

A Guide to the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 for Public Authorities

*(Revised) April 2018*

Appendix 1 - Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA)

Template

The objective is to implement the requirements of the EU Regulations on equine identification in order to ensure that horse meat produced in the United Kingdom is safe for human consumption and to regulate compliance with those regulations in Northern Ireland.

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

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.

Developing a Policy Strategy Plan

Adopting a Policy Strategy Plan

Implementing a Policy Strategy Plan

Revising a Policy Strategy Plan Designing a Public Service

Delivering a Public Service

X

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

Revising the policy on horse passports due to the introduction of new EU regulations on equine identification

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.

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

1A. Name of Public Authority.

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

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*Reasons why a definition of ‘rural’ is not applicable.*

*Rationale for using alternative definition of ‘rural’.*

*Details of alternative definition of ‘rural’ used.*

Population Settlements of less than 5,000 (Default definition). Other Definition (Provide details and the rationale below).

A definition of ‘rural’ is not applicable.

X

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

The policy is being revised as a result of new EU regulations for equine identification which are directly applicable to Northern Ireland. There is now a need for new Northern Ireland Statutory Regulations to enforce the regulations here. The primary purpose of the regulations is to ensure that horse meat is safe for human consumption. The impact of the policy on most people and businesses in rural areas is with regard to identifying horses by means of a horse passport which is already a requirement for every equine in Northern Ireland. Although there are no exact figures on the split of horse ownership between persons located in urban areas and those in rural areas it is generally accepted that there are many more owners and businesses working with horses in rural areas.

The policy seeks to keep any impact on owners and businesses to a minimum by keeping the requirements in existing Northern Ireland legislation where possible alongside mandatory new requirements. The most impact is to passport issuing organisations (PIOs). There are three PIOs approved by DAERA and the new EU regulations have had some impact on them as regards new requirements for improved security of passports including purchasing equipment where necessary for producing passports including machine riveting and laminating as well as providing regular uploads to a new central database.

There are some direct benefits in the EU legislation for all horse owners from the new UK Central Equine Database (UK CED) which will hold records of all horses identified by passport issuing organisations in the United Kingdom including the ability to trace the owner of abandoned or stolen horses which have been microchipped. There is no requirement for individuals to access the database in order to comply with the regulations.

Other new requirements include setting deadlines and time limits for identification but it is intended that the shortest time period in the new Northern Ireland regulations will be six months.

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There is no disproportionate effect on businesses or people in rural areas compared to urban areas. There is no service being provided by the policy and there is no differential in terms of access. The costs of identification are not set by government and owners may choose to identify their horses through any passport issuing organisation in the United Kingdom or in the case of registered horses any passport issuing organisation in any other Member State where they are eligible for entry in a studbook.

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.

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

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

X

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

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

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

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

Rural Businesses Rural Tourism Rural Housing

Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas Education or Training in Rural Areas

Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas

Poverty in Rural Areas Deprivation in Rural Areas

Rural Crime or Community Safety Rural Development

Agri-Environment

Other (Please state)

X

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

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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.

Consultation with Rural Stakeholders Published Statistics Consultation with Other Organisations Research Papers Surveys or Questionnaires Other Publications

Other Methods or Information Sources (include details in Question 3C below).

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.

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

X

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?

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

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There is no adverse effect on rural areas as a result of this policy. The EU regulations are directly applicable to all Member States and the DAERA has used the lowest cost option in developing the policy. The cost of passports will not be affected by DAERAs policy.

DAERA will consult on the policy and will ask for views of people in rural areas.

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

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

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

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Consideration was given in relation to the ability of people in rural areas to comply with the regulations. DAERA has not identified any changes in the new regulations that would prevent people in rural areas from complying with the new regulations.

Consideration was given to the application process by which owners identify their horses and these are not affected by the new policy. The policy will apply uniformly to all horse owners and businesses.

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

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

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

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.

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

X

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?

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



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Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:

Jonathan Wightman

Position/Grade:

Staff Officer

Division/Branch

Agri Food Policy 1

Signature:

Date:

26 October 2018

Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:

Brenda Cunning

Position/Grade:

Grade 7

Division/Branch:

Agri-Food Policy 1

Signature:

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Date:

31/10/18

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

X

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.

**SECTION 6 - Documenting and Recording**

The Department will communicate the new requirements to owners and is aware of the need to reach those in rural areas through those communications as most owners live in rural areas. There are no other specific needs identified for people in rural areas as a result of this policy. The policy will have the same affect on all horse owners or businesses.

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.