

Equality Screening Template – Section 75 of Northern Ireland Act 1998

Policy title: Energy One Stop Shop Implementation Plan – Consultation on Policy Options

Policy screened out **without** mitigation or an alternative policy adopted

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For Equality Unit Completion:

Amendments requested? No

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Content

Part 1. Policy scoping – asks public authorities to provide details about the policy, procedure, practice and/or decision being screened and what available evidence you have gathered to help make an assessment of the likely impact on equality of opportunity and good relations.

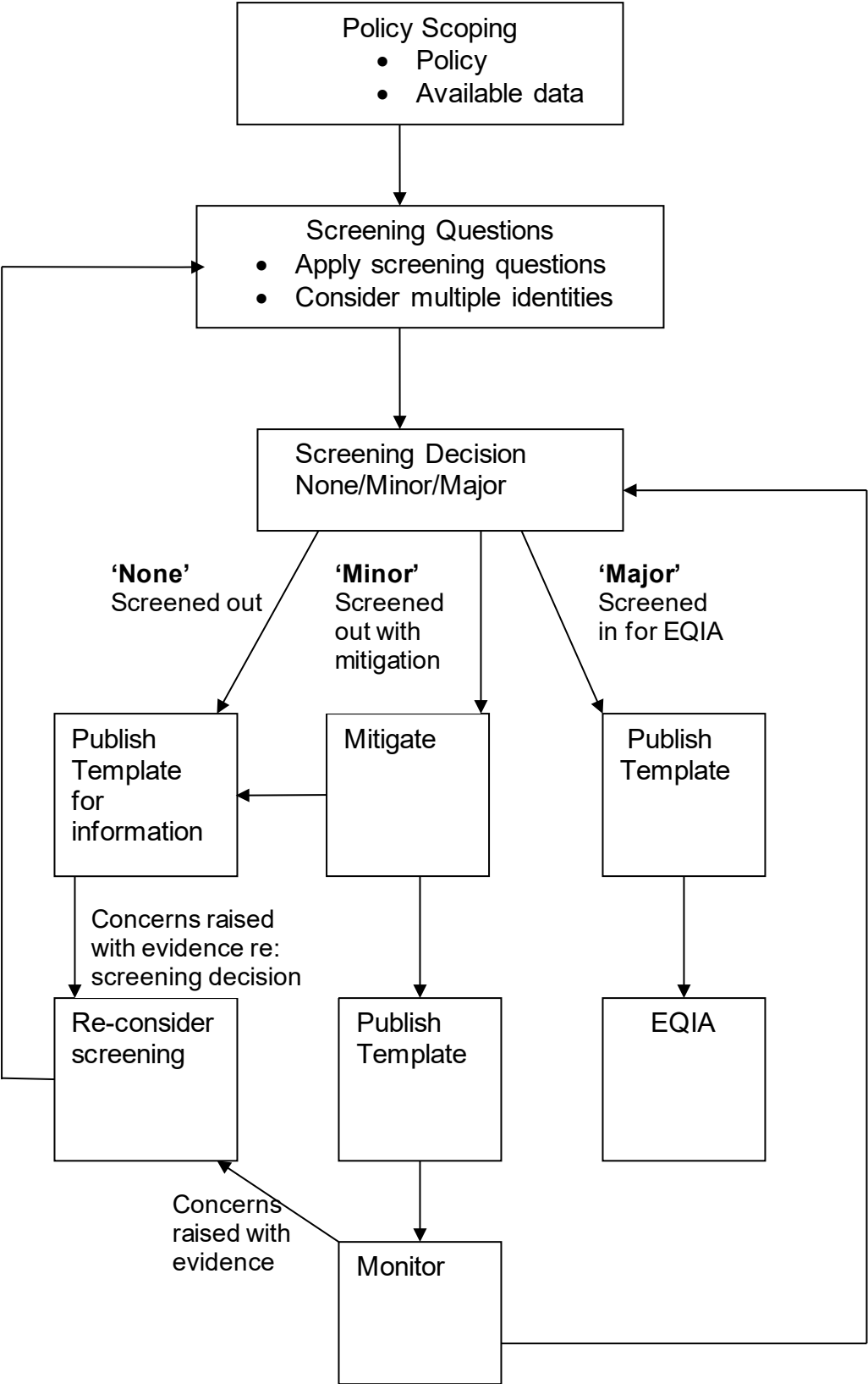
Part 2. Screening questions – asks about the extent of the likely impact of the policy on groups of people within each of the Section 75 categories. Details of the groups consulted and the level of assessment of the likely impact. This includes consideration of multiple identity and good relations issues.

Part 3. Screening decision – guides the public authority to reach a screening decision as to whether or not there is a need to carry out an equality impact assessment (EQIA), or to introduce measures to mitigate the likely impact, or the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

Part 4. Monitoring – provides guidance to public authorities on monitoring for adverse impact and broader monitoring.

Part 5. Approval and authorisation – verifies the public authority’s approval of a screening decision by a senior manager responsible for the policy.

Flowchart for the equality screening process and decision.



Part 1. Policy scoping

Information about the policy

Name of the Policy

Energy One Stop Shop Implementation Plan – Consultation on policy options

Is this an existing, revised or a new policy?

The establishment of the Energy One Stop Shop was one of the policies included in the Path to Net Zero Energy Strategy and the 2022 Energy Strategy Action Plan. Therefore we are implementing a policy agreed at NI Executive level in 2021.

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

The Energy Strategy sets out the Executive's vision of achieving net zero carbon and affordable energy in Northern Ireland by 2050. It aims to ensure that NI's energy is secure, affordable and clean.

The strategy:

- sets out the strategic framework we will work within;
- provides a high level overview of the roadmap to 2030;
- presents the overarching investment, costs and benefits;
- details our ambition and delivery framework for each of five principles;
- presents the longer-term journey out to 2050; and
- outlines the key issues for delivering on the new strategy.

Energy generation and use is a wide-ranging and cross-cutting issue. In developing this strategy, the Department for the Economy (DfE) collaborated across government and undertook substantial stakeholder engagement via five working groups comprising over 70 organisations, as well as a Call for Evidence and Policy Options consultation. It developed a significant body of research and academic think pieces considering best practice and lessons learned from elsewhere.

The strategy is now overseen by a cross-departmental Programme Board which provides critical evaluation of, and strategic direction for, a range of further proposals and consultations on the detail of new policies.

The One Stop Shop aims to help NI energy consumers access information and support to enable and protect them in moving to cleaner energy with a particular emphasis on vulnerable consumers.

Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy?

It is expected that the Energy One Stop Shop will benefit all of the population in Northern Ireland including all Section 75 categories.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has published a report on the impact of global warming at 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. They made it clear that by limiting warming to 1.5° we may be able to mitigate some of the effects on health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security and economic growth.

Through a move to cleaner sources of heat, carbon emissions will be reduced along with energy costs, helping to tackle fuel poverty as well as reducing associated health problems.

The Energy One Stop Shop will support people and businesses through each step of their journey towards net zero in heat, power, transport and energy efficiency, with local solutions that fit their needs.

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

The Department for the Economy initiated and led the development of the Path to Net Zero Energy Strategy and the Energy One Stop Shop through extensive stakeholder engagement, workshops and collaboration across government.

Who owns and who implements the policy?

The Energy Strategy is a Northern Ireland Executive strategy. Whilst DfE has led the development of the strategy, the policies put forward in this strategy, including the Energy One Stop Shop, draw on all the evidence gathered to date and represent the views of a range of government departments that are involved in this work programme. Other Departments involved in the work programme are DAERA, DfC, DoE, DoF, DoJ, DoH and TEO.

DfE is responsible for development and implementation of the Energy One Stop Shop.

Implementation factors

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

Financial - Establishing and delivering the Energy One Stop Shop and the information, advice and support services that we are proposing that it will deliver is likely to require a multi year financial commitment. DfE will assess the budgetary requirement and funding options in year 1 of the Energy One Stop Shop project delivery phase.

Legislative – DfE will not decide what organisation will deliver the Energy One Stop Shop until after the consultation has ended. One of the potential options is nominating an existing public

body. This may require amendment of existing legislation or introduction of new legislation but that will be considered as part of a delivery project and is not the subject of this consultation.

Other, please specify -

Main stakeholders affected

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

- Staff
- Service users
- Other public sector organisations
- Voluntary/community/trade unions
- Business groups, local government, churches, universities and colleges and statutory bodies
- Members of the public

Over the past three years, while developing the Path to Net Zero Energy Strategy and the Draft Energy One Stop Shop Implementation Plan, the Department for the Economy (DfE) has collaborated across government and undertaken substantial stakeholder engagement with industry, consumer groups and members of the public. Energy Consumers are at the heart of the Energy Strategy and we acknowledge that the challenge we face requires solutions and approaches based on inclusivity and that continued engagement is vital.

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

The UK Government recently published the Net Zero Strategy¹ and Energy White Paper.² Whilst energy policy is largely devolved in NI, some relevant areas remain reserved matters. There are also additional UK strategies and policies in specific areas, such as transport or offshore wind, which impact on Northern Ireland.

The Energy One Stop Shop will advise and support both NI domestic consumers and non-domestic consumers including businesses to help deliver the Path to Net Zero Energy Strategy policies in the areas of energy efficiency, power, heat and transport. The One Stop Shop will rely on these policies to provide consumers with accurate, timely and trusted information, advice and support that enables them to benefit from the energy transition.

¹ [Net Zero Strategy \(GOV.UK\)](#)

² [2012-16 BEIS EWP Command Paper](#)

The Energy One Stop Shop will need to be observant also in respect of products, services and schemes that will enable with a broad range of non-energy strategies, frameworks and policies. that will support and reflect the ambitions of the new Energy Strategy including:

- Programme for Government, TEO
- Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland, SIB
- Energy Management Strategy, DfE/SIB
- Vision for a 10X Economy, DfE
- Skills Strategy, DfE
- Circular Economy Strategic Framework, DfE
- Green Growth Strategy, DAERA
- Environment Strategy, DAERA
- Fuel Poverty Strategy, DfC

Available evidence

Throughout the development of the Path to Net Zero Energy Strategy and the consultation on an Energy One Stop Shop Implementation Plan, DfE has worked closely with a broad cross-section of consumers, business, government and the energy industry.

The first stage of the strategy development was a Call for Evidence published in December 2019, which closed on 3rd April 2020. This process also involved thematic workshops, stakeholder engagement and collaboration across government. A report on the Call for Evidence along with all the individual responses was published on 30 June 2020.³ Throughout the policy process the Department worked collaboratively with over 70 organisations represented on five working groups, established specific industry consultation groups, issued a monthly e-bulletin to over 600 stakeholders and established a cross governmental stakeholder group to align cross cutting policies.

The second stage was the Energy Strategy Policy Options Consultation Paper⁴, launched on 31 March and closed on 02 July 2021. The Department carried out virtual, public stakeholder events as well as consumer focus groups and an online business survey.⁵ This commitment to collaboration is reflected in the high level of responses (283) to the policy options consultation resulting in stakeholders' feedback and views on policy proposals being reflected in Northern Ireland's new Energy Strategy.⁶

During 2022, DfE has undertaken extensive stakeholder engagement to inform the development of the One Stop Shop delivery options including more than 20 meetings and workshops with representatives of consumer organisations, businesses and energy industry and government departments.

³ [Energy Strategy - Call for Evidence | Department for the Economy \(economy-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

⁴ [Consultation on policy options for the new Energy Strategy for Northern Ireland | Department for the Economy \(economy-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

⁵ [Energy Strategy business and consumer virtual insight and awareness consultation | Consumer Council](#)

⁶ [Energy Strategy for NI](#)

Religious belief evidence / information:

The 2021 Census found that 43.5% of the population in Northern Ireland came from a Protestant background and 45.7% from a Catholic background. The Equality Commission's Fair Employment Monitoring Report No. 31⁷ indicates that 50.2% of the (monitored) workforce are from a Protestant background and 49.8% from a Roman Catholic background. The One Stop Shop aims to enable and protect all consumers.

Political Opinion evidence / information:

In 2020, 35% of respondees to a NI Life & Times Survey⁸ considered themselves to be unionist, 19% nationalist and 42% neither.

A large number of stakeholders participated in the evidence gathering aspect of the policy development for the Path to Net Zero Energy Strategy and the One Stop Shop policy was a key element of that. Although information on individuals was not collected based on political opinion, no responses identified political opinion as a factor in differing impacts of this strategy.

Racial Group evidence / information:

The 2021 Census reported that 96.55% of the total NI population was white.

A large number of stakeholders participated in the evidence gathering aspect of the strategy and, although information on individuals was not collected based on racial group, no responses identified racial grouping as a factor in differing impacts of this strategy.

Age evidence / information:

The Northern Ireland population continues to age. The 2021 Census⁹ shows:

- 0-14 years 19.20%
- 15-39 31.2%
- 40-64 32.40%
- 65+ 17.2%

A large number of stakeholders participated in the evidence gathering aspect of the Path to Net Zero energy strategy and One Stop Shop policy development, including representatives of older people.

Marital Status evidence / information:

The 2011 Census contains information in relation to the marital and civil partnership status of the population within Northern Ireland. It showed that 48% are married, 36% single, 7% widowed or surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership, 5% divorced or formerly in a

⁷ [Fair Employment Monitoring Report No.31 \(equalityni.org\)](https://www.equalityni.org/Fair-Employment-Monitoring-Report-No-31)

⁸ [NI Life and Times Survey - 2020 : UNINATID \(ark.ac.uk\)](https://www.ark.ac.uk/ni-life-and-times-survey-2020/)

⁹ [Census 2021 Main statistics demography tables by age and sex](https://www.census.gov/northern-ireland/main-statistics-demography-tables-by-age-and-sex)

same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved, 4% separated (but still legally married or still legally in a same-sex civil partnership) and 0.1% registered same-sex civil partnership.

A large number of stakeholders participated in the evidence gathering aspect of the strategy but information on individuals was not collected based on marital status and no responses identified marital as a factor in differing impacts of the strategy or specific policies such as the One Stop Shop policy.

Sexual Orientation evidence / information:

A large number of stakeholders participated in the evidence gathering aspect of the strategy but information on individuals was not collected based on sexual orientation and no responses identified sexual orientation as a factor in differing impacts of this strategy or specific policies such as the One Stop Shop policy.

Men & Women generally evidence / information:

NISRA population statistics for 2020 show that 50.7% are female with 49.3% male¹⁰. By 2031, projections are that the male/female balance will be 50/50 with that balance persisting to 2051.

The NISRA Labour Force Survey states that in 2020, of those aged 16-64 who were employed, 52% (432,000) were male¹¹ compared to 48% of women (392,000). There are differences between the public and private sector. The public sector has a large majority of females within its composition (65%) whereas just under half (45%) of the private sector workforce is female. NISRA states that the 2020 population of Northern Ireland is made up of 961,400 females and 934,200¹² males, however our future workforce balance is estimated to be slightly male dominated as the current population split for ages 0-15 is 192,844 female with 203,081 male, a difference of 2.6%.

DAERA leads on the Just Transition within the Green Growth Strategy. QUB has published an independent think piece on “Mapping a Just Transition”¹³ for Northern Ireland. This was grant funded by DfE.

Research carried out by DfE Skills Division into jobs advertised by the energy sector has identified that communications and customer service are the most sought after jobs although we do not know how many women or men are in these jobs.

A large number of stakeholders participated in the evidence gathering aspect of the Energy Strategy policy options consultation. Information on whether participants were women or men was not collected as part of this exercise.

Disability evidence / information:

The latest date from NISRA in 2018 report that 21.7% of the adult NI population are disabled.

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¹⁰ [Registrar General Northern Ireland Annual Report 2020 \(nisra.gov.uk\)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/annual-report-2020)

¹¹ [Labour Force Survey Annual Summary 2020 \(nisra.gov.uk\)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/labour-force-survey-annual-summary-2020)

¹² [NI Population 2020.jpg \(2481x1749\) \(nisra.gov.uk\)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/northern-ireland-population-2020)

¹³ [Mapping a Just Energy Transition in Northern Ireland](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/mapping-a-just-energy-transition-in-northern-ireland)

¹⁴ [August 2018 NI Wellbeing Report.pdf \(nisra.gov.uk\)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/2018-ni-wellbeing-report)

One of eight consumer focus groups conducted during the Path to Net Zero options consultation phase, which included the One Stop Shop policy, comprised people with disabilities. There were no discernible differences reported between the views expressed by people with disabilities or long-term illness and other focus group participants.

In addition, a large number of stakeholders participated in the other evidence gathering aspects of the policy options consultation document, covering a wide range of interests from many backgrounds. Information on individuals with or without disabilities was not collected as part of this exercise.

Dependants evidence / information:

A large number of stakeholders participated in the evidence gathering aspect of the Path to Net Zero energy strategy options consultation phase, which included the One Stop Shop policy. No respondents were under the age of 18 years old therefore no information on whether participants were dependants was collected as part of this exercise.

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?

Vulnerable consumers are a section of the population that has been identified as requiring tailored information, advice and support that meets their specific needs. That could include any of the section 75 categories. DfE has identified the following potential needs of S75 groups in respect of the services that the One Stop Shop will provide:

- Having access to non-digital communication and engagement channels;
- Needing simple and easy to understand energy information and that is available in a variety of formats and languages; and
- Non-financial support with complex decisions and processes.

The Department for the Economy has developed the policy options for the Energy One Stop Shop to ensure the needs of vulnerable consumers, in particular S75 groups, are met. We have completed a Rural Needs Impact Assessment that concluded that the “Energy One Stop Shop should have a positive impact on people in rural areas by providing information, advice and support in respect of energy efficiency, power, heat and transport that is tailored to their specific needs.” We have included below some of the draft Energy One Stop Shop objectives, guiding principles and scope that demonstrate our approach:

- Provides tailored services - the One Stop Shop will address the needs of individual consumer groups to ensure all consumers – domestic and non-domestic, rural, low income, etc, have access to the adequate type and level of information, advice and support that they need; and
- Delivers service in partnership with other bodies and organisations - The One Stop Shop will create partnerships with other organisations to ensure a presence across Northern Ireland, in particular rural areas, and to maximise the benefits to consumers of the information, advice and support network in Northern Ireland;

- Domestic consumers with vulnerable characteristics, including rural consumers, are listed as one of the four groups that the Energy One Stop Shop will inform, advise and support;
- The Energy One Stop Shop will have special regard to the needs of vulnerable consumers, in particular in terms of the communication channels offered and the type and level of support provided; and
- The One Stop Shop will adopt a multi-channel consumer engagement and communication approach.

Religious belief

No differential impact has been identified in respect of the proposed Energy One Stop Shop policy in the responses to the Call for Evidence or the Energy Strategy Policy Options Consultation nor in any of the consumer research available. The department does not anticipate any difference in needs, experience or priorities. The Energy One Stop Shop and its policy interventions and incentive schemes will apply to everyone regardless of their religious belief.

Political Opinion

No differential impact has been identified in respect of the proposed Energy One Stop Shop policy in the responses to the Call for Evidence or the Energy Strategy Policy Options Consultation nor in any of the consumer research available. The department does not anticipate any difference in needs, experience or priorities. The Energy One Stop Shop and its policy interventions and incentive schemes will apply to everyone regardless of their political opinion.

Racial Group

No differential impact has been identified in respect of the proposed Energy One Stop Shop policy in the responses to the Call for Evidence or the Energy Strategy Policy Options Consultation nor in any of the consumer research available. The department does not anticipate any difference in needs, experience or priorities. The Energy One Stop Shop and its policy interventions and incentive schemes will apply to everyone regardless of their racial group.

Age

DfE will continue to consider all age groups through the services that the Energy One Stop Shop will provide as we aim to prepare people for the changes that will happen due to the need for the energy transition and that will affect their lives. There will be targeted and tailored support for adults to assist them in taking the best decisions for their needs. For example, the consultation proposes that the one stop shop adopts a multi-channel consumer engagement strategy whereby consumers will be able to access the information, advice and support online, by phone, face to face or via media campaigns. Furthermore, the consultation commits to consider additional communications channels on an ongoing basis targeting harder to reach consumer groups.

Over time, we will aim to link in with educators for primary age children and with other young people through social media. Any work with young people will be preceded by specific consideration of their needs.

We will establish new frameworks that will provide appropriate support for all consumers, and to deliver our vision of affordable energy we will consider specific financial assistance and non-financial assistance to support our vulnerable consumers, particularly those on low incomes, which may include our older population, those with disabilities, dependants or other section 75 groups.

Marital status

No differential impact has been identified in respect of the proposed Energy One Stop Shop policy in the responses to the Call for Evidence or the Energy Strategy Policy Options Consultation nor in any of the consumer research available. The department does not anticipate any difference in needs, experience or priorities. The Energy One Stop Shop and its policy interventions and incentive schemes will apply to everyone regardless of their marital status.

Sexual orientation

No differential impact has been identified in respect of the proposed Energy One Stop Shop policy in the responses to the Call for Evidence or the Energy Strategy Policy Options Consultation nor in any of the consumer research available. The department does not anticipate any difference in needs, experience or priorities. The Energy One Stop Shop and its policy interventions and incentive schemes will apply to everyone regardless of their sexual orientation.

Men and Women Generally

No differential impact has been identified in respect of the proposed Energy One Stop Shop policy in the responses to the Call for Evidence or the Energy Strategy Policy Options Consultation nor in any of the consumer research available. The department does not anticipate any difference in needs, experience or priorities. The Energy One Stop Shop and its policy interventions and incentive schemes will apply to everyone regardless of whether they are men or women.

Disability

No differential impact has been identified in respect of the proposed Energy One Stop Shop policy in the responses to the Call for Evidence or the Energy Strategy Policy Options Consultation nor in any of the consumer research available. The department does not anticipate any difference in needs, experience or priorities. The Energy One Stop Shop and its policy interventions and incentive schemes will apply to everyone regardless of disability.

DfE will continue to consider the need of consumers with a disability through the services that the Energy One Stop Shop will provide as we aim to prepare people for the changes that will happen due to the need for the energy transition and that will affect their lives. For example, the consultation proposes that the one stop shop adopts a multi-channel consumer engagement strategy whereby consumers will be able to access the information, advice and support online, by phone, face to face or via media campaigns. Furthermore, the consultation commits to consider additional communications channels on an ongoing basis targeting harder to reach consumer groups.

Dependants

No differential impact has been identified in respect of the proposed Energy One Stop Shop policy in the responses to the Call for Evidence or the Energy Strategy Policy Options Consultation nor in any of the consumer research available. The department does not anticipate any difference in needs, experience or priorities. The Energy One Stop Shop and its policy interventions and incentive schemes will apply to everyone regardless of whether they are a person with a dependant or a person without a dependant.

Part 2. Screening questions

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?

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Religious belief**:

The Energy One Stop Shop is likely to have no specific impact on this category.

What is the level of impact? None

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Political Opinion**:

The Energy One Stop Shop is likely to have no specific impact on this category.

What is the level of impact? None

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Racial Group**:

The Energy One Stop Shop is likely to have no specific impact on this category.

What is the level of impact? None

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Age**:

The Energy One Stop Shop is likely to have no specific impact on this category.

What is the level of impact? None

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Marital Status**:

The Energy One Stop Shop is likely to have no specific impact on this category.

What is the level of impact? None

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Sexual Orientation**:

The Energy One Stop Shop is likely to have no specific impact on this category.

What is the level of impact? None

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Men and Women**:

The Energy One Stop Shop is likely to have no specific impact on this category.

What is the level of impact? None

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Disability**:

The Energy One Stop Shop is likely to have no specific impact on this category.

What is the level of impact? None

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Dependants**:

The Energy One Stop Shop is likely to have no specific impact on this category.

What is the level of impact? None

2. Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories? Yes/No

Religious Belief –

No. The Energy One Stop Shop has no direct impact on the equality of opportunity of their background or circumstances.

Political Opinion –

No. The Energy One Stop Shop has no direct impact on the equality of opportunity of their background or circumstances.

Racial Group –

No. The Energy One Stop Shop has no direct impact on the equality of opportunity of their background or circumstances.

Age –

No. The Energy One Stop Shop has no direct impact on the equality of opportunity of their background or circumstances.

Marital Status –

No. The Energy One Stop Shop has no direct impact on the equality of opportunity of their background or circumstances.

Sexual Orientation –

No. The Energy One Stop Shop has no direct impact on the equality of opportunity of their background or circumstances.

Men and Women generally –

No. The Energy One Stop Shop has no direct impact on the equality of opportunity of their background or circumstances.

Disability –

No. The Energy One Stop Shop has no direct impact on the equality of opportunity of their background or circumstances.

Dependants –

No. The Energy One Stop Shop has no direct impact on the equality of opportunity of their background or circumstances.

3. To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Religious belief**:

The Energy One Stop Shop has no direct good relations impact.

What is the level of impact? None

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Political Opinion**:

The Energy One Stop Shop has no direct good relations impact.

What is the level of impact? None

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Racial Group**:

The Energy One Stop Shop has no direct good relations impact.

What is the level of impact? None

4. Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

Religious Belief –

No. The Energy One Stop Shop has no direct good relations impact.

Political Opinion –

No. The Energy One Stop Shop has no direct good relations impact.

Racial Group –

No. The Energy One Stop Shop has no direct good relations impact.

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.

Part 3. Screening decision

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

The Energy One Stop Shop Implementation Plan is screened out without mitigation or alternative policy adopted. The energy transition to net zero will impact all the population, irrespective of their religion, political opinion, race, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender, disability or if they have dependants.

While no specific risks have been identified for vulnerable consumers in respect of the services that the One Stop Shop will provide, The Department for the Economy has developed the policy options for the Energy One Stop Shop to ensure the needs of vulnerable consumers, in particular those of older age, with a disability or low income groups, are met. We have included below some of the draft Energy One Stop Shop objectives, guiding principles and scope that demonstrate our rural needs approach. In particular, we are proposing that the Energy One Stop Shop:

- Provides tailored services - the One Stop Shop will meet the needs of individual consumer groups to ensure all consumers – domestic and non-domestic, rural, low income, etc, have access to the adequate type and level of information, advice and support that they need; and
- Delivers service in partnership with other bodies and organisations - The One Stop Shop will create partnerships with other organisations to ensure a presence across Northern Ireland, in particular rural areas, and to maximise the benefits to consumers of the information, advice and support network in Northern Ireland.
- Domestic consumers with vulnerable characteristics, including rural consumers, are listed as one of the four groups that the Energy One Stop Shop will inform, advice and support.
- The Energy One Stop Shop will have special regard to the needs of vulnerable consumers, in particular in terms of the communication channels offered and the type and level of support provided.
- The One Stop Shop will adopt a multi-channel consumer engagement and communication approach.

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 - please provide details.

No adverse impact on equality of opportunity has been identified for any of the Section 75 categories.

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

Not applicable

Mitigation

Can the policy/decision be amended or changed or an alternative policy introduced to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations?

Not applicable.

Part 4. Monitoring

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

Part 5 - Approval and authorisation

Screened by: Paulino García
Position/Job Title: Deputy Principal
Business Area/ Branch: Energy Consumers Team
Date: 9th October 2022

Approved by: Anne-Maire McConn
Position/Job Title: Principal
Business Area/Branch: Energy Consumers Team
Date: 24th October 2022