

Strategic Environmental Assessment – Screening Form

[Practical Guidance on Strategic Environmental Assessments](#)

Topic	Social and Environmental Guidance for Water and Sewerage Services for Price Control 28 (2028/29 – 2032/33)
Description	Under Article 7 of the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006, as amended, the Department may from time-to-time issue guidance on its social or environmental policies. The Regulator shall, in exercising and performing its functions with respect to regulation of the water industry, have regard to any guidance issued under that Article. In line with the approach taken for the current Price Control period, PC21, the Department has developed updated draft Guidance ('the Guidance'), for the next Price Control period PC28 (2028/29 – 2032/33) to help inform the determination by the Utility Regulator for this next period. The Guidance summarises key strategic social and environmental policies for the Regulator to take account of when regulating NI Water during the next Price Control period. These policies are summarised under three key themes: • Environmental Improvement and Compliance; • Service Delivery, Improvement and Affordability; and, • Sustainability and Climate Change
1. Is the PP subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a))	Yes - the draft Guidance will be subject to formal public consultation following which it will be submitted to the Executive for approval for laying before the Assembly and issuing to the Utility Regulator.
2. Is the PP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	Yes - It is not required by law but is supported by Article 7 of the Water and

	Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006.
3. Is the PP prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive? (Art. 3.2(a))	No – while the Guidance relates to water management it does not set a framework for future development consent of projects, as such it does not fall within the definition of a Plan or Programme that is subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment.
4. Will the PP, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art. 3.2(b))	No - the Guidance also does not give any consent, permission or authorisation to a plan or project such that an assessment under the Habitats Regulations is required.
5. Does the PP determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Art. 3.2? (Art. 3.3)	No.
6. Does the PP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in Annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art. 3.4)	No.
7. Is the PP's sole purpose to serve national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget PP, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art. 3.8, 3.9)	No.
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)*	Not in itself – the Guidance summarises existing environmental and social policies that the Department expects the Regulator to have regard to in discharging its functions.
Conclusion	The Social and Environmental Guidance does not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment
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