

DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

SECTION 75 EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY SCREENING ANALYSIS FORM

The purpose of this form is to help you to consider whether a new policy (either internal or external) or legislation will require a full equality impact assessment (EQIA). Those policies identified as having significant implications for equality of opportunity must be subject to full EQIA.

The form will provide a record of the factors taken into account if a policy is screened out, or excluded for EQIA. It will provide a basis for quarterly consultation on the outcome of the screening exercise, and will be referenced in the biannual review of progress made to the Minister and in the Annual Report to the Equality Commission.

Further advice on completion of this form and the screening process including relevant contact information can be accessed via the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) Intranet site.

HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

When considering the impact of this policy you should also consider if there would be any Human Rights implications. Guidance is at:

- <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/articles/human-rights-and-public-authorities>

Should this be appropriate you will need to complete a Human Rights Impact Assessment. A template is at:

- <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/publications/human-rights-impact-assessment-proforma>

Don't forget to Rural Proof.

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

TGN 32 – Capital Works Appraisal Guidance

Is this an existing, revised or a new policy?

Creation of a new policy (technical guidance note).

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

This Rivers Technical Guidance Note (TGN) is aimed at all Rivers staff involved, directly or indirectly, with the appraisal of flood risk management schemes and the development of supporting business cases (economic appraisals), for minor and major capital works.

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

If so, explain how.

No - the policy does not make any distinction between different Section 75 groups

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

Department for Infrastructure (DfI) Rivers Directorate

Who owns and who implements the policy?

Department for Infrastructure – Rivers Directorate own and will implement the TGN.

Background

The powers delegated to DfI Rivers by the Department for Infrastructure, as the statutory Drainage and Flood Defence authority for Northern Ireland, derive from the Drainage (Northern Ireland) Order 1973 which is the legislative basis for the delivery of capital work schemes.

Associated technical guidance notes outline the steps required by the Department to progress capital flood defence projects from inception through to completion. The processes are set out within the documents in a systematic way, with step-by-step guidance clearly defined at each stage of the project lifecycle. Internal gateway approvals, statutory requirements and best practice principles have been included within the guidance. This technical guidance note therefore compliments the other associated notes.

The audience for this guidance is primarily staff within the DfI Rivers Capital Projects Unit and partnering consultants. This guidance will ensure a standardised and consistent approach is delivered by the Department and in line with best industry practices.

Implementation factors

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

None

If yes, are they (please delete as appropriate)

~~financial~~

~~legislative~~

~~other, please specify _____~~

Main stakeholders affected

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

staff

service users

other public sector organisations

~~voluntary/community/trade unions~~

The general public (residents/landowners) and business owners who are included within the extents of the flood management schemes.

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

- what are they?

- Drainage (NI) Order 1973
- Rivers Six Year Strategy
- Other relevant DfI Rivers TGNs, notably TGNs 26 & 27
- Better Business Cases Northern Ireland Framework

- who owns them?

- Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS)
- Department for Infrastructure Rivers Directorate

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](#).

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

Religious belief evidence / information:

This is a Technical Guidance Note (TGN) and the associated outcomes are indiscriminate.

Political Opinion evidence / information:

As for Religious Belief

Racial Group evidence / information:

As for Religious Belief

Age evidence / information:

As for Religious Belief

Marital Status evidence / information:

As for Religious Belief

Sexual Orientation evidence / information:

As for Religious Belief

Men & Women generally evidence / information:

As for Religious Belief

Disability evidence / information:

As for Religious Belief

Dependants evidence / information:

As for Religious Belief

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

No specific needs, experiences or priorities have been identified for this Section 75 category. This Rivers Technical Guidance Note is aimed at all Rivers staff involved, directly or indirectly, with the appraisal of flood risk management schemes and the development of supporting business cases (economic appraisals), for minor and major capital works.

Political Opinion

As for Religious Belief

Racial Group

As for Religious Belief

Age

As for Religious Belief

Marital status

As for Religious Belief

Sexual orientation

As for Religious Belief

Men and Women Generally

As for Religious Belief

Disability

As for Religious Belief

Dependants

As for Religious Belief

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 which are given on pages 66-68 of this Guide.

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

- a) The policy is significant in terms of its strategic importance;
- b) 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;
- c) 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;
- d) 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;

- e) The policy is likely to be challenged by way of judicial review;
- f) The policy is significant in terms of expenditure.

In favour of 'minor' impact

- a) The policy is not unlawfully discriminatory and any residual potential impacts on people are judged to be negligible;
- b) 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;
- c) 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;
- d) By amending the policy there are better opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

In favour of none

- a) The policy has no relevance to equality of opportunity or good relations.
- b) 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**:

The implementation of this TGN will not impact on equality of opportunity for this Section 75 category as it is guidance for Dfl Rivers' staff.

What is the level of impact? None

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

The implementation of this TGN will not impact on equality of opportunity for this Section 75 category as it is guidance for Dfl Rivers' staff.

What is the level of impact? None

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

The implementation of this TGN will not impact on equality of opportunity for this Section 75 category as it is guidance for Dfl Rivers' staff.

What is the level of impact? None

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

The implementation of this TGN will not impact on equality of opportunity for this Section 75 category as it is guidance for Dfl Rivers' staff.

What is the level of impact? None

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

The implementation of this TGN will not impact on equality of opportunity for this Section 75 category as it is guidance for Dfl Rivers' staff.

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

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

The implementation of this TGN will not impact on equality of opportunity for this Section 75 category as it is guidance for Dfl Rivers' staff.

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

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

The implementation of this TGN will not impact on equality of opportunity for this Section 75 category as it is guidance for Dfl Rivers' staff.

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

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

The implementation of this TGN will not impact on equality of opportunity for this Section 75 category as it is guidance for Dfl Rivers' staff.

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

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

The implementation of this TGN will not impact on equality of opportunity for this Section 75 category as it is guidance for Dfl Rivers' staff.

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 - ~~If Yes, provide details:~~

The implementation of this TGN will not better promote equality of opportunity as it is technical guidance for Dfl staff only.

Political Opinion - ~~If Yes, provide details:~~

The implementation of this TGN will not better promote equality of opportunity as it is technical guidance for Dfl staff only.

Racial Group - ~~If Yes, provide details:~~

The implementation of this TGN will not better promote equality of opportunity as it is technical guidance for Dfl staff only.

Age - ~~If Yes, provide details:~~

The implementation of this TGN will not better promote equality of opportunity as it is guidance for Dfl staff only.

Marital Status - ~~If Yes, provide details:~~

The implementation of this TGN will not better promote equality of opportunity as it is guidance for Dfl staff only.

Sexual Orientation - ~~If Yes, provide details:~~

The implementation of this TGN will not better promote equality of opportunity as it is guidance for Dfl staff only.

Men and Women generally - ~~If Yes, provide details:~~

The implementation of this TGN will not better promote equality of opportunity as it is guidance for Dfl staff only.

Disability - ~~If Yes, provide details:~~

The implementation of this TGN will not better promote equality of opportunity as it is guidance for Dfl staff only.

Dependants - ~~If Yes, provide details:~~

The implementation of this TGN will not better promote equality of opportunity as it is guidance for Dfl staff only.

3. **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**:

As this is technical guidance the implementation of this TGN will have no impact on good relations between people within this Section 75 category.

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

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

As this is technical guidance the implementation of this TGN will have no impact on good relations between people within this Section 75 category.

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

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

As this is technical guidance the implementation of this TGN will have no impact on good relations between people within this Section 75 category.

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?

No

Religious Belief - ~~If Yes, provide details:~~

As this is technical guidance, the implementation of this TGN will have no ability to promote good relations between people within this Section 75 category.

Political Opinion - ~~If Yes, provide details:~~

As this is technical guidance, the implementation of this TGN will have no ability to promote good relations between people within this Section 75 category.

Racial Group - ~~If Yes, provide details:~~

As this is technical guidance, the implementation of this TGN will have no ability to promote good relations between people within this Section 75 category.

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).

This has been considered and no potential impacts have been identified.

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

None.

Part 3. Screening decision

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

The aim of this policy, which is technical in nature, is for DfI Rivers staff involved with the appraisal of flood risk management schemes, and it should 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.

On that basis this policy is considered neutral in terms of its impact on Section 75 groupings and therefore an EQIA is not required.

Should any issues be identified, this form will be reviewed as necessary.

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: Practical Guidance on Equality Impact Assessment.

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

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

N/A

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 [Author pick 1 2 or 3 if a full EQIA is to take place]

Effect on equality of opportunity and good relations **Rating 1, 2 or 3**

Social need **Rating 1, 2 or 3**

Effect on people’s daily lives **Rating 1, 2 or 3**

Relevance to a public authority’s functions **Rating 1, 2 or 3**

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?

No

If yes, please provide details.

N/A

Part 4. Monitoring

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

The Commission recommends that where the policy has been amended or an alternative policy introduced, the public authority should monitor more broadly than for adverse impact (See Benefits, P.9-10, paras 2.13 – 2.20 of the Monitoring Guidance).

Effective monitoring will help the public authority identify any future adverse impact arising from the policy which may lead the public authority to conduct an equality impact assessment, as well as help with future planning and policy development.

Part 5 - Approval and authorisation

Screened by: *Craig Rankin*
Craig Rankin
Position/Job Title: Project Manager – Rivers Capital Projects Unit
Date: 13/11/2025

Approved by: *Ronan Devlin*
Ronan Devlin
Position/Job Title: Principal Civil Engineer – Rivers Capital Projects Unit
Date: 19/11/2025

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.

For Equality Team Completion:

Date Received: 20/11/2025
Amendments Requested: Yes
Date Returned to Business Area: 26/11/2025
Date Final Version Received / Confirmed: 14/05/2026
Date Published on DfI's Section 75 webpage: 18/05/2026