

Human Rights Act Impact Assessment Form

This form will help you to articulate any human rights issues in the policy/proposal that you are working on. It is necessary for you to have read the OFMDFM guidance on human rights entitled “Get in on the Act; a practical guide to the Human Rights Act for public authorities in Northern Ireland” before completed this form.

If the policy/proposal is relevant to some rights but does not interfere with or limit them, your assessment must be signed off by a Senior Responsible Officer (Grade 7, equivalent or above). If you find that it does interfere with or limit one, or more of the Convention rights, and your Senior Responsible Officer agrees, you must seek legal advice, even if it is considered that the interference or limitation is justified.

A template and guidance form is also available at [Human rights and public authorities | The Executive Office \(executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

Please complete the form and email it to equality@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk for quality assurance.

(Your answers in this form will also help you draft an informed note to your legal advisor.)

1. Policy title and aims

Please state the title and objective of the policy/proposal you are working on.

Eastern Transport Plan (ETP) 2035:

The ETP will set the framework for making transport policy and investment decisions up until 2035 for the council areas of Antrim and Newtownabbey, Ards and North Down, Belfast, Lisburn and Castlereagh and Mid and East Antrim.

The ETP aims to ensure that the transport network meets the needs of the people and businesses living, working and visiting the ETP area, both now and in the future. The ETP Vision is to deliver an integrated and re-balanced transport network in favour of sustainable, efficient modes, which connects communities creating an accessible, inclusive, safe and prosperous economic region by delivering carbon reduction, improving air quality, enhancing the built and natural environment and facilitating healthy and sustainable travel choices over unnecessary private car travel.

The ETP will integrate with the Local Development Plans of these five local council areas. Due to the councils being at different stages in their Local Development Plans, the ETP will therefore be published in iterations. As Belfast City Council is most advanced, the first iteration will cover the Belfast City Centre Transport Plan and Metropolitan Area Transport Plan proposals.

2. Rights which the policy/proposal engage

Go through each of the rights detailed below. For each one consider whether the policy/proposal engages the right, ie, how the policy/proposal you are working on could involve the right. Explain how the right is engaged.

Please note that the rights have been abbreviated so you should see the relevant Article in the Guide referred to above for the full title and explanation of the right.

Article 2 Right to Life

No

Article 3 Prohibition of torture, inhuman and degrading treatment

No

Article 4 Prohibition of slavery and forced labour

No

Article 5 Right to Liberty

No

Article 6 Right to a fair trial

No

Article 7 No punishment without law

No

Article 8 right to respect for private and family life

No

Article 9 Freedom of thought conscience and religion

No

Article 10 Freedom of expression

No

Article 11 Freedom of assembly and association

No

Article 12 Right to marry and found a family

No

Article 13 Prohibition of discrimination

No

Protocol 1, Article 1 Right to property

No

Protocol 1, Article 2 Right to education

No

Protocol 1, Article 3 Right to free elections

No

If you have answered yes to any of these questions you must complete the rest of the form. If you have answered no to **all** questions, you may proceed to Question 9.

3. Rights which the policy/proposal interferes with or limits

Will the policy/proposal interfere with or limit any of the rights you identified as being engaged? If so, explain how the right is interfered with or limited.

You should note that interference could be a negative impact on the right or a failure to take positive action where this is required under the Article in question. For further guidance on which Articles require positive action, please consult the Guide [link at the start of this form].

Article

N/A

4. Those affected by the interference/limitation

Identify who could be affected by the interference or limitation, eg, sections of society or people with certain beliefs or opinions, and explain how they could be affected.

It will help in identifying interferences or limitations to think about all the people who could be affected and be seen as a victim within the Human Rights Act.

Who could be affected?

N/A

5. Legal basis for interference/limitation

Is there a law which allows you to interfere with or limit the rights identified in Question 4?

Any interference with or limitation on a Convention right must have a legal basis. You therefore need to establish whether there is a law which allows the proposed interference or limitation.

You may need legal advice to clarify this.

Relevant legislation:

N/A

Alternatively, the policy/proposal may involve the creation of a new law which allows for the interference or limitation. If this is the case, please detail and explain here.

6. Purpose of the policy/proposal

Even if the interference or limitation in the policy/proposal is according to the law, there are further conditions which must be met. The purpose of the policy/proposal must pursue a legitimate aim or fall under one of the specific exceptions in the Article in question.

Consider each of the Articles which the policy/proposal will interfere with or limit, and for each one specify the exception or legitimate aim which allows the interference or limitation and explain why.

If you are unsure of the exceptions or legitimate aims which are applicable for the rights interfered with or limited by the policy/proposal you are working on, you should refer to the text of the Convention and the Guide [link at beginning of this form].

Article

[N/A](#)

7. Necessary in a democratic society

Articles 8, 9, 10 and 11 specify that interference or limitations must be necessary in a democratic society. If the policy/proposal interferes with or limits one of these rights, detail below how the right is necessary in a democratic society, ie, does it fulfil a pressing social need?

You may need to speak to the Senior Responsible Officer for clarification of this.

Article affected

N/A

8. Proportionality

Any interference with or limitation on a Convention right must be proportionate, ie, the policy/proposal must interfere with or limit a right more than is absolutely necessary to achieve its aims. For each Article which the policy/proposal interferes with or limits, explain how the interference or limitation is proportionate.

For further information on proportionality please consult the Guide.

Article affected

N/A

9. Article 14 equality issues

Even if it does not interfere with or limit a right or freedom, could the policy/proposal result in people being treated differently in relation to any of the Convention rights?
Article 14 does not allow discrimination in the exercise of any of the other Convention rights.

For further information on Article 14, please refer to the relevant pages in the Guide.

Convention Article affected

None

You should now have a clearer view about the policy/proposal and the possibility of it engaging or interfering with Convention rights and freedoms.

Please ensure that form is also signed by your Senior Responsible Officer and if there is any possible interference of limitation refer to your legal advisor for further action and advice.

Please **highlight in yellow** the statement that applies, and sign below.

- a) The policy/proposal does not engage any Convention rights.
- b) The policy/proposal does engage one or more of the Convention rights, but does not interfere with or limit it/the.
- c) The policy/proposal interferes with or limits one or more Convention rights and legal advice is being sought.

Countersign, hold copy with policy papers and refer to your legal advisor.

Signed by: Damien McGrady (Official)

Date: 01/10/2026 Grade: Deputy Principal

Signed by: Anthony Rafferty (Senior Responsible Officer)

Date: 01/10/2026 Grade: Principal

Human Rights Act Referral to Legal Services Form

FAO: _____

From: _____

Please see the attached Human Rights Act Impact Assessment Form for the following proposal/policy.

Title and Objective of Policy/Proposal

I have identified the following rights as being interfered with/limited by this policy/proposal.

I would be grateful for your advice on this matter. All relevant papers are attached.

Your contact in this Department is:-

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____ Email: _____
