

## DoF Screening template

### Section 1. Policy scoping

DoF has a statutory duty to screen. This includes our strategies and plans, policies, legislative developments; and new ways of working such as – the introduction, change or end of an existing service, procedure, policy etc. This screening template is designed to help business areas consider the likely equality and human rights impacts of their proposed decisions on different groups of customers, service users, staff and visitors.

Detailed information about the Section 75 equality duties and what they mean in practice is available on the Equality Commission's website. <http://www.equalityni.org/archive/pdf/S75GuideforPublicAuthoritiesApril2010.pdf>

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 DoF website as soon as possible following completion and made available in alternative formats on request.

All Section 75 consultees should be advised of the screening exercise once the final policy decision has been taken. A list of consultees is available on the DoF website <https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dfp/Equality%20consultee%20%20list.pdf>

This policy has been screened by

Name	Brian Green
Grade	Grade 6, Senior Principal Statistician
Branch	Demographic Statistics Branch
Date	17 January 2017

And approved by

Name	Tracy Power (Dr)
Grade	Grade 5, Director of Analysis
Directorate	NISRA
Date	19 January 2017

The screening template has 4 sections to complete. These are:

**Section A** - asks you to provide details about the policy / decision that is being screened.

**Section B** - has 4 key questions that require you to outline the likely impacts on equality groups, and all supporting evidence.

**Section C** - has 4 key questions in relation to obligations under the Disability Discrimination Order and the Human Rights Act.

**Section D** - is the formal record of the screening decision.

## **SECTION A - Information about the policy**

Is this a new or revised policy?

Revised – update of NIMDM 2010

a) Name of the policy

Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017

## b) Brief Description of the policy

Measures that describe the spatial distribution of deprivation have been developed and used in Northern Ireland since the 1970s. The most recent and current measures (which were released in 2010 and were largely based on data relating to 2008) were developed in-house by NISRA using the methodology deployed in NIMDM 2005 work, which was led by Professor Mike Noble from the Social Disadvantage Research Centre at the University of Oxford.

The current measures of spatial deprivation in Northern Ireland (NIMDM 2010) utilise a total of 30 indicators to provide information on seven types or 'domains' of deprivation, along with an overall measure of multiple deprivation based on a weighted combination of these seven domains. The domains and their associated weights in the overall NIMDM are detailed below:

- Income Deprivation Domain (25 per cent)
- Employment Deprivation Domain (25 per cent)
- Health Deprivation and Disability Domain (15 per cent)
- Education, Skills and Training Deprivation Domain (15 per cent)
- Proximity to Services Domain (10 per cent)
- Living Environment Domain (5 per cent)
- Crime and Disorder Domain (5 per cent)

These domains are largely unchanged from those used in the two previous measures of spatial deprivation in Northern Ireland (i.e. NIMDM 2001 and NIMDM 2005)<sup>1</sup>. The associated weights, which were subject to consultation and subsequently endorsed by the NI Executive, have not changed since NIMDM 2001 and were driven by theoretical considerations as well as the robustness of available data at that time.

NIMDM 2010 comprises statistics which provide a deprivation ranking for small areas in Northern Ireland. The areas are ranked relative to one another from the most deprived to the least deprived. NISRA has been commissioned by the Statistics Co-ordinating Group of the NICS to undertake an update of NIMDM 2010. This periodic update of the measures is in line with the methodological approach taken in the rest of the United Kingdom, where similar measures are typically updated on a five yearly cycle.

The update is being overseen by a Steering Group, whose wide membership includes representatives from Non-Departmental Public Bodies (including the Equality Commission), the voluntary and community sector, District Councils, and each Government Department. The Steering Group is supported by seven domain expert groups, whose role it is to (i) develop proposals for the NIMDM 2017 indicators in each of the seven domains while taking cognisance of the 36 recommendations that arose from the 2010 update and (ii) help secure access to up to date data for each of the proposed indicators. One of the domain expert groups has been specifically tasked with ensuring that all of the proposed indicators for NIMDM 2017 are free from urban/ rural bias.

The updated Multiple Deprivation Measure is expected to be published in mid-2017 and, as such, will therefore be referred to as NIMDM 2017.

c) Aims of the policy/ Rationale behind the changes

The Multiple Deprivation Measure is used by central and local Government for (i) informing the targeting of resources to the most deprived areas in Northern Ireland and (ii) monitoring of the spatial impact of policy interventions. The NIMDM 2010 was based on 30 indicators that were spread across the seven domains and was largely based on data that related 2008. The aim of the update is to examine if the indicators agreed at that time continue to be the most relevant/ appropriate and to re-calibrate the indicators and associated measures using more up to date data. The decision by the Statistics Co-ordinating Group of the NICS to undertake the update has the support of all government Departments and is being funded on a cross-Departmental basis.

All proposed indicators must conform to the essential criteria agreed by the Steering Group, and are not considered to be biased towards any of the section 75 groups. They must:

- be specific to one of the seven domains of deprivation;
- represent a major feature of that form of deprivation;
- be based on data that is available for all of Northern Ireland and that has been collected in a consistent form;
- provide a direct measures or good proxies of that form of deprivation;
- be statistically robust at the small area level; and
- be as up to date as possible in order to provide information on current deprivation.

d) Who will the policy affect?

The main audience for the updated measures will be policy makers in both central and local Government who use spatial targeting and/or monitoring in their respective policy processes. The updated measures will also be of interest to other stakeholders who may wish to use the updated information to support their funding applications when they are seeking financial support for their local area.

e) Is this a NICS wide policy?

The updated measures will be made publically available on the NISRA and NINIS websites, so that they can be used by central and local government.

f) Who will implement the policy?

NISRA will create, publish and disseminate the updated measures, as well as provide support to any organisation who would like to use these measures.

g) Will this policy or revision address an existing inequality?  
If yes, please give details.

The current measures are used in a variety of different ways within Government policies. Any impact depends on how they are used. Any equality impact of the application of the measures is not assessed in this document. It is expected that such policies will be subject to equality screening, in which the impact of the use of the deprivation measures will be assessed.

The Deprivation Team is committed to provide detailed supporting guidance on the use of the updated deprivation measures for the development and/or monitoring of policy. It will produce tailored guidance documents that will be freely available when the first results are released. In addition the team will organise a number of information sessions organised across Northern Ireland to outline the new measures and how they can be used. The Deprivation Team can also be contacted by phone or email to talk through potential uses.

h) Will this policy or revision benefit any Section 75 categories.  
If yes, please give details.

See above (Section A.g).

i) Will this policy or revision have an adverse differential impact upon any of the Section 75 groupings?  
If yes, please give details

See above (Section A.g).

## Section B

### 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? Set out all evidence below along with details of the different groups you have met and / or consulted with to help inform your screening assessment.

Please also provide details of priorities and needs identified for each group

<b>Section 75 category</b>	<b>Details of evidence / information and engagement / needs and priorities</b>
Religious belief	<p>The proposals for the updated Multiple Deprivation Measure were informed by expert groups for each of the seven deprivation domains plus an expert group around urban-rural issues. These proposals were subsequently discussed by the Deprivation Steering Group, with final proposals put out for public consultation on the 21th November 2016. The Equality Commission is represented on this Steering Group, together with each NI Department, several District Councils, voluntary organisations and rural community groups.</p> <p>The consultation was brought to the attention of around 600 recipients, including the statutory equality list of The Executive Office and the Department of Finance, via email correspondence – reminders were also issued at key points in the process. Four inclusive public information sessions were also held in Limivady, Cookstown, Enniskillen and Belfast with the aim of providing further background to the proposals to help stakeholders to formulate their responses to the consultation. Both the consultation and the supporting information sessions were widely advertised through the NISRA twitter and Facebook accounts.</p> <p>In terms of the essential statistical information that will be compiled and used in the derivation of the updated Deprivation measures, there is no evidence that the coverage, quality or accuracy of the data differs for this Section 75 category. As such, there are no differing needs and/or priorities in terms of the data that will be utilised.</p>

Political opinion	As above.
Racial group	As above.
Age	As above.
Marital status	As above.
Sexual orientation	As above.
Men & women generally	As above.
Disability	As above.
Dependants	As above.

**No evidence held? Outline how you will obtain it:**

## Screening questions

There are 4 essential screening questions:

1. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the nine Section 75 categories?
2. Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 categories?
3. Will the policy impact upon good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?
4. Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between these three groups?

Category	Q1.Impact upon Equality of opportunity within the Section 75 categories	Level of impact: None/ Minor/ Major	Q2.Opportunities to promote Equality Of opportunities within the Section 75 categories	Level of impact: None/ Minor/ Major
Religious Belief		None.		None.
Political opinion		None.		None.
Racial group		None.		None.
Age		None.		None.
Marital status		None.		None.
Sexual orientation		None.		None.
Men and women generally		None.		None.
Disability		None.		None.
Dependants		None.		None.

Category	<b>Q3.</b> Impact upon good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group	Level of impact: None/ Minor/ Major	<b>Q4.</b> Promotion of good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group	Level of impact: None/ Minor/ Major
Religious Belief		None.		None.
Political opinion		None.		None.
Racial group		None.		None.

## 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.

Alternatively there may already be policies in place which would mitigate any adverse impact identified.

Please provide details in the box below:

N/A

## Section C

DoF also has legislative obligations to meet under the [Disability Discrimination Order](#) and the [Human Rights Act](#) . The following questions relate to these two areas.

### Consideration of Disability Duties

- a) Does the proposed policy / decision provide an opportunity for DoF to better **promote positive attitudes** towards disabled people?

#### Explain your assessment in full

The deprivation statistics provide spatial (i.e area based) measures which inherently promote and support the delivery of equality of opportunity by helping to identify those areas in Northern Ireland that are in greatest need (i.e. the most deprived). The potential impact of the update of the NIMDM on the promotion of positive attitudes towards disabled people will very much depend on how key stakeholders in both central and local government utilise the statistics in the development, delivery and evaluation of their respective policies.

- b) Does the proposed policy / decision provide an opportunity to actively **increase the participation** by disabled people in public life?

#### Explain your assessment in full

The updating of the deprivation measures includes proposals to strengthen the robustness of the indicators associated with mental illness and physical disability and to base the indicators on more up to date and recent data. This in turn will improve the identification of those areas with higher concentrations of disabled people and provide insight that will assist key stakeholders in both central and local government to consider how they might improve the delivery of services to disabled people.

## Consideration of Human Rights

- c) The Human Rights Act (HRA) 1998 brings the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) into UK law and it applies in N Ireland. Articles 3 and 4 are classified as “absolute” rights ie the State can never withhold or take away these rights. All others are either “qualified” or “limited”. Further information is available via the following link

<https://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/human-rights/human-rights-making-sense-human-rights.pdf>

Indicate any potential *adverse impacts* that the policy / decision may have in relation to human rights issues.

		<b><u>Adverse impact</u></b>
Right to Life	<b>Article 2</b>	No
Prohibition of torture, inhuman or degrading treatment	<b>Article 3</b>	No
Prohibition of slavery and forced labour	<b>Article 4</b>	No
Right to liberty and security	<b>Article 5</b>	No
Right to a fair and public trial	<b>Article 6</b>	No
Right to no punishment without law	<b>Article 7</b>	No
Right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence	<b>Article 8</b>	No
Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion	<b>Article 9</b>	No
Right to freedom of expression	<b>Article 10</b>	No
Right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association	<b>Article 11</b>	No

Right to marry and to found a family	<b>Article 12</b>	No
The prohibition of discrimination	<b>Article 14</b>	No
Protection of property and enjoyment of possessions	<b>Protocol 1 Article 1</b>	No
Right to education	<b>Protocol 1 Article 2</b>	No
Right to free and secret elections	<b>Protocol 1 Article 3</b>	No

Consideration of Human Rights (cont)

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

The policy has a neutral impact on human rights.

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

N/A

If you have identified any adverse impacts on human rights please consider these further by using the toolkit provided by The Executive Office which can be found on pages 63-71 of the Policy toolkit at <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/publications/effective-policy-making-workbook-four-practical-guide-impact-assessment-pdf>

## Monitoring Arrangements

**Section 75 requires DoF to have equality monitoring arrangements in place in order to assess the impact of policies and services etc; to help identify barriers to fair participation; and to better promote equality of opportunity.**

**Outline what data you will collect in the future in order to monitor the impact of this policy / decision on equality, good relations and disability duties.**

<b>Equality</b>	<b>Good Relations</b>	<b>Disability Duties</b>
<p>NISRA is aware that the statistics associated with the updated deprivation measures will be used by key stakeholders in both central and local government in the development, delivery and evaluation of their respective policies. Through the consultation on the proposed new indicators NISRA will seek to gain insight into the use being made of the deprivation measures. This information will help NISRA to target the right people and organisations through our communication and engagement activities, and help ensure that we understand their requirements, produce results that are fit for purpose and develop appropriate guidance and advice in terms of the use of the updated deprivation measures.</p>		

<p>After the publication of the measures, it is planned to publish a monitoring document showing the equality characteristics of the most deprived areas in Northern Ireland. This will help to monitor the spatial distribution of deprivation in Northern Ireland and will also be useful in helping those who use the measures to make policy decisions.</p> <p>The 2011 Census information on section 75 groups will also be used alongside the deprivation indicators to provide a fuller analysis of the deprivation measures.</p>		
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## Section D

### Formal Record of Screening Decision

<b>Title of Proposed Policy / Decision being screened:</b>
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Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017
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I can confirm that the proposed policy / decision has been screened for –

X	equality of opportunity and good relations
X	disabilities duties; and
X	human rights issues

On the basis of the answers to the screening questions, I recommend that this policy / decision is –

	* <b>Screened In</b> – Necessary to conduct a full EQIA
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X	* <b>Screened Out</b> – No EQIA necessary (no impacts)
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	* <b>Screened Out -</b> Mitigating Actions (minor impacts) Provide a brief note here to explain how this decision was reached:
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#### Screening assessment completed by -

Name      Brian Green  
Grade      Grade 6  
Date        17 January 2017

#### approved by –

Name      Tracy Power  
Grade      Grade 5  
Date        19 January 2017

Strategic Equality Branch Notified 23 January 2017