

## Appendix I - Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) Template

### SECTION 1 - Defining the activity subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

#### 1A. Name of Public Authority.

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Northern Ireland

#### 1B. Please provide a short title which describes the activity being undertaken by the Public Authority that is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.

Proposed amendments to retained EU regulations in relation to public intervention and private storage aid schemes connected with agricultural products.

#### 1C. Please indicate which category the activity specified in Section 1B above relates to.

Developing a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Adopting a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Implementing a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Revising a	Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Designing a Public Service	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Delivering a Public Service	<input type="checkbox"/>		

#### 1D. Please provide the official title (if any) of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service document or initiative relating to the category indicated in Section 1C above.

Various pieces of legislation.

**1E. Please provide details of the aims and/or objectives of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service.**

The EU Common Agricultural Policy regulations, as retained following the UK's exit from the EU, provide powers for DAERA to intervene in agricultural markets, when the prices for the products are depressed due to an increase in supply. This intervention can take the form of either, public intervention (PI) (the buying-in) of a product, or the granting of aid for private storage (PSA).

The policy intention of PI and PSA is to seek to support market prices by reducing the supply of goods on the domestic market, and thereby raising market prices for the benefit of agricultural producers. However, the effectiveness of these mechanisms can be impacted by alternative external sources of supply entering the market that is being supported. The existence of a single UK market and a free trade agreement providing for zero tariffs with the EU, as well as other trade agreements, are therefore key considerations on whether these mechanisms in their current form can help achieve the policy intention to support market prices and producer incomes.

The frameworks provided by the retained regulations, which had developed over time to operate in the context of a single European market for agricultural products, remained unaltered following the UK's exit from the EU. These frameworks no longer suit domestic circumstances. The proposed changes to the PI and PSA regulations are designed to ensure that the frameworks are more appropriate to local circumstances.

**1F. What definition of 'rural' is the Public Authority using in respect of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?**

Population Settlements of less than 5,000 (Default definition).

Other Definition (Provide details and the rationale below).

A definition of 'rural' is not applicable.

*Details of alternative definition of 'rural' used.*

**N/A**

*Rationale for using alternative definition of 'rural'.*

**N/A**

*Reasons why a definition of 'rural' is not applicable.*

**N/A**

## SECTION 2 - Understanding the impact of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

**2A. Is the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service likely to impact on people in rural areas?**

Yes  No  If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **2E**.

**2B. Please explain how the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas.**

The use of either public intervention or the provision of private storage aid when there is a severe disturbance in the market for agricultural products that adversely impacts on the prices obtained for those products is designed to support the prices paid to the producers of those products.

As the agri-food sector is predominately based in rural communities, it is envisaged that the proposed amendments to the regulations will have a greater impact on people in rural areas than urban ones. The proposed amendments will maintain and streamline the Department's ability to provide financial assistance to help predominately rural based businesses deal with severe disruptions in the marketplace that would otherwise threaten their viability.

**2C. If the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas, please explain how it is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently.**

The public intervention and private storage aid schemes provided for in the regulations were originally designed to support businesses in the EU agriculture sector. However proposed amendments, which would limit the use of these mechanisms by amending the PI and PSA statutory frameworks, seek to ensure that they are more appropriate to domestic agricultural sector circumstances and the policy context set by the Future Farm Support and Development Programme.

**2D. Please indicate which of the following rural policy areas the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to primarily impact on.**

Rural Businesses	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rural Tourism	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Education or Training in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deprivation in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Crime or Community Safety	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Development	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agri-Environment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please state)	<input type="text"/>

**If the response to Section 2A was YES GO TO Section 3A.**

**2E. Please explain why the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is NOT likely to impact on people in rural areas.**

### SECTION 3 - Identifying the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

**3A. Has the Public Authority taken steps to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas that are relevant to the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?**

Yes  No  If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **3E**.

**3B. Please indicate which of the following methods or information sources were used by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.**

Consultation with Rural Stakeholders	<input type="checkbox"/>	Published Statistics	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consultation with Other Organisations	<input type="checkbox"/>	Research Papers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surveys or Questionnaires	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Methods or Information Sources (include details in Question 3C below).			<input type="checkbox"/>

**3C. Please provide details of the methods and information sources used to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas including relevant dates, names of organisations, titles of publications, website references, details of surveys or consultations undertaken etc.**

**3D. Please provide details of the social and economic needs of people in rural areas which have been identified by the Public Authority?**

**If the response to Section 3A was YES GO TO Section 4A.**

**3E. Please explain why no steps were taken by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas?**

The proposed changes to the PI and PSA regulations are designed to ensure that the frameworks, which have had very limited historic use, are more appropriate to local circumstances. The proposed amendments will not significantly impact market prices. They do not introduce new policy.

The Department is satisfied that as no new policy is being introduced and the proposed changes update the regulations to make their operability more appropriate to local circumstances, no adverse impacts are expected and so it has not been necessary to identify the social and economic need of people in rural areas as a result of these proposed changes.

## **SECTION 4 - Considering the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas**

### **4A. Please provide details of the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.**

The proposed changes to the PI and PSA regulations are designed to ensure that the frameworks, which have had very limited historic use, are more appropriate to local circumstances. The proposed amendments will not significantly impact market prices.

The impact generally of the proposed changes to the regulations was considered. Given that the proposed changes make changes for operability purposes, it has been concluded that they will have no (or minimal) impact on the social and economic needs of people in rural areas. Also the schemes have had very limited historic use, with minimal positive impact of people in rural area



## SECTION 5 - Influencing the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

5A. Has the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, been influenced by the rural needs identified?

Yes  No  If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **5C**.

5B. Please explain how the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, has been influenced by the rural needs identified.

If the response to Section **5A** was **YES** GO TO Section **6A**.

**5C. Please explain why the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or the delivery of the Public Service, has NOT been influenced by the rural needs identified.**

The proposed changes are necessary to update the domestic legislation to ensure that the frameworks for the use of public intervention and/or the provision of private storage aid are appropriate to local circumstances and so are not influenced by rural needs.

## SECTION 6 - Documenting and Recording

**6A. Please tick below to confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained by the Public Authority and relevant information on the Section 1 activity compiled in accordance with paragraph 6.7 of the guidance.**

I confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained and relevant information compiled.

<b>Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:</b>	John Murphy
<b>Position/Grade:</b>	Deputy Principal
<b>Division/Branch</b>	Sustainable Agri-Food Development Division
<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	12 May 2023
<b>Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:</b>	Stephen Johnston
<b>Position/Grade:</b>	7
<b>Division/Branch:</b>	Sustainable Agri-Food Development Division
<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	11 August 2023