Section 75 Policy Screening Form

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

Transform Customer Base Project

Is this an existing, revised or a new policy?

- Revisions to existing structures and how Invest NI interacts with the NI business base

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

- Bring clarity to service offering through streamlined and simplified services;

- Improve performance and impact of our interactions

Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy?
If so, explain how.

- Neutral – This policy is being developed mindful of the wider NI business community.

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

- Carol Keery/ Ian Murphy, the Transform Customer Base Working Group & Transform Steering Group

> Who owns and who implements the policy?
>
> - Invest NI's Top Management Team through the Transform Programme and its Project Board and Owners and Board.

Implementation factors

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

Yes: Other service providers in the arena of economic development e.g. district councils.

If yes, are they

■ Financial :
   Availability of EU funding/ Council rates/ other sources of funding outside Invest NI control

■ Legislative :
   District Council legislative powers

■ other, please specify :
   Outcome of Review of Public Administration

Main stakeholders affected

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

■ Staff

■ service users:
Refers to existing Invest NI client base

■ other :
Public sector organisations

■ voluntary/community/trade unions

■ other, please specify:
Wider NI business base, which Invest NI is not currently engaging with.

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

• what are they?

Any policy which seeks to promote economic development within Northern Ireland (e.g. entrepreneurship/ innovation/ PSAs/ etc).

• who owns them?

Government Bodies

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.

What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories.

Section 75 category	Details of evidence/information
Religious belief	This policy has been informed by accumulated evidence from the existing customer base, including previous EQIA's on AES, BDS, the Corporate Plan and the draft Communications and Access EQIA.
Political opinion	This policy has been informed by accumulated evidence from the existing customer base, including previous EQIA's on AES, BDS, the Corporate Plan and the draft Communications and Access EQIA.
Racial group	This policy has been informed by accumulated evidence from the existing customer base, including previous EQIA's on AES, BDS, the Corporate Plan and the draft Communications and Access EQIA.
Age	This policy has been informed by accumulated evidence from the existing customer base, including previous EQIA's on AES, BDS, the Corporate Plan and the draft Communications and Access EQIA.
Marital status	This policy has been informed by accumulated evidence from the existing customer base, including previous EQIA's on AES, BDS, the Corporate Plan and the draft Communications and Access EQIA.
Sexual orientation	This policy has been informed by accumulated evidence from the existing customer base, including previous EQIA's on AES, BDS, the Corporate Plan

	and the draft Communications and Access EQIA.
Men and women generally	This policy has been informed by accumulated evidence from the existing customer base, including previous EQIA's on AES, BDS, the Corporate Plan and the draft Communications and Access EQIA.
Disability	This policy has been informed by accumulated evidence from the existing customer base, including previous EQIA's on AES, BDS, the Corporate Plan and the draft Communications and Access EQIA.
Dependants	This policy has been informed by accumulated evidence from the existing customer base, including previous EQIA's on AES, BDS, the Corporate Plan and the draft Communications and Access EQIA.

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 for each of the Section 75 categories

Section 75 category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
Religious belief	No specific needs identified. Flexibility to accommodate individual circumstances.
Political opinion	No specific needs identified. Flexibility to accommodate individual circumstances.
Racial group	No specific needs identified. Flexibility to accommodate individual circumstances.
Age	Access/ familiarity with technology.
Marital status	No specific needs identified. Flexibility to accommodate individual circumstances.

Sexual orientation	**No specific needs identified. Flexibility to accommodate individual circumstances.**
Men and women generally	**No specific needs identified. Flexibility to accommodate individual circumstances.**
Disability	**Flexibility to accommodate individual circumstances and accessibility.**
Dependants	**No specific needs identified. Flexibility to accommodate individual circumstances.**

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 which are given on pages 66-68 of this Guide.

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? minor/major/none		
Section 75 category	**Details of policy impact**	**Level of impact? minor/major/none**
Religious belief	The policy will accommodate all issues arising geographical dispersal and location	Minor
Political opinion	The policy will accommodate all issues arising geographical dispersal and location	Minor
Racial group	The policy will accommodate all language considerations for sections of the community where English is not the first language	Minor
Age	Familiarity and access to technology and digital channels of communication.	Minor
Marital status	The policy will accommodate all requirements for flexible working hours and flexible access.	None
Sexual orientation	The policy will accommodate all requirements for staff training to ensure the highest quality of service.	None
Men and women generally	The policy will accommodate all requirements for flexible working hours and flexible access.	None
Disability	The policy will meet all DDA legislative requirements and obligations, as well as	Minor

	accommodate all issues arising geographic dispersal and location.	
Dependants	The policy will accommodate all requirements for flexible working hours and flexible access.	None

2 Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories?		
Section 75 category	If **Yes**, provide details	If **No**, provide reasons
Religious belief		No. At this stage of implementation there is no indication that the policy can have an effect on promoting equality of opportunity
Political opinion		No. At this stage of implementation there is no indication that the policy can have an effect on promoting equality of opportunity
Racial group		No. At this stage of implementation there is no indication that the policy can have an effect on promoting equality of opportunity
Age		No. At this stage of implementation there is no indication that the policy can have an effect on promoting equality of opportunity

Marital status		No. At this stage of implementation there is no indication that the policy can have an effect on promoting equality of opportunity
Sexual orientation		No. At this stage of implementation there is no indication that the policy can have an effect on promoting equality of opportunity
Men and women generally		No. At this stage of implementation there is no indication that the policy can have an effect on promoting equality of opportunity
Disability		No. At this stage of implementation there is no indication that the policy can have an effect on promoting equality of opportunity
Dependants		No. At this stage of implementation there is no indication that the policy can have an effect on promoting equality of opportunity

3 To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group? minor/major/none		
Good relations category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact minor/major/none
Religious belief	No impact	None
Political opinion	No impact	None
Racial group	No impact	None

4 Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?		
Good relations category	If **Yes**, provide details	If **No**, provide reasons
Religious belief	No impact	At this stage of implementation there is no indication that the policy can have an effect on promoting good relations, over and above the Good Relations Action Plan.
Political opinion	No impact	At this stage of implementation there is no indication that the policy can have an effect on promoting good relations, over and above the Good Relations

		Action Plan.
Racial group	No impact	At this stage of implementation there is no indication that the policy can have an effect on promoting good relations, over and above the Good Relations Action Plan.

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

No data

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

No data

Part 3. Screening decision

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

As the programme continues to evolve Section 75 principles will continue to inform policy development. At any stage where significant adverse impact is identified then consideration will be given to EQIA.

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.

Section 75 will continue to inform the emerging strategy.

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

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: Practical Guidance on 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?

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

As the Transform Programme continues to develop so Section 75 principles will inform the emerging policy and associated procedures. Where potential adverse effect is identified then further screening may be carried out as appropriate.

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	

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

Public authorities should consider the guidance contained in the Commission's Monitoring Guidance for Use by Public Authorities (July 2007).

The Commission recommends that where the policy has been amended or an alternative policy introduced, the public authority should monitor more broadly than for adverse impact (See Benefits, P.9-10, paras 2.13 – 2.20 of the Monitoring Guidance).

Effective monitoring will help the public authority identify any future adverse impact arising from the policy which may lead the public authority to conduct an equality impact assessment, as well as help with future planning and policy development.

Part 5 - Approval and authorisation

Screened by:	Position/Job Title	Date
Pamela Watson	*Equality Manager*	22·7·10
Approved by:		
Carol Keery	*Director IRTD*	19·7·10

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.