy /programme delivered or implemented?(ie by delivery agents, client executives, senior management, other agencies?)	BioBusinessNI has a number of staff — all working on a subcontract basis to BioBusinessNI — and the BioBusinessNI subcontractors are responsible for activities/target achievement required by Invest NI.
What are the constraints on this policy/programme? (budgetary, legislative, EU directives etc).	Any casework for support from Invest NI must be approved at an appropriate delegation level within Invest NI and the amount of support is justified on the basis of targeted outcomes.
How does Invest NI monitor the delivery of this policy/programme?	BioBusinessNI completes a quarterly report on activities/targets achieved and a Life Sciences Client Manager is responsible for reviewing the report and meeting with BioBusinessNI on a quarterly basis. Invest NI also undertakes post evaluation reports in relation to each programme of funding.
What other feedback, research, consultation or additional information is available to assess and screen the impact of this policy/programme?	As stated above, Invest NI completes evaluations in relation to each programme of funding. The most recent report related to the period 01.08.07 - 31.07.09 and the final report was received 28.07.09.
Are any groups specifically targeted through this policy/programme?	No

Equality Evidence Matrix

1. Is there any evidence of higher or lower participation or uptake by different groups?

	Yes (please specify)	No	Not known
Religious belief		X	
Political opinion		X	
Racial group		X	
Age		X	
Marital status		X	
Sexual orientation		X	
Gender		X	
Disability		X	
Dependency		X	

Please Comment:

We do not believe that there is any likelihood of higher or lower participation from different groups as BioBusiness supports all businesses within the Life Sciences sector.

2. Is there evidence or indications that different groups have different needs, experiences, issues and priorities in relation to this policy issue?

	Yes (please specify)	No	Not known
Religious belief		X	
Political opinion		X	
Racial group		X	
Age		X	
Marital status		X	
Sexual orientation		X	
Gender		X	
Disability		X	
Dependency		X	

Please Comment:

There is no evidence of any different needs from those business availing of this support.

3. Have consultations/research with relevant groups, organisations or individuals indicated that policies of this type create problems that are specific to them? (The user engagement guide and protocol provide useful support.)

	Yes (please specify)	No
Religious belief		X
Political opinion		X
Racial group		X
Age		X
Marital status		X
Sexual orientation		X
Gender		X
Disability	X	
Dependency		X

Please Comment:

As events are held at a variety of geographical areas and at a variety of times action has been taken to meet the needs of different groups. Event venues also ensure that they are accessible and that we can supply brochures etc in alternative formats on request.

a) List the organizations/groups/individuals both internal and external, that you contacted during the development of the policy

The consultants completing the evaluation (completed 28.07.09) undertook 34 interviews with BioBusinessNI members (total membership 50). The evaluation consultants also interviewed 5 non member businesses and 3 strategic partners (e.g. University of Ulster). Benchmarking took place by 3 interviews with other trade association bodies. Finally the evaluation consultants also interviewed 6 of the 11 BioBusiness Board members.

b) Specify how comments were incorporated into the final draft policy

We are not aware of any S75 issues in the final draft policy and are working to find an effective means to monitor uptake of the support in future.

c) If ideas from groups weren't included please indicate why not

Please see above

4. In relation to implementing this policy, is there an opportunity to better promote equality of opportunity or good relations by altering the policy or by working with others in Government or in the larger community?

Yes

No

If Yes, please comment:

5. Have you identified opportunities to:

a) promote positive attitudes towards disabled people;

b) encourage participation by disabled people in public life?

Please Specify:

We ensure that events are held in accessible locations and that our literature is available in alternative formats.

6. Monitoring Information: What data will be required to ensure effective monitoring of the policy following implementation?

We will continue to work towards including this type of support in our overall Equality Monitoring reporting system.

7. Have you any other comments on the policy and/or screening exercise?

No

Summary of Screening

Section 75 Category	Is there any evidence of potential under-representation of any Section 75 groups in this policy/programme?	Is there any evidence that people from any S75 groups have any issues / difficulties /problems with this policy/programme?	In your assessment is any further additional action required to address any under representation or problems associated with this policy/programme?	If yes, is an Equality Impact Assessment required to further assess the impact of the policy/programme on this group? Give reasons for your answer
Religion	NO	NO	NO	
Political Opinion	NO	NO	NO	
Age	NO	NO	NO	
Gender	NO	NO	NO	
Disability	NO	YES	NO	
Sexual Orientation	NO	NO	NO	
Dependants	NO	NO	NO	
Marital Status	NO	NO	NO	
Racial Group	NO	NO	NO	

Human Rights Impact Assessment

Articles as identified by European Convention of Human Rights.

- Article 2 - Right to life
- Article 3 - Prohibition of torture, inhuman or degrading treatment
- Article 4 - Prohibition of slavery and forced labour
- Article 5 - Right to liberty and security
- Article 6 - Right to fair and public trial
- Article 7 - Right to no punishment with law
- Article 8 - Right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence
- Article 9 - Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion
- Article 10 - Right to freedom of expression
- Article 11 - Rights to freedom of assembly and association
- Article 12 – Right to marry and to found a family
- Article 14 – The prohibition of discrimination
- Protocol 1 Article 1 – Protection of Property
- Protocol 1 Article 2 - Right to education

Definitions of degree of risk of infringement of each article:

High risk – It is foreseeable that this policy is very likely to breach this Article.

Medium risk – This policy is likely, in certain circumstances, to breach this Article.

Low risk – It is possible, though very unlikely, that this policy will breach this Article.

1. Indicate any potential Human Rights implications associated with this policy, the perceived degree of risk (see above) and who the victim may be.

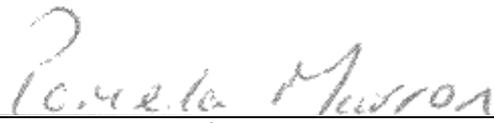
	Has this policy the potential to infringe the rights (Please Tick)		If yes indicate here the degree of risk – High, Medium or Low (See definitions above)	If yes indicate here who the potential victim(s) would be
	Yes	No		
Article 2		X		
Article 3		X		
Article 5		X		
Article 6		X		
Article 8		X		
Article 9		X		
Article 10		X		
Article 11		X		
Article 12		X		
Article 14*		X		
Article 1 of Protocol 1		X		
Article 2 of Protocol 1		X		

Finally are there any other ways in which Invest NI might be able to improve this policy/programme area in terms of improving the equality of opportunity? (ie conducting any further consultations, gathering monitoring data, liaising with other departments or organisations etc.)

We will investigate how best to monitor this type of support within the Equality Monitoring framework.

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Summary of Decision

Name(s) of Screening Personnel:	Pamela Marron
Role:	Equality Manager
Decision to Conduct Equality Impact Assessment: YES / NO:	No
Date:	15/09/2009
Signed: (Screening Personnel):	
Approved: (Director):	