

Appendix I - Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) Template

SECTION 1 - Defining the activity subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

1A. Name of Public Authority.

Department for the Economy

1B. Please provide a short title which describes the activity being undertaken by the Public Authority that is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.

A proposal for primary legislation to resolve issues in regard to the Department's financial powers.

1C. Please indicate which category the activity specified in Section 1B above relates to.

Developing a	Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Adopting a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Implementing a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Revising a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Designing a Public Service	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Delivering a Public Service	<input type="checkbox"/>		

1D. Please provide the official title (if any) of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service document or initiative relating to the category indicated in Section 1C above.

Department for the Economy clauses in a potential Financial Provisions Bill.

1E. Please provide details of the aims and/or objectives of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service.

DfE has identified the following financial issues that it proposes to resolve via primary legislation:

- DfE's power to provide financial assistance where it is likely to be in the interest of the economy;
- DfE's power to exempt or remit certain fees in exceptional circumstances for Tourism Northern Ireland (TNI), for TNI to have the flexibility to introduce new fees where appropriate, and to extend TNI's existing ability to grade or classify certified tourist establishments to also include tourist amenities;
- DfE's power to form companies;
- Updating of section 1 of the Employment and Training Act (Northern Ireland) 1950 (as amended).
- the handling of smaller Departmental accounts (i.e. possible absorption within the main Departmental accounts).

1F. What definition of 'rural' is the Public Authority using in respect of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?

Population Settlements of less than 5,000 (Default definition).

Other Definition (Provide details and the rationale below).

A definition of 'rural' is not applicable.

Details of alternative definition of 'rural' used.

N/A

Rationale for using alternative definition of 'rural'.

N/A

Reasons why a definition of 'rural' is not applicable.

N/A

SECTION 2 - Understanding the impact of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

2A. Is the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service likely to impact on people in rural areas?

Yes No If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **2E**.

2B. Please explain how the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas.

DfE has identified the following financial issues that it proposes to resolve via primary legislation:

- DfE's power to provide financial assistance where it is likely to be in the interest of the economy;
- DfE's power to exempt or remit certain fees in exceptional circumstances for Tourism Northern Ireland (TNI), for TNI to have the flexibility to introduce new fees where appropriate, and to extend TNI's existing ability to grade or classify certified tourist establishments to also include tourist amenities;
- DfE's power to form companies;
- Updating of section 1 of the Employment and Training Act (Northern Ireland) 1950 (as amended).
- the handling of smaller Departmental accounts (i.e. possible absorption within the main Departmental accounts).

Although the proposal for legislation is technical in nature, parts of it may be used in future to benefit the economy, including businesses and citizens in rural areas.

Future implementation of specific policies or projects which are enabled by these provisions will be considered in accordance with the Rural Needs Act on a case by case basis by the relevant policy / project lead, including future impact assessments as appropriate.

2C. If the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas, please explain how it is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently.

We are consulting on a proposal for primary legislation which would apply to the region as a whole, at present we do not expect a different impact on people in rural areas to those in urban areas.

2D. Please indicate which of the following rural policy areas the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to primarily impact on.

Rural Businesses	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rural Tourism	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rural Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Education or Training in Rural Areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deprivation in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Crime or Community Safety	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Development	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agri-Environment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please state)	<input type="text"/>

If the response to Section 2A was YES GO TO Section 3A.

2E. Please explain why the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is NOT likely to impact on people in rural areas.

SECTION 3 - Identifying the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

3A. Has the Public Authority taken steps to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas that are relevant to the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?

Yes No If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **3E**.

3B. Please indicate which of the following methods or information sources were used by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

Consultation with Rural Stakeholders	<input type="checkbox"/>	Published Statistics	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consultation with Other Organisations	<input type="checkbox"/>	Research Papers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surveys or Questionnaires	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Methods or Information Sources (include details in Question 3C below).			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3C. Please provide details of the methods and information sources used to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas including relevant dates, names of organisations, titles of publications, website references, details of surveys or consultations undertaken etc.

This draft RNIA is to be published alongside the Department's consultation on the proposal for primary legislation.

We will consider any response to the consultation that indicates a rural impact or evidence that is relevant to this proposal and will review the proposal in light of any new information. We will update the draft RNIA following the consultation.

However, this proposal for legislation is technical in nature, although parts of it may be used in future to benefit the economy, including businesses and citizens in rural areas.

Future implementation of specific policies or projects which are enabled by these provisions will be considered in accordance with the Rural Needs Act on a case by case basis by the relevant policy / project lead, including future impact assessments as appropriate.

3D. Please provide details of the social and economic needs of people in rural areas which have been identified by the Public Authority?

None specifically identified in relation to this proposal for primary legislation.

We will consider any response to the consultation that indicates a social or economic needs of people in rural areas that is relevant to this proposal and will review the proposal in light of any new information. We will update the draft RNIA following the consultation.

If the response to Section 3A was **YES** GO TO Section 4A.

3E. Please explain why no steps were taken by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas?

SECTION 4 - Considering the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

4A. Please provide details of the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

Given the technical nature of DfE's proposal for legislation in this case, it is not expected that the legislation alone would impact on the social or economic needs of people in rural areas.

Future implementation of specific policies or projects which are enabled by these provisions will be considered in accordance with the Rural Needs Act on a case by case basis by the relevant policy / project lead, including future impact assessments as appropriate.

SECTION 5 - Influencing the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

5A. Has the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, been influenced by the rural needs identified?

Yes No If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **5C**.

5B. Please explain how the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, has been influenced by the rural needs identified.

If the response to Section **5A** was **YES** GO TO Section **6A**.

5C. Please explain why the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or the delivery of the Public Service, has NOT been influenced by the rural needs identified.

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We will consider any response to the consultation that indicates a rural impact or evidence that is relevant to this proposal and will review the proposal in light of any new information. We will update the draft RNIA following the consultation.

However, this proposal for legislation is technical in nature, although parts of it may be used in future to benefit the economy, including businesses and citizens in rural areas.

Future implementation of specific policies or projects which are enabled by these provisions will be considered in accordance with the Rural Needs Act on a case by case basis by the relevant policy / project lead, including future impact assessments as appropriate.

SECTION 6 - Documenting and Recording

6A. Please tick below to confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained by the Public Authority and relevant information on the Section 1 activity compiled in accordance with paragraph 6.7 of the guidance.

I confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained and relevant information compiled.



Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:	Heidi-Beth Hudson
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Division/Branch	Economic Vision
Signature:	HB Hudson
Date:	24 May 2024
Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:	Giulia ní Dhulchaointigh
Position/Grade:	G5
Division/Branch:	Economic Vision
Signature:	G n Dhulchaointigh
Date:	29 May 2024