

DRD SECTION 75 EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY SCREENING ANALYSIS FORM 2005

Section 1

Introduction

This form is intended 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 consultation on the outcome of the screening exercise and will be referenced in the quarterly review of progress made to the Minister and in the Annual Report to the Equality Commission. Copies of completed forms should be retained on file within business areas and reference should be made to the outcome of the screening exercise and subsequent consultation in any submission made to the Minister.

Background

The Legal Background

Under section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the Department is required to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity:

- between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
- between men and women generally;
- between persons with a disability and persons without; and
- between persons with dependants and persons without.

The main groups within each of the nine categories, highlighted above, are identified at Appendix 1.

In addition, without prejudice to its obligations above, the Department is also required, in carrying out its functions relating to Northern Ireland, to have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious beliefs, political opinion or racial group.

Advice on Completion of the Screening Form

It is important that the screening form is completed carefully and thoughtfully. Your Divisional or Agency Equality Officer and the Department's Equality Unit in room 413A will be happy to assist with all aspects of the screening process and will help with the completion of the form, if required.

Further advice on the screening process can be accessed at Section 4 of the Equality Commission's Guide to the Statutory Duties.

Policies included for EQIA

If, after screening, it is decided that a policy will require a full EQIA, a decision will be required on the priority and timing of the assessment. The screening form should be noted accordingly, signed off and copied to the Equality Unit for inclusion in the EQIA programme.

Policies excluded for EQIA

If a decision is taken to screen out the policy or where there is ambiguity about the equality implication of the proposal, the screening form should be signed off by a senior officer responsible for the policy and a copy sent to the Equality Unit to arrange for consultation. Copies of all screening out forms will be placed on the Department's consultation website.

Section 2 – Policy to be Screened

Definition of Policy

There have been some difficulties in defining what constitutes a policy in the context of Section 75. To be on the safe side it is recommended that you consider changes to or any new initiatives, proposals, schemes or programmes as policies. The policies covered in the Equality Scheme EQIA programme are a reasonable guide both to the nature of external departmental policies and the level at which they should be considered.

The revised Guidance from The Equality Commission emphasises that the Statutory duties apply to internal policies (relating to people who work for the organisation) as well as external policies (relating to those who are, or could be, served by the organisations).

It is important to remember that even if a full EQIA has been carried out in respect of an “overarching” policy or strategy, it will still be necessary for the policy maker to consider if a further EQIA needs to be carried out in respect of those policies cascading from the overarching strategy.

OFMDFM Guidance on Legislative Procedures (Primary and Subordinate) sets out clearly the stages at which equality of opportunity considerations should be taken into consideration in the development of legislation.

Overview of Policy Proposals

The aims and objectives of the policy must be clear and well defined. You must take into account any available data of evidence that will enable you to come to a decision on whether or not a policy may or may not have a differential impact on any of the S75 categories. Evidence may be qualitative and or quantitative and may include research or internal information and or experience in relation to service and customer monitoring exercises. Where appropriate, arrangements should be made to obtain any data necessary to assist screening.

2.1 Please insert below a brief description of the policy/legislation, including the title and all the main aims and objectives

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Title | Proposed Introduction of Waiting Restrictions and Parking Places – Armagh City Centre |
| Aims | Armagh City Centre is currently undergoing a major Environmental Improvement Scheme. The aim of introducing the various traffic management measures is to ease congestion in to the city centre; to improve road safety; and to facilitate the progression of through traffic along the main thoroughfares following this scheme. The introduction of conveniently located short duration parking places will also improve the vitality and viability of the city centre. The scheme includes the following Waiting Restriction measures:- <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ No Loading or Waiting at Any Time❖ No Waiting at Any Time (Double Yellow lines)❖ Working Day (Single yellow line) No Waiting Monday to Saturday 8.30am to 6.15pm❖ Parking Places – Waiting Limited to 1 hour in any 2 hours – Monday to Saturday 8.30am-6.15pm |

It is essential that all the aims/objectives of the policy be clearly and fully defined.

2.2 On whom will the policies / legislation impact? Please specify

All residents, shoppers, visitors, transport, courier services and business owners in the areas where the measures are to be introduced. The facilities provided will be available for use by all Section 75 groups, resulting in a positive impact with the usual concessions available for Blue Badge holders, as detailed at point 3.7.

2.3 Who is responsible for (a) devising and (b) delivering the policy, eg is it DRD, a Whitehall Department or EU? What is the relationship and have they considered this issue and any equality issues?

| | |
|------------|--|
| (a) | DRD – Roads Service |
| (b) | DRD – Roads Service – Parking Enforcement – enforce regulations |

2.4 What linkages are there to other NI Departments/NDPBs in relation to this policy/legislation?

N/A

2.5 What data are available to facilitate the screening of this policy/ legislation?

An extensive consultation process has been undertaken whilst developing the Environmental Scheme for Armagh. This included a number of public meetings with Roads Service staff, Armagh Council Staff, City Centre Management, local Councillors, traders and residents. It was recognised that there was a need for a number of measures to be introduced to improve the City Centre environment for all road users, and in particular pedestrians and those with disabilities. It was agreed to provide limited waiting parking places (1 hour in any 2 hour period) to facilitate short term parking within the city centre. It was also agreed to provide other types of restrictions at various locations to prevent parking and thus prevent traffic congestion and allow traffic to flow freely through the city centre.

2.6 Is additional data required to facilitate screening? If so, give details of how and when it will be obtained.

None

See Appendix 4 of the Equality Commission Practical Guidance on EQIA which provides a list of Sources of S75 data or speak to Central Statistics Research Branch, (Stephanie Harcourt, ext 40878) or Equality Unit (Jackie Gregg, ext 40867, or Tim Laverty 40850).

Section 3 – Screening Analysis

In cases where there is no available quantitative evidence, you will need to take a pragmatic, common sense judgement as to whether the policy/legislation you are screening may have a particular/differential impact on any of the groups. Discussions with Equality Unit, Statistics Branch and

The following criteria must be considered when screening.

3.1 Is there any evidence of higher or lower participation or uptake by the following Section 75 groups?

| | Yes | No |
|-------------------------|-----|----------------------------|
| Religious belief | | ✓ <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Political opinion | | ✓ |
| Racial group | | ✓ |
| Age | | ✓ |
| Marital status | | ✓ |
| Sexual orientation | | ✓ |
| Men and Women generally | | ✓ |
| Disability | | ✓ |
| Dependency | | ✓ |

Please give details

No evidence of higher or lower participation or uptake by any Section 75 groups

3.2 Is there evidence that any of the following Section 75 groups have different needs, experiences, issues and priorities in relation to this policy issue?

| | Yes | No |
|-------------------------|-----|----|
| Religious belief | | ✓ |
| Political opinion | | ✓ |
| Racial group | | ✓ |
| Age | ✓ | |
| Marital status | | ✓ |
| Sexual orientation | | ✓ |
| Men and Women generally | | ✓ |
| Disability | ✓ | |
| Dependency | | ✓ |

Please give details

Creating parking places and providing waiting restrictions will have a positive impact within the city centre for the Section 75 groups detailed. The provision of parking places are for the use of all Section 75 groups; however blue badge holders will be able to park in certain circumstances where other road users are not, such as for longer periods in standard parking bays and on double yellow lines, provided an obstruction is not being caused. Given that blue badge holders are generally disabled and elderly and have different needs the restrictions will provide for these needs.

3.3 Have consultations with the relevant representative organisations or individuals within any of the Section 75 categories, indicated that policies of this type create problems specific to them?

| | Yes | No |
|-------------------------|-----|----------------------------|
| Religious belief | | ✓ <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Political opinion | | ✓ |
| Racial group | | ✓ |
| Age | | ✓ |
| Marital status | | ✓ |
| Sexual orientation | | ✓ |
| Men and Women generally | | ✓ |
| Disability | | ✓ |
| Dependants | | ✓ |

Please give details of any consultations carried out, and any problems identified.

Section 75 groups have not been be contacted directly however Roads Service has taken into account the views of IMTAC regarding their request to maintain the current concession which allows Blue Badge holders to park in on-street parking bays without time limit. Additionally there has been an extensive notification process carried out with all business and residential premises along the affected route and adjacent routes being notified by letter of this proposal. A further public meeting has been arranged for 6 November 2008 to allow all interested parties to put forward their views. Any further interested party will have an opportunity to comment when the proposals are publicly advertised as part of the statutory procedure. The notice of intention invites objections/representations. The Order cannot be made until the statutory procedure, which includes resolving any objections received, has been completed. This document will be included in the Department's biannual consultation with Section

75 consultees.

- 3.4 Is there an opportunity to better promote equality of opportunity or community relations by altering the policy, or by working with others, in Government, or in the larger community in the context of this policy?**

Yes No

Please give details

- 3.5 It may be that a policy/legislation has a differential impact on a certain Section 75 group, as the policy has been developed to address an existing or historical inequality or disadvantage. If this is the case, please give details below:**

N/A

- 3.6 Please consider if there is any way of adapting the policy to promote better equality of opportunity or good relations.**

Please give details

N/A

- 3.7 In relation to departmental obligations under Section 49A of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA 1995) (as amended by the Disability Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 2006), please consider if there is any way of adapting the policy to show due regard to the need to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people and/or encourage participation by disabled people in public life.**

Please give details

The needs of disabled people have been taken into consideration at the planning stage for this scheme. The provision of the limited waiting parking spaces allows Blue Badge holders to park for unlimited periods. Additionally Blue Badge holders are permitted to park on single/double yellow lines where other road users are not. This concession is available as long as the vehicle does not cause an obstruction. Twenty dedicated Blue Badge bays are also being

provided under another part of the scheme, to ensure the widest possible level of access to the city centre.

Section 4

EQIA Recommendation

You should consider carefully in this section whether full EQIA is necessary, particularly where answers to any questions in Section 3 are affirmative.

- 4.1 Full EQIA procedures should be carried out on policies considered to have significant implications for equality of opportunity. Please fill in the following grid in relation to the policy/legislation.

| Prioritisation Factors | Significant Impact | Moderate Impact | Low Impact |
|--|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Social Need. | | | × |
| Effect on people's daily lives. | | | × |
| Effect on economic, social and human rights. | | | × |
| Strategic significance | | | × |
| Financial significance | | | × |

Please give details

- 4.2 **In view of the considerations in Section 3 and 4 do you consider that this policy/legislation should be subject to a full EQIA? Please give reasons for your considerations. If you are unsure, please consult with affected groups and revisit the screening analysis accordingly. Yes/No/Unsure**

No. The screening process has not identified any adverse impact on any of the S75 groups and in some cases has a positive impact on some groups.

4.3 If an EQIA is considered necessary please comment on the priority and timing in light of the factors in table 4.1.

N/A

4.4 If an EQIA is considered necessary is any data required to carry it out/ensure effective monitoring?

Please give details

N/A

| Main Groups Relevant to the Section 75 Categories | |
|--|--|
| <u>Category</u> | <u>Main Groups</u> |
| Religious belief | Protestants; Catholics; people of non-Christian faiths; people of no religious belief |
| Political opinion | Unionists generally; Nationalists generally; members/supporters of any political party |
| Racial Group | White people; Chinese; Irish Travellers; Indians; Pakistanis; Bangladeshis; Black Africans; Black Caribbean people; people with mixed ethnic group |
| “Men and women generally” | Men (including boys); women (including girls); transgendered people |
| Marital status | Married people; unmarried people; divorced or separated people; widowed people |
| Age | For most purposes, the main categories are: children under 18, people aged between 18-65, and people over 65. However, the definition of age groups will need to be sensitive to the policy under consideration |
| “Persons with a disability” | Disability is defined as: A physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on a person’s ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities as defined in Sections 1 and 2 and Schedules 1 and 2 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 |
| “Persons with dependants” | Persons with personal responsibility for the care of a child; persons with personal responsibility for the care of a person with an incapacitating disability; persons with personal responsibility for the care of a dependant elderly person |
| Sexual orientation | Heterosexuals; bi-sexuals; gays; lesbians |

