# A4 DAERA Logo process.png

**Equality & Disability Duties**

**Screening Template**

# **Screening flowchart and template (taken from Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 – A Guide for public authorities April 2010 *(Appendix 1)).***

**Introduction**

**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. This section also includes two questions related to the Disability Duties.

**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 tointroducemeasures 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. Consideration of Human Rights** – please note this is not a Human Rights Screening form but rather a prompt that impacts on Human Rights should be considered.

 **Part 6. Approval and authorisation** – verifies the public authority’s approval of a screening decision by a senior manager responsible for the policy.

 A screening flowchart is provided on the next page.

Policy Scoping

* + Policy
	+ Available data

Screening Questions

* Apply screening questions
* Consider multiple identities

Screening Decision: None/Minor/Major

Mitigate

 Publish Template

Re-consider screening

Publish Template

for information

Publish Template

 EQIA

Monitor

**‘None’**

Screened out

**‘Major’**

Screened in for EQIA

**‘Minor’**

Screened out with mitigation

Concerns raised with evidence

Concerns raised with evidence re: screening decision

**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**

Rural Micro Capital Grant Scheme (RMCGS) 2024/2025

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**Is this an existing, revised or a new policy?**

Existing.

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

The Rural Micro Capital Grant Scheme 2024/2025 will provide micro capital grants (between £500 to £2,000) to community-led rural groups towards the cost of capital equipment, improvement of a capital asset or extending the useable life of a capital asset.

The Scheme objectives are;

1. To assist community led rural groups to address local issues of access and financial poverty, and social isolation.
2. To attract new groups for a RMCGS grant to address local issues of access and financial poverty, and social isolation.
3. To contribute to improving the lives of rural dwellers and in particular the wellbeing of isolated individuals.
4. To increase the number of grants awarded for positive sustainable changes, i.e., environmental improvements/energy efficiency measures.

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

**If so, explain how.**

There is the potential for all Section 75 categories who live in rural communities to benefit from the RMCGS 2024/2025 as it is open to applications from any formally constituted rural community/voluntary organisation. In particular, the decision to fund the RMCGS 2024/2025 provides an opportunity for DAERA to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people as organisations are being encouraged to make their halls more accessible. This in turn has the potential to actively increase the participation of disabled people within their community setting/hall.

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**Who initiated or wrote the policy?**

Rural Affairs TRPSI Health and Wellbeing Branch

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**Who owns and who implements the policy?**

Rural Affairs TRPSI Health and Wellbeing Branch

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**Implementation factors**

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

NO

**Other**

**Main stakeholders affected**

**Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the policy will impact upon? (please delete as appropriate)**

**Staff** Support provided within DAERA

**Service users** The main beneficiaries of the RMCGS 2024/2025 are rural community / voluntary organisations and their members.

**Rural Support Networks** Contracted by DAERA to provide support to applicant organisations

**Other, please specify**

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

**The TRPSI Framework**

The Framework is a rural initiative which aims to tackle poverty and social isolation in rural areas through organisations working in partnership to design and implement measures which target the needs of vulnerable people.

The Framework provides a mechanism which can assist other Departments in identifying and addressing the needs of rural communities by more effective partnership working with DAERA and other organisations.

The Framework is unique in that it focuses on the needs of the most vulnerable groups in rural areas. It also provides flexibility to help address a broad range of poverty and social isolation issues and to target specific groups of people in rural areas who have been identified as being at risk of poverty and/or social isolation.

**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. The Commission has produced this guide to [signpost to S75 data](https://www.equalityni.org/ECNI/media/ECNI/Publications/Employers%20and%20Service%20Providers/Public%20Authorities/S75DataSignpostingGuide.pdf).

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

*Please ensure all data used is the most current and up to date available. You should verify this by contacting the Departmental Statisticians.*

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**Religious belief** evidence/information:

* Consideration of the breakdown of rural statistical data in the 2021 census of Northern Ireland.
* RMGCS 2022, Equality Monitoring

The 2021 Census of Northern Ireland found that 45.84% of the population were either Catholic or brought up as Catholic, while 40% belonged to or were brought up in Protestant, other Christian or Christian-related denominations. A further 0.62% belonged to or had been brought up in other Religions and Philosophies, while 13% neither belonged to, nor had been brought up in, a religion.

For the RMGCS 2022, Equality Monitoring forms were issued electronically to all 940 successful applicants. 773 (82.2%) responded and these responses are summarized below:

Mostly members of the Protestant community 40.75%

Mostly members of the Catholic community 22.90%

Membership consisting of Protestants and Catholics 36.09%

Members of neither Protestant nor Catholic community 0.26%

This evidence confirms the scheme is reaching constituted Voluntary and Community organisations whose project is based in a rural area, regardless of their religious belief.

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**Political Opinion** evidence/information:

* Consideration of the breakdown of rural statistical data in the 2021 census of Northern Ireland
* Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey 2023
* RMGCS 2022, Equality Monitoring

Information on political opinion was not collected in the Population Census 2021. However, a question on National Identity was included.

• 41.59% identified solely or along with other identifies as British

• 35.51% identified solely or along with other identities as Irish

• 31.5% identified solely or along with other identities as Northern Irish

The Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey 2023[[1]](#endnote-1) found that 28% of the Northern Ireland population describe themselves as nationalist, 30% as unionist and 37% held neither political opinion.

For the RMGCS 2022, Equality Monitoring forms were issued electronically to all 940 successful applicants. 773 (82.2%) responded and these responses are summarized below:

Mostly people with a Nationalist political preference 18.76%

Mostly people with a unionist political preference 39.07%

Mostly people with a Nationalist and Unionist political preference 34.80%

Mostly people who don’t hold a Nationalist and Unionist 7.37%

political preference

This evidence confirms the scheme is reaching constituted Voluntary and Community organisations whose project is based in a rural area, regardless of their political opinion.

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**Racial Group** evidence/information:

* Consideration of the breakdown of rural statistical data in the 2021 census of Northern Ireland.
* RMGCS 2022, Equality Monitoring

The 2021 Census of Northern found that over 98.8% of the population, state their ethnic origin to be white. Non-white ethnic groups accounted for 1.2% of the total population.

As with other categories, the scheme is open to anyone that meets the scheme criteria regardless of their racial group.

For the RMGCS 2022, Equality Monitoring forms were issued electronically to all 940 successful applicants. 773 (82.2%) responded and these responses are summarized below:

White 97.54%

Mixed racial group 1.81%

Other Racial Group 0.65%

This evidence confirms the scheme is reaching constituted Voluntary and Community organisations whose project is based in a rural area, regardless of Race.

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**Age** evidence/information:

* Consideration of the breakdown of rural statistical data in the 2021 census of Northern Ireland.
* RMGCS 2022, Equality Monitoring.

Statistics from the 2021 census show the make-up of the rural community to be 21.47% aged under 15, 27.75% aged 15 – 39, 33.27% aged 40 - 64 and 17.51% aged 65+.

For the RMGCS 2022, Equality Monitoring forms were issued electronically to all 940 successful applicants. 773 (82.2%) responded and these responses are summarized below:

Mostly 25 or under 30.27%

Mostly 26 - 65 20.31%

Mostly over 65 8.02%

Mostly as equal spread of the 41.40%

above age groups

This evidence confirms the scheme is reaching constituted Voluntary and Community organisations whose project is based in a rural area, regardless of Age.

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**Marital Status** evidence/information:

* Consideration of the breakdown of rural statistical data in the 2021 census of Northern Ireland.
* RMGCS 2022, Equality Monitoring

Statistics from the 2021 census show the make-up of the rural households in NI to be 53.4% of the population aged 16 or over married or in a same sex civil partnership, 33% described as single or never married/civil partnered. 3% are recoded as separated, 4.6% are recorded as divorced and 6% are recorded as widowed.

For the RMGCS 2022, Equality Monitoring forms were issued electronically to all 940 successful applicants. 773 (82.2%) responded and these responses are summarized below:

Single, that is, never married or in civil partnership 32.73%

Married or in a civil partnership 54.20%

Divorced or legally dissolved civil partnership 0.26%

Widowed or a surviving partner from a same sex 2.33%

marriage

Co-Habiting 0.52%

Other 9.96%

This evidence confirms the scheme is reaching constituted Voluntary and Community organisations whose project is based in a rural area, regardless of marital status.

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**Sexual Orientation** evidence/information:

* Consideration of the breakdown of rural statistical data in the 2021 census of Northern Ireland.
* RMGCS 2022, Equality Monitoring

Statistics from the 2021 census show that 91.7% of the rural population aged 16 or over identify as straight or heterosexual, 1.2% identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual or other and 7.1% of the rural population chose not to answer or did not state their sexual orientation.

For the RMGCS 2022, Equality Monitoring forms were issued electronically to all 940 successful applicants. 773 (82.2%) responded and these responses are summarized below:

Heterosexual / Straight 96.12%

Bisexual 0.65%

Other 3.23%

As with other categories, the scheme is open to any organisation that meets the scheme criteria regardless of their sexual orientation.

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**Men & Women generally** evidence/information:

* Consideration of the breakdown of rural statistical data in the 2021 census of Northern Ireland.
* RMGCS 2022, Equality Monitoring

Statistics from the 2021 census show the make-up of the rural community to be 50.07% male and 49.93% female.

As with other categories, the scheme is open to organisations consisting of both men and women.

For the RMGCS 2022, Equality Monitoring forms were issued electronically to all 940successful applicants. 773 (82.2%) responded and these responses are summarized below:

Mostly female 09.18%

Mostly Male 22.51%

Equal numbers M & F 68.31%

This evidence confirms the scheme is reaching constituted Voluntary and Community organisations whose project is based in a rural area, regardless of how individuals identify.

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**Disability** evidence/information:

* Consideration of the breakdown of rural statistical data in the 2021 census of Northern Ireland.
* RMGCS 2022, Equality Monitoring

Statistics from the 2021 census show that 22% of rural households contain at least one person with a long-term health problem or disability.

For the RMGCS 2022, Equality Monitoring forms were issued electronically to all 940 successful applicants. 773 (82.2%) responded and these responses are summarized below:

Majority of members have no disability 90.69%

Majority of Members have a disability 7.76%

No members with a disability 1.55%

This evidence confirms the scheme is reaching constituted Voluntary and Community organisations whose project is based in a rural area, including those organisations that have members with a disability.

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**Dependant’s** evidence/information:

* Consideration of the breakdown of rural statistical data in the 2021 census of Northern Ireland.
* RMGCS 2022, Equality Monitoring

Statistics from the 2021 census show the make-up of rural households to be 25% with dependants.

For the RMGCS 2022, Equality Monitoring forms were issued electronically to all 940 successful applicants. 773 (82.2%) responded and these responses are summarized below:

A child (or children) 41.79%

A person with a disability 1.55%

A dependent elderly person 10.87%

Other dependants 14.23%

No dependants 31.57%

As with other categories, the scheme is open to any organisation that meets the scheme criteria regardless of whether members have dependants or not.

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**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 of the needs, experiences and priorities for each of the Section 75 categories below:**

***Religious belief***

Data shows that there are fewer Catholics residing in rural areas than Protestants, however the RMCGS 2024/2025 is open to groups from across society and is aimed at focusing on the needs of the most vulnerable groups in rural areas by reducing poverty and social isolation regardless of religious belief.

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***Political Opinion***

The majority of the Northern Ireland rural population state their political opinion as unionist, however the RMCGS 2024/2025 is open to groups from across society and is aimed at focusing on the needs of the most vulnerable groups in rural areas by reducing poverty and social isolation regardless of political opinion.

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***Racial Group***

98.8% of the Northern Ireland population is white, however the RMCGS 2024/2025 is open to any constituted Voluntary and Community organisation based in a rural area. The scheme is open to groups from across society and is aimed at focusing on the needs of the most vulnerable groups in rural areas by reducing poverty and social isolation regardless of race.

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***Age***

While the applicant must be aged 18+, the RMCGS 2024/2025 is targeted at existing constituted Voluntary and Community organisations based in a rural area. The scheme is open to groups from across society and is aimed at focusing on the needs of the most vulnerable groups in rural areas by reducing poverty and social isolation regardless of the age of beneficiaries of the RMCGS.

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***Marital status***

Over half the rural households in Northern Ireland are made up of married couples. The RMCGS 2024/2025 is targeted at existing constituted Voluntary and Community organisations based in a rural area. The Scheme is open to groups from across society and is aimed at focusing on the needs of the most vulnerable groups in rural areas by reducing poverty and social isolation regardless of their members’ marital status.

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***Sexual orientation***

91.7% of the rural population aged 16 or over identify as straight or heterosexual. For the RMCGS 2022 equality monitoring 96.12% of the respondents identified as such. The RMCGS 2024/2025 is open to groups from across society regardlessof their members’ sexual orientation.

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***Men and Women Generally***

Generally, an even split of men and women within the rural population of Northern Ireland. The RMCGS is aimed at focusing on the needs of the most vulnerable groups in rural areas by reducing poverty and social isolation regardlessof whether their members are men or women.

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***Disability***

With 22% of rural households containing at least one person with a disability it is highly likely that disabled people will benefit from this scheme. The RMCGS 2022 Equality Monitoring confirmed that almost 8% of groups had members with disabilities who benefitted from the RMCGS. The RMCGS 2024/2025 is open to groups from across society and is aimed at focusing on the needs of the most vulnerable groups in rural areas by reducing poverty and social isolation regardlessof any disability.

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***Dependants***

25% of households state they have dependants. The RMCGS 2022 Equality Monitoring suggest 70% of organisations benefiting had members, the majority of whom had dependents. The RMCGS 2024/2025 is aimed at focusing on the needs of the most vulnerable groups in rural areas by reducing poverty and social isolation regardlessof whether members have dependants or not.

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**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.

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**

1. The policy is significant in terms of its strategic importance;
2. 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;
3. 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;
4. 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;
5. The policy is likely to be challenged by way of judicial review;
6. The policy is significant in terms of expenditure.

**In favour of ‘minor’ impact**

1. The policy is not unlawfully discriminatory and any residual potential impacts on people are judged to be negligible;
2. 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;
3. 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;
4. By amending the policy there are better opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

**In favour of none**

1. The policy has no relevance to equality of opportunity or good relations.
2. 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?**

Please provide details of the likely policy impacts and determine the level of impact for each S75 categories below i.e. either minor, major or none.

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

No impact on equality of opportunity – the scheme is open to all organisations who meet the scheme requirements regardless of religious belief. The scheme shall directly and indirectly benefit the voluntary and community sector as a whole which is representative of the range of religious beliefs in Northern Ireland. The criteria for applicants does not disadvantage any particular religious belief.

**What is the level of impact?**

None

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

No impact on equality of opportunity – the scheme is open to all organisations who meet the scheme requirements regardless of political opinion. The scheme shall directly and indirectly benefit the voluntary and community sector as a whole which is representative of the range of political opinion in Northern Ireland. The criteria for applicants does not disadvantage any particular political opinion.

**What is the level of impact?**

None

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

No impact on equality of opportunity – the scheme is open to all organisations who meet the scheme requirements regardless of racial group. The criteria for applicants does not disadvantage any particular racial group.

**What is the level of impact?**

None

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

No impact on equality of opportunity – the scheme is open to all organisations who meet the scheme requirements regardless of age. The scheme shall directly and indirectly benefit the voluntary and community sector as a whole which is representative of the age range of rural communities in Northern Ireland. The criteria for applicants does not disadvantage any particular age group.

**What is the level of impact?**

None

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

No impact on equality of opportunity – the scheme is open to all organisations who meet the scheme requirements regardless of marital status. The criteria for applicants does not disadvantage any particular group’s members’ marital status.

**What is the level of impact?**

None

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

No impact on equality of opportunity – the scheme is open to all organisations who meet the scheme requirements regardless of sexual orientation. The criteria for applicants does not disadvantage any particular group’s members’ sexual orientation.

**What is the level of impact?**

None

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

No impact on equality of opportunity – the scheme is open to all organisations who meet the scheme requirements regardless of whether the members are men or women. The criteria for applicants does not disadvantage any particular group’s members’ gender.

**What is the level of impact?**

None

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

No impact on equality of opportunity – the scheme is open to all organisations who meet the scheme requirements. The scheme shall directly and indirectly benefit the voluntary and community sector as a whole which is representative of rural communities in Northern Ireland. The criteria for applicants does not disadvantage any group with disabled members. In the RMCGS 2022 almost 8% of applicant organisations had members with disabilities, thus the impact although minor will be positive.

**What is the level of impact?**

Minor

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

No impact on equality of opportunity – the scheme is open to all organisations who meet the scheme requirements. The criteria for applicants does not disadvantage any particular marital status of members.

**What is the level of impact?**

None

1. **Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories?** Yes

Detail opportunities of how this policy could promote equality of opportunity for people within each of the Section 75 Categories below:

***Religious Belief* - If Yes, provide details: N/A**

**If No, provide reasons:**

The scheme is open to all organisations who meet the scheme requirements, regardless of religious belief of beneficiaries.

***Political Opinion* - If Yes, provide details: N/A**

**If No, provide reasons:**

The scheme is open to all organisations who meet the scheme requirements, regardless of political opinion of beneficiaries.

***Racial Group* - If Yes, provide details: N/A**

**If No, provide reasons:**

The scheme is open to all organisations who meet the scheme requirements, regardless of race of beneficiaries.

***Age* - If Yes, provide details: N/A**

**If No, provide reasons: N/A**

The scheme is open to all organisations who meet the scheme requirements, regardless of age of beneficiaries.

***Marital Status* - If Yes, provide details: N/A**

**If No, provide reasons**

The scheme is open to all organisations who meet the scheme requirements, regardless of marital status of beneficiaries.

***Sexual Orientation* - If Yes, provide details: N/A**

**If No, provide reasons:**

The scheme is open to all organisations who meet the scheme requirements, regardless of sexual orientation of beneficiaries.

***Men and Women generally* - If Yes, provide details: N/A**

**If No, provide reasons:**

The scheme is open to all organisations who meet the scheme requirements, regardless of gender of beneficiaries.

***Disability* - If Yes, provide details: N/A**

**If No, provide reasons:**

The scheme is open to all organisations who meet the scheme requirements, regardless of beneficiaries having a disability or not.

***Dependants* - If Yes, provide details: N/A**

**If No, provide reasons:**

The scheme is open to all organisations who meet the scheme requirements, regardless of beneficiaries having dependants or not.

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

Please provide details of the likely policy impact and determine the level of impact for each of the categories below i.e. either minor, major or none.

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

No detrimental impact.

**What is the level of impact?** None

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

No detrimental impact.

**What is the level of impact?** None

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

No detrimental impact.

**What is the level of impact?** None

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

Detail opportunities of how this policy could better promote good relations for people within each of the Section 75 Categories below:

***Religious Belief* - If Yes, provide details: N/A**

**If No, provide reasons:**

There is no opportunity in the Rural Micro Capital Grant Scheme to specifically promote good relations between people with different religious beliefs, however this intervention may lead to people of different religious beliefs coming together for activities in their local community setting.

***Political Opinion* - If Yes, provide details: N/A**

**If No, provide reasons:**

There is no opportunity in the Rural Micro Capital Grant Scheme to specifically promote good relations between people with different political opinions, however this intervention may lead to people of different political opinions coming together for activities in their local community setting.

**Racial Group - If Yes, provide details: N/A**

**If No, provide reasons:**

There is no opportunity in the Rural Micro Capital Grant Scheme to specifically promote good relations between people with different racial groups, however this intervention may lead to people of different racial groups coming together for activities in their local community setting.

**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?  If so, please detail below.

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

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

Evaluation of the latest Scheme (RMCGS 2022) identified continuing need for the micro intervention made possible through the RMCGS. Based on evaluation information provided by successful applicants to that Scheme as well as the feedback from the Rural Support Networks (RSNs) the RMCGS 2024/2025 can potentially lead to the promotion of equality of opportunity for all, including people of multiple identities, as it builds the capacity and capability of the rural population.

DAERA also has legislative obligations to meet under the Disability Discrimination Order. Questions 5 – 6 relate to these.

Consideration of Disability Duties

1. **Does this proposed policy or decision provide an opportunity for DAERA to better *promote positive attitudes* towards disabled people?**

Yes. The RMCGS enables grant to be used to install equipment to enhance the user experience for disabled persons and enhance participation in community activities by disabled people.

6. **Does this proposed policy or decision provide an opportunity to actively *increase the participation* by disabled people in public life?**

A number of funded projects will enhance participation in community activities by disabled people.

**Part 3. Screening decision**

 “Screened out” without mitigation or an alternative policy proposed to be adopted

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

As the scheme is open to all rural voluntary and community organisations who meet the scheme criteria, there is no impact on grounds of equality or human rights on any of the Section 75 groupings as all eligible applicants will be free to apply for grant funding regardless of their gender, disability, religious belief etc. All applicants that meet the eligibility criteria will be offered grant funding.

**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.**

N/A

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

N/A

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: [A Practical Guide to Equality Impact Assessment](https://www.equalityni.org/ECNI/media/ECNI/Publications/Employers%20and%20Service%20Providers/PracticalGuidanceonEQIA2005.pdf?ext=.pdf)

**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? No (delete as appropriate)**

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

As the scheme is open to all rural voluntary and community organisations who meet the scheme criteria, there is no impact on grounds of equality or human rights on any of the Section 75 groupings as all eligible applicants will be free to apply for grant funding regardless of their gender, disability, religious belief etc.

**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 |  |
| **Total score** |  |

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**

Section 75 places a requirement on DAERA to have equality monitoring arrangements in place in order to assess the impact of policies and services etc.; and to help identify barriers to fair participation and to better promote equality of opportunity. Please note the following excerpt from The Equality Commission for Northern Ireland in relation to monitoring:

*A system must be established to monitor the impact of the policy in order to find out its effect on relevant groups. The results of ongoing monitoring must be reviewed on an annual basis. The public authority is required to publish the results of this monitoring. And they must be included in the public authorities´ annual review on progress to the Equality Commission. The Equality Scheme must specify how and where such monitoring information will be published. It is therefore essential that monitoring is carried out in a systematic manner and that the results are widely and openly published.*

*If the monitoring and analysis of results over a two year period show that the policy results in greater adverse impact than predicted, or if opportunities arise which would allow for greater equality of opportunity to be promoted, the public authority must ensure that the policy is revised to achieve better outcomes for the relevant equality groups.*

Further advice on monitoring can be found at: [ECNI Monitoring Guidance for Public Authorities](https://www.equalityni.org/ECNI/media/ECNI/Publications/Employers%20and%20Service%20Providers/S75MonitoringGuidance2007.pdf?ext=.pdf)

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

**Equality:**

On receipt of their Application form, each organisation will be issued with a link to an Equality Monitoring Survey which will provide the Department with data such as racial or ethnic origin, political opinion or religious beliefs of the expected project beneficiaries to monitor potential adverse impacts of the scheme.

**Good Relations:**

As above

**Disability Duties:**

As above.

**Part 5. Consideration of Human Rights**

1. **The Human Rights Act (HRA) 1998 brings the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) into UK law and it applies in N Ireland. Indicate below by deleting Yes/No as appropriate, any potential *adverse impacts* that the policy or decision may have in relation to human rights issues.**

See Annex A for brief synopsis on each of the Human Rights Articles & Protocols

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Right to Life | **Article 2** | No |
| Prohibition of torture, inhuman or degrading treatment  | **Article 3** | No |
| Prohibition of slavery and forced labour | **Article 4** | No |
| Right to liberty and security  | **Article 5** | No |
| Right to a fair and public trial | **Article 6** | No |
| Right to no punishment without law | **Article 7** | No |
| Right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence | **Article 8** | No |
| Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion | **Article 9** | No |
| Right to freedom of expression | **Article 10** | No |
| Right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association | **Article 11** | No |
| Right to marry and to found a family | **Article 12** | No |
| The prohibition of discrimination | **Article 14** | No |
| Protection of property and enjoyment of possessions | **Protocol 1Article 1** | No |
| Right to education | **Protocol 1Article 2** | No |
| Right to free and secret elections | **Protocol 1Article 3** | No |

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

 N/A

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

 This decision does not promote human rights.

**Part 6 - Approval and authorisation**

# **Screening Checklist**

Before signing off this screening template please confirm that you have completed all the actions listed below.

I can confirm that all the actions listed below have been completed –

* I have explained any technical issues in plain English (easily understood by a 12 year old)
* I have used the most relevant, current & up to date data available
* I have added evidence and explained my assessments in full
* I have provided a brief note to justify my decision to ‘Screen In’ or ‘Screen Out’
* A copy of this screening template and the final decision has been sent to the Equality Unit for their consideration before it has been forwarded for sign-off

**Screening assessment completed by (Staff Officer level or above) -**

**Name: GERARD TREACY** **Grade:** Principal

**Branch:** Rural Affairs TRPSI, Health and Wellbeing Branch

**Date: 12 June 2024**

**Signature:** 

**Screening decision approved by (must be Grade 3 /Deputy Secretary or above) -**

**Name: FIONA McCANDLESS** **Grade:** Deputy Secretary

**Branch:** Strategic Planning & Corporate Services Group

**Date: 1 July 2024**

**Signature:** 

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.

Please save the final signed version of the completed screening form in the CM container (AE2-19-11940) below as soon as possible after completion and forward the CM link to Equality Branch at equality@daera-ni.gov.uk. The screening template must be saved to the container in **HTML format** (not PDF) in order to comply with accessibility requirements. The screening form will be placed on the DAERA website and a link provided to the Department’s Section 75 consultees.

 

For more information about equality screening, contact –

DAERA Equality Unit

Equality, Diversity & Public Appointments Branch

Ballykelly House

111 Ballykelly Road

LIMAVADY
BT49 9HP

Email: equality@daera-ni.gov.uk

Tel: 028 7744 2027



**Annex A**

**Synopsis of Human Rights Act Articles & Protocols**

***Article 2***

 **E+W+S+N.I.*Right to life***

1. Everyone’s right to life shall be protected by law. No one shall be deprived of his life intentionally save in the execution of a sentence of a court following his conviction of a crime for which this penalty is provided by law.**E+W+S+N.I.**
2. Deprivation of life shall not be regarded as inflicted in contravention of this Article when it results from the use of force which is no more than absolutely necessary:**E+W+S+N.I.**

(a) In defense of any person from unlawful violence;

(b) In order to effect a lawful arrest or to prevent the escape of a person lawfully detained;

(c) In action lawfully taken for the purpose of quelling a riot or insurrection.

***Article 3***

 **E+W+S+N.I.*Prohibition of torture***

No one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

***Article 4***

**E+W+S+N.I.*Prohibition of slavery and forced labour***

1. No one shall be held in slavery or servitude.**E+W+S+N.I.**
2. No one shall be required to perform forced or compulsory labour.**E+W+S+N.I.**
3. For the purpose of this Article the term “forced or compulsory labour” shall not include:**E+W+S+N.I.**

(a) Any work required to be done in the ordinary course of detention imposed according to the provisions of Article 5 of this Convention or during conditional release from such detention;

(b) Any service of a military character or, in case of conscientious objectors in countries where they are recognised, service exacted instead of compulsory military service;

(c) Any service exacted in case of an emergency or calamity threatening the life or well-being of the community;

(d) Any work or service which forms part of normal civic obligations.

***Article 5***

 **E+W+S+N.I.*Right to liberty and security***

1. Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person. No one shall be deprived of his liberty save in the following cases and in accordance with a procedure prescribed by law:**E+W+S+N.I.**

(a) The lawful detention of a person after conviction by a competent court;

(b) The lawful arrest or detention of a person for non-compliance with the lawful order of a court or in order to secure the fulfilment of any obligation prescribed by law;

(c) the lawful arrest or detention of a person effected for the purpose of bringing him before the competent legal authority on reasonable suspicion of having committed an offence or when it is reasonably considered necessary to prevent his committing an offence or fleeing after having done so;

(d ) the detention of a minor by lawful order for the purpose of educational supervision or his lawful detention for the purpose of bringing him before the competent legal authority;

(e) The lawful detention of persons for the prevention of the spreading of infectious diseases, of persons of unsound mind, alcoholics or drug addicts or vagrants;

(f) The lawful arrest or detention of a person to prevent his effecting an unauthorised entry into the country or of a person against whom action is being taken with a view to deportation or extradition.

1. Everyone who is arrested shall be informed promptly, in a language which he understands, of the reasons for his arrest and of any charge against him.**E+W+S+N.I.**
2. Everyone arrested or detained in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 1(c) of this Article shall be brought promptly before a judge or other officer authorised by law to exercise judicial power and shall be entitled to trial within a reasonable time or to release pending trial. Release may be conditioned by guarantees to appear for trial.**E+W+S+N.I.**
3. Everyone who is deprived of his liberty by arrest or detention shall be entitled to take proceedings by which the lawfulness of his detention shall be decided speedily by a court and his release ordered if the detention is not lawful.**E+W+S+N.I.**
4. Everyone who has been the victim of arrest or detention in contravention of the provisions of this Article shall have an enforceable right to compensation.**E+W+S+N.I.**

***Article 6***

**E+W+S+N.I.*Right to a fair trial***

1. In the determination of his civil rights and obligations or of any criminal charge against him, everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial tribunal established by law. Judgment shall be pronounced publicly but the press and public may be excluded from all or part of the trial in the interest of morals, public order or national security in a democratic society, where the interests of juveniles or the protection of the private life of the parties so require, or to the extent strictly necessary in the opinion of the court in special circumstances where publicity would prejudice the interests of justice.**E+W+S+N.I.**
2. Everyone charged with a criminal offence shall be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law.**E+W+S+N.I.**
3. Everyone charged with a criminal offence has the following minimum rights:**E+W+S+N.I.**

(a) To be informed promptly, in a language which he understands and in detail, of the nature and cause of the accusation against him;

(b) To have adequate time and facilities for the preparation of his defense;

(c) To defend himself in person or through legal assistance of his own choosing or, if he has not sufficient means to pay for legal assistance, to be given it free when the interests of justice so require;

(d) To examine or have examined witnesses against him and to obtain the attendance and examination of witnesses on his behalf under the same conditions as witnesses against him;

(e) To have the free assistance of an interpreter if he cannot understand or speak the language used in court.

***Article 7***

**E+W+S+N.I.*No punishment without law***

1. No one shall be held guilty of any criminal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a criminal offence under national or international law at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the criminal offence was committed.**E+W+S+N.I.**
2. This Article shall not prejudice the trial and punishment of any person for any act or omission which, at the time when it was committed, was criminal according to the general principles of law recognised by civilised nations.**E+W+S+N.I.**

***Article 8***

**E+W+S+N.I.*Right to respect for private and family life***

1. Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence.**E+W+S+N.I.**
2. There shall be no interference by a public authority with the exercise of this right except such as is in accordance with the law and is necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security, public safety or the economic well-being of the country, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.**E+W+S+N.I.**

***Article 9***

**E+W+S+N.I.*Freedom of thought, conscience and religion***

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief, in worship, teaching, practice and observance.**E+W+S+N.I.**
2. Freedom to manifest one’s religion or beliefs shall be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of public safety, for the protection of public order, health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.**E+W+S+N.I.**

***Article 10***

**E+W+S+N.I.*Freedom of expression***

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers. This Article shall not prevent States from requiring the licensing of broadcasting, television or cinema enterprises.**E+W+S+N.I.**
2. The exercise of these freedoms, since it carries with it duties and responsibilities, may be subject to such formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary.**E+W+S+N.I.**

***Article 11***

 **E+W+S+N.I.*Freedom of assembly and association***

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and to freedom of association with others, including the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.**E+W+S+N.I.**
2. No restrictions shall be placed on the exercise of these rights other than such as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others. This Article shall not prevent the imposition of lawful restrictions on the exercise of these rights by members of the armed forces, of the police or of the administration of the State.**E+W+S+N.I.**

***Article 12***

**E+W+S+N.I.*Right to marry***

Men and women of marriageable age have the right to marry and to found a family, according to the national laws governing the exercise of this right.

***Article 14***

**E+W+S+N.I.*Prohibition of discrimination***

The enjoyment of the rights and freedoms set forth in this Convention shall be secured without discrimination on any ground such as sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status.

**Protocol 1**

***Article 1***

 **E+W+S+N.I.*Protection of property***

Every natural or legal person is entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of his possessions. No one shall be deprived of his possessions except in the public interest and subject to the conditions provided for by law and by the general principles of international law.

The preceding provisions shall not, however, in any way impair the right of a State to enforce such laws as it deems necessary to control the use of property in accordance with the general interest or to secure the payment of taxes or other contributions or penalties.

**Protocol 1**

***Article 2***

 **E+W+S+N.I.*Right to education***

No person shall be denied the right to education. In the exercise of any functions which it assumes in relation to education and to teaching, the State shall respect the right of parents to ensure such education and teaching in conformity with their own religious and philosophical convictions.

**Protocol 1**

***Article***

***3* E+W+S+N.I.*Right to free elections***

The High Contracting Parties undertake to hold free elections at reasonable intervals by secret ballot, under conditions which will ensure the free expression of the opinion of the people in the choice of the legislature

1. https://www.ark.ac.uk/ARK/nilt/results [↑](#endnote-ref-1)