

**Regulatory Impact Assessment Screening
Ports Review, Primary Legislation**

	Screening Questions	Response to Screening Questions		Full Impact Assessment Required		Justification / Key issues and groups to focus on
		Yes	No	Yes	No	
Regulatory	Is the policy or amendment to the policy likely to have a direct or indirect impact on businesses?	X – partially indirect			X	<p>The primary legislation being introduced aims to achieve some of the policy recommendations in the recent review of Trust Ports. The primary legislation aims to repeal two levers of Departmental control over Trust Ports which will contribute to the aim of having ONS review the current classification of Trust Ports in NI. The two powers are the power of the Department to initiate transfer of Trust Ports and the power of the Department to issue directions to Trust Ports.</p> <p>The powers which are being repealed apply to NI’s four Trust Ports, Belfast Harbour, Coleraine Harbour, Foyle Port and Warrenpoint Harbour.</p> <p>The primary legislation will also aim to deal with the power of harbour authorities to give harbour directions and also make amendments to the Harbours Act (Northern Ireland) 1970.</p>

						Secondary legislation which the Department is planning to introduce aims to work alongside the Primary legislation to have ONS review the classification of NI Trust Ports and provide enhanced commercial powers.
	Is the policy or amendment to the policy likely to have a direct or indirect impact on the voluntary / community sector?		X		X	This is an existing policy which will have an impact on Trust Ports, and Statutory Harbour Authorities. The policy and legislation being taken forward will not have an impact on the voluntary and community sector.
CONCLUSION					X	

Endorsement

A Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) is a requirement to assess the impact of policy proposals on business, charities or voluntary organisations. A Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) can be defined as a tool used to assess the need and economic impact of an imposed regulation on businesses, charities or voluntary organisations.

The Department for the Economy (DfE) has published Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) Guidance on undertaking RIAs and a link is below:

- [Regulatory impact assessment guidance | Department for the Economy](#)

This screening document has determined that the primary legislation being taken forward following the review of Trust Ports and the policy proposals recommended does not have any regulatory impact on businesses, charities or voluntary organisations.

The review of Trust Ports policy objectives which the Department plans to take forward in secondary legislation dealing with the amendments to Board Appointments and commercial powers, will require a Regulatory Impact Assessment. The Department is currently reviewing and updating the RIA in this regard.

Signed: Sian Kerr

Agency/Division: TPPD

Date: 30th April 2026