

Section 75 Policy Screening Form

Part 1: Policy Scoping

The first stage of the screening process involves scoping the policy or policy area. 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.

You 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 or policy area:

Procurement: Policy and Procedures

Is this an existing, revised or a new policy/policy area?

Existing	Revised	New
	X	

Brief Description

A policy and associated procedures that set out the procurement of goods, services and sundry works for the Agency

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

The policy and procedures aim to follow best practice processes for any procurement exercise, further to Central Procurement Directives (CPD) and the Northern Ireland Public Procurement Policy (PPP), and thereby acting in a fair, reasonable and proportionate manner while delivering procurement for the Agency in line with best value principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

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

YES	NO	N/A
X		

If YES, explain how.

This policy aims to reflect the Northern Ireland Public Procurement Policy (PPP) as issued by the Central Procurement Directorate (CPD). PPP sets out the 12 principles for Procurement – accountability, competitive supply, consistency, effectiveness, efficiency, fair dealing, integration, integrity, informed decision, legality, responsiveness and transparency.

One of the objectives of the policy is to embed sound ethical, social and environmental standards within the procurement function and to comply with all Government and European policy.

PPP complies with best practice as part of the procurement process and with wider Government procurement policy such as the 'Guidance on Equality of Opportunity and Sustainable Development in Public Sector Procurement'.

Government policy seeks to embed equality of opportunity and sustainable development into procurement practice by ensuring they are considered at the outset of any procurement process and throughout the life of a project. Where possible contract specifications are drafted to give the opportunity for potential bidders to propose innovative solutions and define outcomes which integrate equality of opportunity and sustainable development into a new or existing service.

The methodology for the evaluation of tenders tests the compliance of bids to the specification and where appropriate includes a specific consideration of how the bidder proposes to handle the issues of equality of opportunity and sustainable development.

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

The policy was written by the Staff Officer Accountant

Who owns and who implements each element of the policy?

Policy is led by Finance team and Director of Corporate Services...

Implementation factors

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

YES	NO	N/A
	x	

If YES, are they

Financial: YES (If YES, please detail)

Legislative: Y / N (If YES, please detail)

Other, please specify:

Main stakeholders affected

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

Staff:

Any staff who engage in the procurement of goods, services or works.

Service users:

N/A

Other public sector organisations:

N/A

Voluntary/community/trade unions:

N/A

Other, please specify:

N/A

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

What are they and who owns them?

All policies linked to the business requirements of the organisation and its contractual engagements with other bodies

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.

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

Section 75 Category	Details of Evidence/Information
ALL	<p>Evidence outlined by the screening of the Northern Ireland Public Procurement Policy by the Department of Finance and Personnel, along with earlier EQIAs carried out by DFP.</p> <p>In line with the Northern Ireland Public Procurement Policy the contract process is dictated by the potential value of the contract.</p> <p>These thresholds are standard across public bodies and designed to maintain a fair and open procurement process, while encouraging fair competition.</p>

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 for each of the Section 75 categories

Section 75 Category	Details of Needs/Experiences/Priorities
ALL	To operate a procurement process that does not disadvantage any potential supplier by virtue of his/her identity but operates broadly according to the principle of merit.

Part 2: Screening Questions

Introduction

1. If the conclusion is **none** in respect of all of the Section 75 categories, then you may decide to screen the policy out. If a policy is 'screened out', you should give details of the reasons for the decision taken.
2. If the conclusion is **major** in respect of one or more of the Section 75 categories, then consideration should be given to subjecting the policy to an EQIA.
3. If the conclusion is **minor** in respect of one or more of the Section 75 categories, then consideration should still be given to proceeding with an EQIA, or to measures to mitigate the adverse impact; or an alternative policy.

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 hence it would be appropriate to conduct an EQIA;
- 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 among 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 earlier evidence, consider and comment on the likely impact on equality of opportunity / good relations for those affected by this policy, by applying the following screening questions and the 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 grounds? Minor/Major/None		
Section 75 Category	Details of Policy Impact	Level of Impact? Minor/Major/None
Religious belief		None
Political opinion		None
Racial / ethnic group		None
Age	Electronic tendering may place a demand on the technology skills of the user / supplier and this could have a perceived impact on older people based on the view that elements and updates in technology may not have been part of their previous work experience, the so called 'digital divide'.	Minor (-ve)
Marital status		None
Sexual orientation		None
Men and women generally		None
Disability	Electronic tendering may create special issues for those with a disability, and these must be accommodated.	Minor (-ve)
Dependants		None

2 Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within any of the Section 75 categories?		
Section 75 Category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide reasons
		The Agency is committed to the promotion of good relations. There are a number of policies and procedures in place to ensure the promotion of good relations.

3 To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group? Minor/Major/None		
Good Relations Category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact Minor/Major/None
Religious belief	N/A	None
Political opinion	N/A	None
Racial group	N/A	None

4 Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?		
Good relations category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide reasons
	N/A	

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).

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

None identified

Part 3: Screening Decision

In light of your answers to the previous questions, do you feel that the policy should:
(please underline one):

- 1. Not be subject to an EQIA (with no mitigating measures required)**
- 2. Not be subject to an EQIA (with mitigating measures /alternative policies)**
- 3. Not be subject to an EQIA at this time**
- 4. Be subject to an EQIA**

If 1. or 2. (i.e. not be subject to an EQIA), please provide details of the reasons why:

We do not require EQIA as the strategy does not adversely affect any of the Section 75 categories

Terms and Conditions of all contracts include reference to equality of opportunity

If 2. (i.e. not be subject to an EQIA), in what ways can identified adverse impacts attaching to the policy be mitigated or an alternative policy be introduced?

This policy is reflective of best practice following Central Procurement Directives (CPD) and the Northern Ireland Public Procurement Policy (PPP)

In light of these revisions, is there a need to re-screen the revised/alternative policy at a future date? YES / NO

If YES, when & why?

If 3. or 4. (i.e. to conduct an EQIA), please provide details of the reasons:

Timetabling and Prioritising EQIA

If 3. or 4., is the policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities? YES / NO

If YES, please provide details:

Please answer the following questions to determine priority for timetabling the EQIA. 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 EQIA.

Priority criterion	Rating (1-3)
Effect on equality of opportunity and good relations	
Social need	
Effect on people's daily lives	
Relevance to a public authority's functions	

Note: The Total Rating Score should be used to prioritise the policy in rank order with other policies screened in for EQIA. This list of priorities will assist you in timetabling the EQIA. Details of your EQIA timetable should be included in the quarterly Section 75 report.

Proposed date for commencing EQIA: _____

Any further comments on the screening process and any subsequent actions?


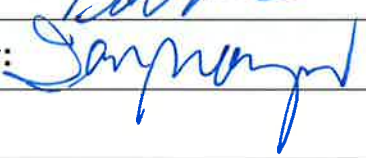
Part 4: Monitoring

Effective monitoring will help identify any future adverse impacts arising from the policy which may lead you to conduct an EQIA, as well as help with future planning and policy development. You 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, then you should monitor more broadly than for adverse impact (See Benefits, P.9-10, paras 2.13 – 2.20 of the Monitoring Guidance).

Please detail proposed monitoring arrangements below:

The Agency is committed to reviewing its monitoring strategy, with a view to gathering further Section 75 data across a number of relevant grounds. This information will help to inform future policy updates. The policy will be reviewed on a 3-yearly basis, and any relevant monitoring data will be reflected on at that time.

Part 5: Approval and Authorisation

Screened by:	Position/Job Title	Date
David McCallum 	DOCS	14/10/15
Approved by: 		
Ian Crozier	CEO	14/10/15

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 your website as soon as possible following completion and made available on request.