

# Equality & Disability Duties Screening Template

December 2023 version



Department of  
**Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs**

[www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk)

*Sustainability at the heart of a living,  
working, active landscape  
valued by everyone.*

**Screening flowchart and template (taken from Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 - A Guide for public authorities April 2010 (Appendix 1)).**

### Introduction

**Part 1. Policy scoping** – asks public authorities to provide details about the policy, procedure, practice and/or decision being screened and what available evidence you have gathered to help make an assessment of the likely impact on equality of opportunity and good relations.

**Part 2. Screening questions** – asks about the extent of the likely impact of the policy on groups of people within each of the Section 75 categories. Details of the groups consulted and the level of assessment of the likely impact. This includes consideration of multiple identity and good relations issues. This section also includes two questions related to the Disability Duties.

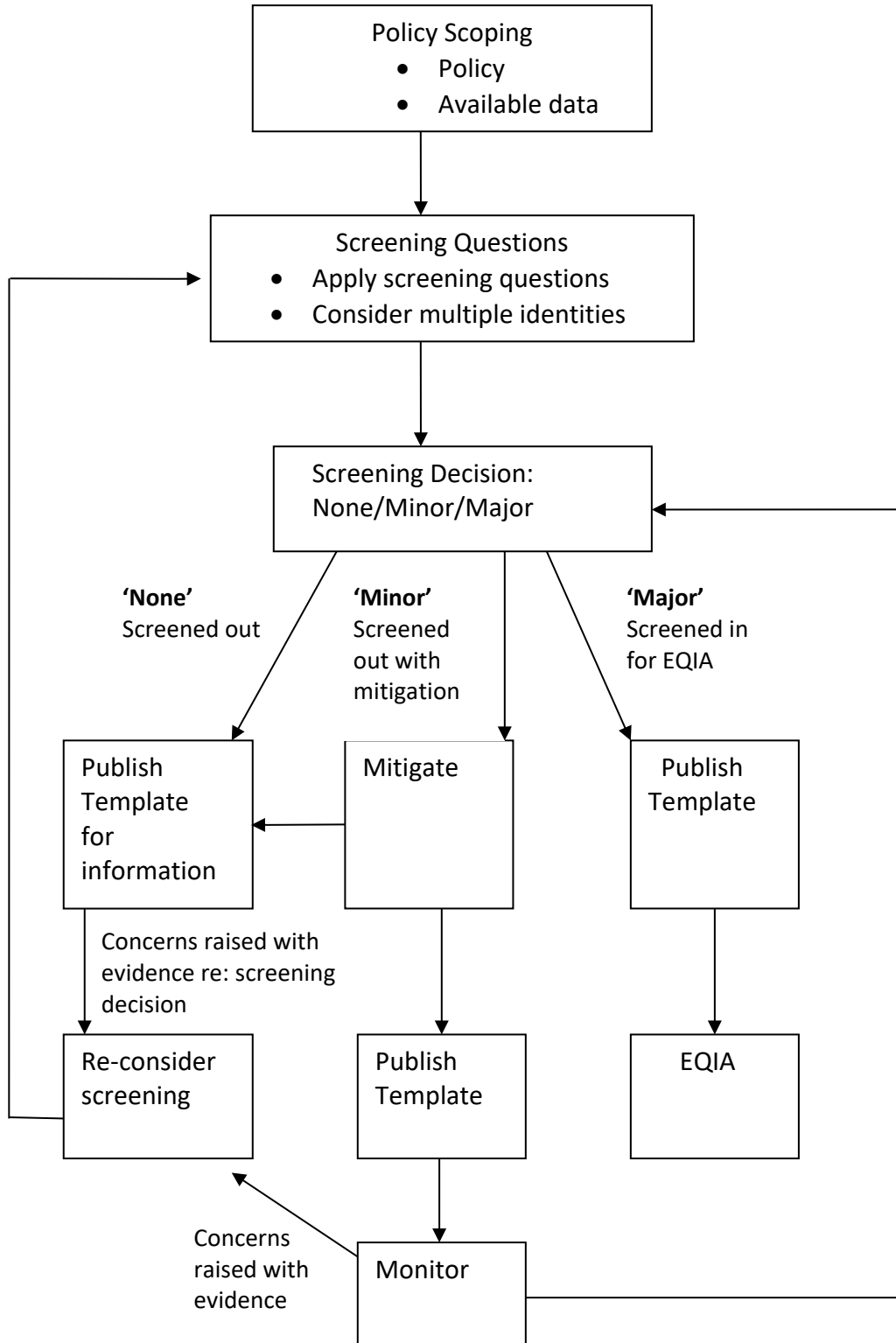
**Part 3. Screening decision** – guides the public authority to reach a screening decision as to whether or not there is a need to carry out an equality impact assessment (EQIA), or to introduce measures to mitigate the likely impact, or the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

**Part 4. Monitoring** – provides guidance to public authorities on monitoring for adverse impact and broader monitoring.

**Part 5. Consideration of Human Rights** – please note this is not a Human Rights Screening form but rather a prompt that impacts on Human Rights should be considered.

**Part 6. Approval and authorisation** – verifies the public authority’s approval of a screening decision by a senior manager responsible for the policy.

A screening flowchart is provided below.



## Part 1. Policy scoping

The first stage of the screening process involves scoping the policy under consideration. 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.

Public authorities 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

Review of Marine Licensing Fees

### Is this an existing, revised or new policy?

This is a revision of the existing policy.

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

DAERA's objective is to create a fairer and more efficient regime for discharging its marine licensing functions. This will help ensure Climate Change goals for renewable energy are met.

It is anticipated that fee levels will need to increase to deliver this objective and enable the allocation of more staff to Marine Licensing Branch. The range of services for which the Department can charge a fee (fee charging powers) will

also need to be expanded and brought in line with those available to other UK Regulators. There are therefore two strands to the project:-

1. Increasing marine licensing fees using current charging powers. The economic impact of this will be off-set by introducing smaller fees for projects which have a low value and low impact on the environment; and
2. Introducing legislation to increase the range of services/functions for which DAERA can charge a fee.

### **Background**

DAERA is the marine licensing authority for the Northern Ireland inshore region (0-12 nautical miles) as set out at section 113(6)(b) of the [Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009](#). Through marine licensing, DAERA plays a key role in providing advice and making decisions on what happens in the sea and coastal area around Northern Ireland. The types of activities for which a marine licence is required include off-shore renewable energy projects. The development of off-shore renewables in Northern Ireland waters will help deliver 1GW of offshore wind from 2030, a target which is set out in the Draft Offshore Renewable Energy Action Plan. It will also contribute to the target of net zero emissions by 2050, set out in the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2020. Marine licences are required for these projects to progress with the associated determination process being costly in terms of DAERA resources involving consideration of complex environmental information by staff.

DAERA anticipates that it will receive a number of applications for marine licences for off-shore renewable developments in the coming months and years.

Other activities licensed by DAERA include:- the construction and repair of sea defences, harbour construction and repair works, investigatory works for projects such as the Lagan Pedestrian/Cycle Bridge, capital and maintenance dredge and dredge disposal projects and the placement of outflow pipes, pontoons, etc. Applicants for marine licences tend to be organisations such as off-shore renewable energy development companies, port and harbour authorities, councils, government departments, consultants, and construction companies.

Section 67 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 states that the appropriate licensing authority may require an application for a marine licence to be accompanied by a fee. This means that DAERA can only prescribe a fee for the determination of an application for a marine licence. These are set out in the Marine Licensing (Application Fees) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011.

DAERA is unable to charge a fee for the other related aspects of the licensing process which require Departmental resources; such as:- the provision of pre-application advice or other assistance, monitoring compliance with the licensing conditions, variation, suspension, revocation or transfer of a licence.

DAERA is conscious of its responsibilities under "[Managing Public Money NI](#)" which states that, with some exceptions, "fees for services should generally be charged at cost".

DAERA's policy objective is therefore to introduce changes in the short term by reviewing the fees set out in the [Marine Licensing \(Application Fees\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2011](#). In the longer term the Department wishes to recoup the cost of the resource that it expends in discharging all of its marine licensing functions under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

During the financial year 23/24 a total of 23 applications were received for a marine licence, of these 4 were from ports and harbours, 8 were from consultants on behalf of other organisations, 5 from councils, 3 from private companies, 2 from NI Water and 1 from a charitable organisation. Details of marine licences granted by DAERA and applications received are available from our website, <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/marine-licensing-public-register>

**Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy?**     Yes     No (select as appropriate)

**If so, explain how.**

There are no specific benefits for individuals within the section 75 categories as the review of marine licensing fees will apply only to people who apply for a marine licence. The variation of the fees will apply to all categories in equal measure.

**Who initiated or wrote the policy?**

DAERA as the designated licensing authority under Section 113(6)b of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. The Act implements policy decisions taken by all UK Administrations including the Northern Ireland Executive.

The review of marine licensing fees has been undertaken by DAERA.

**Who owns and who implements the policy?**

DAERA - Marine and Fisheries Division.

## Implementation factors

Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision?  Yes  No (select as appropriate)

If yes, are they (please select as appropriate)

Financial

Legislative

other, please specify:

### Main stakeholders affected

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

Staff

Service users

Other public sector organisations

Voluntary/community/trade unions

Other, please specify

### Other policies with a bearing on this policy

What are they?

Managing Public Money



### Who owns them?

Department of Finance

### 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. The Commission has produced this guide to [signpost to S75 data](#).

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

*Please ensure all data used is the most current and up to date available. You should verify this by contacting the Departmental Statisticians.*

### Religious belief evidence/information:

Religious belief includes all major religions, as well as the less widely practised ones. The 2021 Census (nisra.gov.uk), published in September 2022, stated that the population of Northern Ireland is now 1.9 million, and identified the main religions in Northern Ireland to be: Catholic (42.3%); Presbyterian (16.6%); Church of Ireland (11.5%); Methodist (2.3%); Other Christian denominations (6.9%); and Other religions (1.3%). The two main religious groups are Roman Catholic and Protestant.

The Equality Commission's Fair Employment Monitoring Report No.31 (equalityni.org), covering the 2020 monitoring rounds, presents an aggregated summary of 3,807 valid monitoring returns from public and private sectors, of which 105 were public authorities. The report indicated that in 2020, the share

of the total public sector workforce represented by members of the Roman Catholic community [50.1%] was more than the Protestant share [49.9%]. However, if this is broken down into the five sub-sectors that comprise the public sector (omitting the civil service as they will not be impacted by these regulations – refer to ‘Main stakeholders affected’ section above for an explanation), you will find that those from the Protestant community represent the greatest shares of employees in the majority of these sectors, with the exceptions of the health and education sectors. In 2020, the reported compositions of the sub-sectors within the public sector by religious beliefs were:

- Health - 54.0% Roman Catholic v 46.0% Protestant
- Education – 50.9% Roman Catholic v 49.1% Protestant
- District Councils - 47.9% Roman Catholic v 52.1% Protestant
- Security-related Sector - 27.1% Roman Catholic v 72.9% Protestant
- ‘Other Public Authorities’ - 49.5% Roman Catholic v 50.5% Protestant

Marine licensing fees as set out in the Marine Licensing (Application Fees) Regulations (NI) 2011 were informed by a Northern Ireland wide public consultation which took place in 2010. It should be noted that no issues impacting any of the Section 75 groups were identified during the public consultation or subsequent contact with users of the marine licensing system, identified religious belief as a factor that might be impacted. The review of marine licensing fees will also be informed by a Northern Ireland wide public consultation. Consultees will be asked to comment on the Equality and Disability screening.

**Political Opinion evidence/information:**

In Northern Ireland, the best way to ascertain political opinion (i.e. mainly nationalist or unionist) is through the elections. The latest Northern Ireland Assembly Elections on 5th May 2022 give us an overall picture of political opinion across Northern Ireland where Sinn Fein became the first nationalist party to win the most seats overall in a Northern Ireland election, with 29% first preference votes. The Democratic Unionist Party lost seats, becoming the second largest party in the Assembly, with 21% of the votes, while the Alliance party became the third-largest party, receiving 13.5% of the votes. Ulster Unionist Party received 11% of the votes, Social Democratic and Labour Party 9%, Traditional Unionist Voice 7.6%, and all other parties 8% of the votes.

The most recent elections, the Northern Ireland local government elections held on 18th May 2023, saw Sinn Fein replicate its result in the 2022 Assembly elections, making historic gains for the first time. Sinn Féin emerged with 144 seats (30.9% of first preference votes). This was ahead of the Democratic Unionist Party who maintained their 122 seats (23.3%). Alliance increased its representation by winning 67 seats (13.3%), an increase of 14. The Ulster Unionist Party won 54 seats (10.9%), the SDLP 39 seats (8.7%), with smaller parties and independents taking the remaining 36 seats.

In Northern Ireland, political opinion is closely related to religious belief and so we can assume that the findings in the Fair Employment Monitoring Report No.31 (equalityni.org) can provide us with an idea of the political opinion within the public sector in 2020. The report found that the Protestant community, and therefore those most likely having unionist views, represent the greatest shares of employees in the district councils, the security-related

sector & ‘other public authorities’. The health and education sub-sectors, on the other hand were reported to have a majority of employees from the Roman Catholic community, and therefore those most likely to have nationalist views.

Marine licensing fees as set out in the Marine Licensing (Application Fees) Regulations (NI) 2011 were informed by a Northern Ireland wide public consultation which took place in 2010. It should be noted that no issues impacting any of the Section 75 groups were identified during the public consultation or subsequent contact with users of the marine licensing system, identified political opinion as a factor that might be impacted. The review of marine licensing fees will also be informed by a Northern Ireland wide public consultation. Consultees will be asked to comment on the Equality and Disability screening.

### **Racial Group evidence/information:**

The 2021 Census gives us a picture of the different racial groups living in Northern Ireland. With a population of 1.9 million, the main racial group is white (96.6%), with the remaining 3.4% made up of Indian (0.52%), Chinese (0.50%), Black African (0.42%), Irish Travellers (0.14%), etc.

Marine licensing fees as set out in the Marine Licensing (Application Fees) Regulations (NI) 2011 were informed by a Northern Ireland wide public consultation which took place in 2010. It should be noted that no issues impacting any of the Section 75 groups were identified during the public consultation or subsequent contact with users of the marine licensing system, identified racial group as a factor that might be impacted. The review of marine licensing fees will also be informed by a Northern Ireland wide public

consultation. Consultees will be asked to comment on the Equality and Disability screening.

### **Age evidence/information:**

The 2021 Census presents data on the different age groups of the Northern Ireland population. The largest age groups are represented by people between the ages of 15 to 39 (31.2%) and 40 to 64 (32.4%). The data also shows that the proportion of children aged 0 to 14 (19.2%) is only marginally greater than the proportion of older adults aged 65 and over (17.2%).

Marine licensing fees as set out in the Marine Licensing (Application Fees) Regulations (NI) 2011 were informed by a Northern Ireland wide public consultation which took place in 2010. It should be noted that no issues impacting any of the Section 75 groups were identified during the public consultation or subsequent contact with users of the marine licensing system, identified age as a factor that might be impacted. The review of marine licensing fees will also be informed by a Northern Ireland wide public consultation. Consultees will be asked to comment on the Equality and Disability screening.

### **Marital Status evidence/information:**

The Northern Ireland 2021 census showed that around 46% of the over 16 population were married or in a civil partnership, around 4% were separated but still in a marriage or civil partnership, and 38% were single. NISRA provide information on the number of marriages by type, age and location at Marriage Statistics | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency ([nisra.gov.uk](http://nisra.gov.uk)). The Registrar General Northern Ireland Annual Report 2021 ([nisra.gov.uk](http://nisra.gov.uk))

states 7,921 marriages were registered in 2021, over twice as many as 2020 which saw 3,724 marriages, possibly due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Marine licensing fees as set out in the Marine Licensing (Application Fees) Regulations (NI) 2011 were informed by a Northern Ireland wide public consultation which took place in 2010. It should be noted that no issues impacting any of the Section 75 groups were identified during the public consultation or subsequent contact with users of the marine licensing system, identified marital status as a factor that might be impacted. The review of marine licensing fees will also be informed by a Northern Ireland wide public consultation. Consultees will be asked to comment on the Equality and Disability screening.

### **Sexual Orientation evidence/information:**

The Northern Ireland 2021 census showed that 90% of the over 16 population identified as heterosexual, around 1% as homosexual, 0.75% as bisexual, 0.17% as other sexual orientation, and almost 8% preferred not to say or did not state. An Office for National Statistics analysis in 2017 found that people who identify as lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) tend to rate their quality of life as lower than the UK average.

Marine licensing fees as set out in the Marine Licensing (Application Fees) Regulations (NI) 2011 were informed by a Northern Ireland wide public consultation which took place in 2010. It should be noted that no issues impacting any of the Section 75 groups were identified during the public consultation or subsequent contact with users of the marine licensing system, identified sexual orientation as a factor that might be impacted. The review of marine licensing fees will also be informed by a Northern Ireland wide public

consultation. Consultees will be asked to comment on the Equality and Disability screening.

### **Men & Women generally evidence/information:**

In Northern Ireland the 2021 Census showed that 50.81% of the population was female and 49.19% male. While the overall Northern Ireland workforce has a majority of females (52%), reported in the 2021 Fair Employment Monitoring Report No.32, there are differences between the public and private sector. The public sector has a large majority of females within its composition (66%) whereas just under half (46%) of the private sector workforce is female. The 2021 Census, shows that the current population of NI consists of 967,000 females and 936,200 males, however, the future workforce balance will be slightly male dominated as the current population split for ages 0-15 is 178,200 female with 187,200 male, a difference of 2.5%.

Marine licensing fees as set out in the Marine Licensing (Application Fees) Regulations (NI) 2011 were informed by a Northern Ireland wide public consultation which took place in 2010. It should be noted that no issues impacting any of the Section 75 groups were identified during the public consultation or subsequent contact with users of the marine licensing system, identified men and women generally as a factor that might be impacted. The review of marine licensing fees will also be informed by a Northern Ireland wide public consultation. Consultees will be asked to comment on the Equality and Disability screening.

### **Disability evidence/information:**

Research by Joseph Rowntree Foundation into Poverty in Northern Ireland 2022 found that just over one in five people were disabled in 2017-20, and

around a third of families contain at least one disabled person. In 2017-20, just under a third of disabled people in Northern Ireland lived in poverty, 13% higher than non-disabled people living in poverty. This is driven partly by the additional costs associated with disability and ill-health, and partly by many disabled people facing barriers to accessing work. Those barriers mean that many disabled people and/or families where someone is disabled rely on benefits as a source of income, which at their current level will almost inevitably lead to higher poverty rates.

Marine licensing fees as set out in the Marine Licensing (Application Fees) Regulations (NI) 2011 were informed by a Northern Ireland wide public consultation which took place in 2010. It should be noted that no issues impacting any of the Section 75 groups were identified during the public consultation or subsequent contact with users of the marine licensing system, identified people with a disability as a group that might be impacted. The review of marine licensing fees will also be informed by a Northern Ireland wide public consultation. Consultees will be asked to comment on the Equality and Disability screening.

### **Dependants evidence/information:**

The 2021 Census showed that almost 26% of NI households have dependent children (those aged 0-15 and person aged 16-18 who is a full time student and in a family with parent(s)). The Labour Force Survey - Women in Northern Ireland 2020 (nisra.gov.uk) reports that over the past 10 years there have been consistently more economically inactive women than men. The most common reason for inactivity among women was family and home commitments. 76% of women with dependent children were economically active, compared with 92% of men with dependent children.



Marine licensing fees as set out in the Marine Licensing (Application Fees) Regulations (NI) 2011 were informed by a Northern Ireland wide public consultation which took place in 2010. It should be noted that no issues impacting any of the Section 75 groups were identified during the public consultation or subsequent contact with users of the marine licensing system, identified people with dependents as a group that might be impacted. The review of marine licensing fees will also be informed by a Northern Ireland wide public consultation. Consultees will be asked to comment on the Equality and Disability screening.

## 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 of the needs, experiences and priorities for each of the Section 75 categories below:**

### **Religious belief**

DAERA is reviewing its marine licensing fees which are set out in the Marine Licensing (Application Fees) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011 with a view to introducing new fees based on its current charging powers. It also wishes to amend its fee charging powers in the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 to recoup the cost of the resource that it expends in discharging all of its marine licensing functions.

DAERA's objective is to create a fairer and more efficient regime based on higher rates of cost recovery for discharging its marine licensing functions. This will help ensure Climate Change goals for renewable energy are met.

DAERA is not aware of how the needs, experiences and priorities of people in terms of their religious belief would be impacted by the review of marine licensing fees. The policy will apply uniformly across all Section 75 categories and the general population without prejudice. There is no evidence, to date, that the annual uplift of marine licensing fees will impact negatively or discriminate towards persons of different religious beliefs.

### Political Opinion

DAERA's objective is to create a fairer and more efficient regime based on higher rates of cost recovery for discharging its marine licensing functions. This will help ensure Climate Change goals for renewable energy are met.

DAERA is not aware of how the needs, experiences and priorities of people in terms of their political opinion would be impacted by a review of marine licensing fees. The policy will apply uniformly across all Section 75 categories and the general population without prejudice. There is no evidence, to date, that the review of marine licensing fees will impact negatively or discriminate towards people in terms of their political opinions.

### Racial Group

DAERA's objective is to create a fairer and more efficient regime based on higher rates of cost recovery for discharging its marine licensing functions. This will help ensure Climate Change goals for renewable energy are met.

DAERA is not aware of how the needs, experiences and priorities of people in terms of their racial group would be impacted by a review of marine licensing fees. The policy will apply uniformly across all Section 75 categories and the general population without prejudice. There is no evidence, to date, that the review of marine licensing fees will impact negatively or discriminate towards people in terms of their racial group.

## Age

DAERA's objective is to create a fairer and more efficient regime based on higher rates of cost recovery for discharging its marine licensing functions. This will help ensure Climate Change goals for renewable energy are met.

DAERA is not aware of how the needs, experiences and priorities of people in terms of their age would be impacted by a review of marine licensing fees. The policy will apply uniformly across all Section 75 categories and the general population without prejudice. There is no evidence, to date, that the review of marine licensing fees will impact negatively or discriminate towards people in terms of their age.

## Marital status

DAERA's objective is to create a fairer and more efficient regime based on higher rates of cost recovery for discharging its marine licensing functions. This will help ensure Climate Change goals for renewable energy are met.

DAERA is not aware of how the needs, experiences and priorities of people in terms of their marital status would be impacted by a review of marine licensing fees. The policy will apply uniformly across all Section 75 categories and the

general population without prejudice. There is no evidence, to date, that the review of marine licensing fees will impact negatively or discriminate towards people in terms of their marital status.

### Sexual orientation

DAERA's objective is to create a fairer and more efficient regime based on higher rates of cost recovery for discharging its marine licensing functions. This will help ensure Climate Change goals for renewable energy are met.

DAERA is not aware of how the needs, experiences and priorities of people in terms of their sexual orientation would be impacted by a review marine licensing fees. The policy impact will apply uniformly across all Section 75 categories and the general population without prejudice. There is no evidence, to date, that the review of marine licensing fees will impact negatively or discriminate towards people in terms of their sexual orientation.

### Men and Women Generally

DAERA's objective is to create a fairer and more efficient regime based on higher rates of cost recovery for discharging its marine licensing functions. This will help ensure Climate Change goals for renewable energy are met.

DAERA is not aware of how the needs, experiences and priorities of people in terms of men or women generally would be impacted by a review marine of licensing fees. The policy will apply uniformly across all Section 75 categories and the general population without prejudice. There is no evidence, to date, that the review of marine licensing fees will impact negatively or discriminate towards people in terms of being men or women generally.

### Disability

DAERA's objective is to create a fairer and more efficient regime based on higher rates of cost recovery for discharging its marine licensing functions. This will help ensure Climate Change goals for renewable energy are met.

DAERA is not aware of how the needs, experiences and priorities of people in terms of having a disability would be impacted by a review of marine licensing fees. The policy will apply uniformly across all Section 75 categories and the general population without prejudice. There is no evidence, to date, that the review of marine licensing fees will impact negatively or discriminate towards people in terms of having a disability.

### Dependants

DAERA's objective is to create a fairer and more efficient regime based on higher rates of cost recovery for discharging its marine licensing functions. This will help ensure Climate Change goals for renewable energy are met.

DAERA is not aware of how the needs, experiences and priorities of people in terms of having dependents would be impacted by a review of marine licensing fees. The policy will apply uniformly across all Section 75 categories and the general population without prejudice. There is no evidence, to date, that the review of marine licensing fees will impact negatively or discriminate towards people in terms of having dependents.

### Introduction

In making a decision as to whether or not there is a need to carry out an equality impact assessment, the public authority should consider its answers to the questions 1-4.

If the public authority's conclusion is **none** in respect of all of the Section 75 equality of opportunity and/or good relations categories, then the public authority may decide to screen the policy out. If a policy is 'screened out' as having no relevance to equality of opportunity or good relations, a public authority should give details of the reasons for the decision taken.

If the public authority's conclusion is **major** in respect of one or more of the Section 75 equality of opportunity and/or good relations categories, then consideration should be given to subjecting the policy to the equality impact assessment procedure.

If the public authority's conclusion is **minor** in respect of one or more of the Section 75 equality categories and/or good relations categories, then consideration should still be given to proceeding with an equality impact assessment, or to:

- measures to mitigate the adverse impact; or
- the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

### 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 it would be appropriate to conduct an equality impact assessment in order to better assess them;
- 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 amongst 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

- 1) The policy has no relevance to equality of opportunity or good relations.
- 2) 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 evidence presented above, consider and comment on the likely impact on equality of opportunity and good relations for those affected by this policy, in any way, for each of the equality and good relations categories, by applying the screening questions given overleaf and indicate the level of 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 equality categories?** Please provide details of the likely policy impacts and determine the level of impact for each S75 categories below i.e. either minor, major or none.

**Details of the likely policy impacts on *Religious belief*:**

The proposed review of marine licensing fees applies to all applicants regardless of their religious status. However, DAERA is prepared to revisit this should an instance be identified.

**What is the level of impact?** Minor  Major  None

(select as appropriate)

**Details of the likely policy impacts on *Political Opinion*:**

The proposed review of marine licensing fees applies to all applicants regardless of their political opinion. However, DAERA is prepared to revisit this should an instance be identified.

**What is the level of impact?** Minor  Major  None

(select as appropriate)

**Details of the likely policy impacts on *Racial Group*:**

The proposed review of marine licensing fees applies to all applicants regardless of their racial group. However, DAERA is prepared to revisit this should an instance be identified.

What is the level of impact? Minor  Major  None   
(select as appropriate)

**Details of the likely policy impacts on *Age*:**

The proposed review of marine licensing fees applies to all applicants regardless of their age. However, DAERA is prepared to revisit this should an instance be identified.

**What is the level of impact?** Minor  Major  None   
(select as appropriate)

**Details of the likely policy impacts on *Marital Status*:**

The proposed review of marine licensing fees applies to all applicants regardless of their marital status. However, DAERA is prepared to revisit this should an instance be identified.

**What is the level of impact?** Minor  Major  None   
(select as appropriate)

**Details of the likely policy impacts on *Sexual Orientation*:**

The proposed review of marine licensing fees applies to all applicants regardless of their sexual orientation. However, DAERA is prepared to revisit this should an instance be identified.

**What is the level of impact** Minor  Major  None

(select as appropriate)

**Details of the likely policy impacts on *Men and Women*:**

The proposed review of marine licensing fees applies to all applicants regardless of their gender. However, DAERA is prepared to revisit this should an instance be identified.

**What is the level of impact?** Minor  Major  None

(select as appropriate)

**Details of the likely policy impacts on *Disability*:**

The proposed review of marine licensing fees applies to all applicants regardless of their having a disability. However, DAERA is prepared to revisit this should an instance be identified.

**What is the level of impact?** Minor  Major  None

(select as appropriate)

**Details of the likely policy impacts on *Dependants*:**

The proposed review of marine licensing fees applies to all applicants regardless of their having dependents. However, DAERA is prepared to revisit this should an instance be identified.

**What is the level of impact?**  Major  None

(select as appropriate)

**2. Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories?**

Yes     No (select as appropriate)

Detail opportunities of how this policy could promote equality of opportunity for people within each of the Section 75 Categories below:

**Religious Belief - If Yes, provide details:**

(insert text here)

**If No, provide reasons:**

There are unlikely to be any opportunities to promote equality of opportunity as a result of a review of marine licensing fees. The review of marine licensing fees will be applied equally across all communities and does not relate to any aspect of religious belief.

**Political Opinion - If Yes, provide details:**

(insert text here)

**If No, provide reasons:**

There are unlikely to be any opportunities to promote equality of opportunity as a result of a review of marine licensing fees. The review of marine licensing fees will be applied equally across all communities and does not relate to any aspect of political opinion.

**Racial Group - If Yes, provide details:**

(insert text here)

**If No, provide reasons:**

There are unlikely to be any opportunities to promote equality of opportunity as a result of a review of marine licensing fees. The review of marine licensing fees will be applied equally across all communities and does not relate to any aspect of any racial group.

**Age - If Yes, provide details:**

(insert text here)

**If No, provide reasons:**

There are unlikely to be any opportunities to promote equality of opportunity as a result of a review of marine licensing fees. The review of marine licensing fees will be applied equally across all communities and does not relate to any aspect linked to age.

**Marital Status - If Yes, provide details:**

(insert text here)

**If No, provide reasons**

There are unlikely to be any opportunities to promote equality of opportunity as a result of a review of marine licensing fees. The review of marine licensing fees will be applied equally across all communities and does not relate to any aspect of marital status.

**Sexual Orientation - If Yes, provide details:**

(insert text here)

**If No, provide reasons:**

There are unlikely to be any opportunities to promote equality of opportunity as a result of a review of marine licensing fees. The review

of marine licensing fees will be applied equally across all communities and does not relate to any aspect of sexual orientation.

**Men and Women generally - If Yes, provide details:**

(insert text here)

**If No, provide reasons:**

There are unlikely to be any opportunities to promote equality of opportunity as a result of a review of marine licensing fees. The review of marine licensing fees will be applied equally across all communities and does not relate to any aspect of a person's gender.

**Disability - If Yes, provide details:**

(insert text here)

**If No, provide reasons:**

There are unlikely to be any opportunities to promote equality of opportunity as a result of a review of marine licensing fees. The review of marine licensing fees will be applied equally across all communities and does not relate to any aspect of disability.

**Dependants - If Yes, provide details:**

(insert text here)

**If No, provide reasons:**

There are unlikely to be any opportunities to promote equality of opportunity as a result of a review of marine licensing fees. The review of marine licensing fees will be applied equally across all communities and does not relate to any aspect of the incidence of dependents.

**3. To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?**

Please provide details of the likely policy impact and determine the level of impact for each of the categories below i.e. either minor, major or none.

**Details of the likely policy impacts on *Religious belief*:**

There is unlikely to be any impact on good relations between people. The review of marine licensing fees will be applied equally across all communities and does not have any impact on people in terms of any aspect of religious belief.

**What is the level of impact?** Minor  Major  None

(select as appropriate)

**Details of the likely policy impacts on *Political Opinion*:**

There is unlikely to be any impact on good relations between people. The review of marine licensing fees will be applied equally across all communities and does not have any impact on people in terms of any aspect of their political opinions.

**What is the level of impact?** Minor  Major  None

(select as appropriate)

**Details of the likely policy impacts on *Racial Group*:**

There is unlikely to be any impact on good relations between people. The review of marine licensing fees will be applied equally across all

communities and does not have any impact on people in terms of any aspect of their racial group.

**What is the level of impact?** Minor  Major  None

(select as appropriate)

**4. Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?**

Detail opportunities of how this policy could better promote good relations for people within each of the Section 75 Categories below:

***Religious Belief* - If Yes, provide details:**

(insert text here)

**If No, provide reasons:**

There are unlikely to be any opportunities to promote good relations between Section 75 categories. The review of marine licensing fees does not relate to any aspect of religious belief.

***Political Opinion* - If Yes, provide details:**

(insert text here)

**If No, provide reasons:**

There are unlikely to be any opportunities to promote good relations between Section 75 categories. The review of marine licensing fees does not relate to any aspect of political opinion.



**Racial Group - If Yes, provide details:**

(insert text here)

**If No, provide reasons:**

There are unlikely to be any opportunities to promote good relations between Section 75 categories. The review of marine licensing fees does not relate to any aspect of racial interaction.

## 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? If so, please detail below.

*(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.**

No. The review of marine licensing fees does not relate to any aspect of any Section 75 category either individually or in combination.

DAERA also has legislative obligations to meet under the **Disability Discrimination Order**. Questions 5 - 6 relate to these.

## Consideration of Disability Duties

5. Does this proposed policy or decision provide an opportunity for DAERA to better **promote positive attitudes** towards disabled people?

No. The review of marine licensing fees being screened applies to all licence applicants regardless of their disability status. It does not provide the opportunity for DAERA to better promote positive attitudes towards people with a disability.

6. Does this proposed policy or decision provide an opportunity to actively **increase the participation** by disabled people in public life?

No. The review of marine licensing fees being screened applies to all licence applicants regardless of their disability status. It does not provide the opportunity to actively increase participation by disabled people in public life.

### Part 3. Screening decision (Please delete as appropriate)

- ~~1. “Screened in” for equality impact assessment.~~
- ~~2. “Screened out” with mitigation or an alternative policy proposed to be adopted.~~
3. “Screened out” without mitigation or an alternative policy proposed to be adopted.

If the decision is **not to conduct an equality impact assessment**, please provide details of the reasons.

The review of marine licensing fees is unlikely to have any impacts on people in terms of their equality of opportunity, their rights as people with a disability or their human rights under the Human Rights Act 1998.

If the decision is not to conduct an equality impact assessment the public authority should consider if the policy should **be mitigated or an alternative policy be introduced** - please provide details.

(insert text here)

If the decision is to **subject the policy to an equality impact assessment**, please provide details of the reasons.

(insert text here)

All public authorities’ equality schemes must state the authority’s arrangements for assessing and consulting on the likely impact of policies adopted or proposed to be adopted by the authority on the promotion of equality of opportunity. The Commission recommends screening and equality impact assessment as the tools to be utilised for such assessments. Further advice on equality impact assessment may be found in a separate Commission publication: [A Practical Guide to Equality Impact Assessment](#)

## Mitigation

When the public authority concludes that the likely impact is ‘minor’ and an equality impact assessment is not to be conducted, the public authority may consider mitigation to lessen the severity of any equality impact, or the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity or good relations.

**Can the policy/decision be amended or changed or an alternative policy introduced to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations?**  Yes  No (select as appropriate)

**If so, give the reasons to support your decision, together with the proposed changes/amendments or alternative policy.**

(insert text here)

## Timetabling and prioritising

Factors to be considered in timetabling and prioritising policies for equality impact assessment.

If the policy has been ‘screened in’ for equality impact assessment, then please answer the following questions to determine its priority for timetabling the equality impact assessment.

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 equality impact assessment.

| 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          |              |
| <b>Total score</b>                                   |              |

Note: The Total Rating Score should be used to prioritise the policy in rank order with other policies screened in for equality impact assessment. This list of priorities will assist the public authority in timetabling. Details of the Public Authority’s Equality Impact Assessment Timetable should be included in the quarterly Screening Report.

**Is the policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities?**  Yes  No (select as appropriate)

**If yes, please provide details.**

(insert text here)

## Part 4. Monitoring

**Section 75 places a requirement on DAERA to have equality monitoring arrangements in place in order to assess the impact of policies and services etc; and to help identify barriers to fair participation and to better promote equality of opportunity. Please note the following excerpt from The Equality Commission for Northern Ireland in relation to monitoring:**

*A system must be established to monitor the impact of the policy in order to find out its effect on relevant groups. The results of ongoing monitoring must be reviewed on an annual basis. The public authority is required to publish the results of this monitoring. And they must be included in the public authorities' annual review on progress to the Equality Commission. The Equality Scheme must specify how and where such monitoring information will be published. It is therefore essential that monitoring is carried out in a systematic manner and that the results are widely and openly published.*

*If the monitoring and analysis of results over a two year period show that the policy results in greater adverse impact than predicted, or if opportunities arise which would allow for greater equality of opportunity to be promoted, the public authority must ensure that the policy is revised to achieve better outcomes for the relevant equality groups.*

Further advice on monitoring can be found at: [ECNI Monitoring Guidance for Public Authorities](#)

**Outline what data you will collect in the future in order to monitor the impact of this policy or decision on equality, good relations and disability duties.**

**Equality:**

DAERA will include a question asking for views on any Equality and Disability screening exercises in the consultation on the review of marine licensing fees. It will also include a question in future consultations on marine licensing policy. The Department will consider any issues raised.

**Good Relations:**

DAERA will include a question asking for views on any Equality and Disability screening exercises in the consultation on the review of marine licensing fees. It will also include a question in future consultations on marine licensing policy. The Department will consider any issues raised.

**Disability Duties:**

DAERA will include a question asking for views on any Equality and Disability screening exercises in the consultation on the review of marine licensing fees. It will also include a question in future consultations on marine licensing policy. The Department will consider any issues raised.

**Part 5. Consideration of Human Rights**

- 7. The Human Rights Act (HRA) 1998 brings the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) into UK law and it applies in N Ireland. Indicate below by deleting Yes/No as appropriate, any potential adverse impacts that the policy or decision may have in relation to human rights issues.**



See Annex A for brief synopsis on each of the Human Rights Articles & Protocols.

|   |                                 |                    |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Right to Life   | <b>Article 2</b>                | <del>Yes</del> /No |
| Prohibition of torture, inhuman or degrading treatment                | <b>Article 3</b>                | <del>Yes</del> /No |
| Prohibition of slavery and forced labour                              | <b>Article 4</b>                | <del>Yes</del> /No |
| Right to liberty and security   | <b>Article 5</b>                | <del>Yes</del> /No |
| Right to a fair and public trial                                      | <b>Article 6</b>                | <del>Yes</del> /No |
| Right to no punishment without law                                    | <b>Article 7</b>                | <del>Yes</del> /No |
| Right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence | <b>Article 8</b>                | <del>Yes</del> /No |
| Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion                  | <b>Article 9</b>                | <del>Yes</del> /No |
| Right to freedom of expression  | <b>Article 10</b>               | <del>Yes</del> /No |
| Right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association                 | <b>Article 11</b>               | <del>Yes</del> /No |
| Right to marry and to found a family                                  | <b>Article 12</b>               | <del>Yes</del> /No |
| The prohibition of discrimination                                     | <b>Article 14</b>               | <del>Yes</del> /No |
| Protection of property and enjoyment of possessions                   | <b>Protocol 1<br/>Article 1</b> | <del>Yes</del> /No |

|                                    |                                 |                    |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Right to education                 | <b>Protocol 1<br/>Article 2</b> | <del>Yes</del> /No |
| Right to free and secret elections | <b>Protocol 1<br/>Article 3</b> | <del>Yes</del> /No |

**8. Please explain any adverse impacts on human rights that you have identified.**

None identified.

**9. Please indicate any ways which you consider the policy positively promotes human rights.**

None have been identified.

**Part 6 - Approval and authorisation**

Before signing off this screening template please confirm that you have completed all the actions listed below.

I can confirm that all the actions listed below have been completed -

- I have explained any technical issues in plain English (easily understood by a 12 year old)
- I have used the most relevant, current & up to date data available
- I have added evidence and explained my assessments in full
- I have provided a brief note to justify my decision to ‘Screen In’ or ‘Screen Out’
- A copy of this screening template and the final decision has been sent to the Equality Unit for their consideration before it has been forwarded for sign-off

**Screening assessment completed by (Staff Officer level or above) -**

**Name: Susan Cramer**

**Grade: Deputy Principal**

**Branch: Marine Strategy & Catchments Team, Marine and Fisheries**

**Division**

**Date:**

**Signature: please insert a scanned image of your signature.**



**Screening decision approved by (must be Grade 3/Deputy Secretary or above) -**

**Name: Liz Loughran**

**Grade: G3**

**Branch: EMFG**

**Date: 23/5/24**

**Signature: please insert a scanned image of your signature.**



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 the public authority's website as soon as possible following completion and made available on request.

Please save the final signed version of the completed screening form in the CM container (AE2-19-11940) below as soon as possible after completion and forward the CM link to Equality Branch at [equality@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:equality@daera-ni.gov.uk). The screening template must be saved to the container in **HTML format** (not PDF) in order to comply with accessibility requirements. The screening form will be placed on the DAERA website and a link provided to the Department's Section 75 consultees.



Strategic  
Management DAERA

For more information about equality screening, contact:

DAERA Equality Unit

Equality & Diversity Branch

Jubilee House

111 Ballykelly Road

LIMAVADY

BT49 9HP

Email: [equality@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:equality@daera-ni.gov.uk)

Tel: 028 7744 2027



Department of  
**Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs**

[www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk)

## Annex A

### Synopsis of Human Rights Act Articles & Protocols

#### **ARTICLE 2**

##### ***Right to life***

1. Everyone's right to life shall be protected by law. No one shall be deprived of his life intentionally save in the execution of a sentence of a court following his conviction of a crime for which this penalty is provided by law.
2. Deprivation of life shall not be regarded as inflicted in contravention of this Article when it results from the use of force which is no more than absolutely necessary:
  - a. In defense of any person from unlawful violence;
  - b. In order to effect a lawful arrest or to prevent the escape of a person lawfully detained;
  - c. In action lawfully taken for the purpose of quelling a riot or insurrection.

#### **ARTICLE 3**

##### ***Prohibition of torture***

No one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

#### **ARTICLE 4**

##### ***Prohibition of slavery and forced labour***

1. No one shall be held in slavery or servitude.
2. No one shall be required to perform forced or compulsory labour.

3. For the purpose of this Article the term “forced or compulsory labour” shall not include:
  - a. Any work required to be done in the ordinary course of detention imposed according to the provisions of Article 5 of this Convention or during conditional release from such detention;
  - b. Any service of a military character or, in case of conscientious objectors in countries where they are recognised, service exacted instead of compulsory military service;
  - c. Any service exacted in case of an emergency or calamity threatening the life or well-being of the community;
  - d. Any work or service which forms part of normal civic obligations.

## **ARTICLE 5**

### ***Right to liberty and security***

1. Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person. No one shall be deprived of his liberty save in the following cases and in accordance with a procedure prescribed by law:
  - a. The lawful detention of a person after conviction by a competent court;
  - b. The lawful arrest or detention of a person for non-compliance with the lawful order of a court or in order to secure the fulfilment of any obligation prescribed by law;
  - c. the lawful arrest or detention of a person effected for the purpose of bringing him before the competent legal authority on reasonable suspicion of having committed an offence or when it is reasonably considered necessary to prevent his committing an offence or fleeing after having done so;

- d. the detention of a minor by lawful order for the purpose of educational supervision or his lawful detention for the purpose of bringing him before the competent legal authority;
  - e. The lawful detention of persons for the prevention of the spreading of infectious diseases, of persons of unsound mind, alcoholics or drug addicts or vagrants;
  - f. The lawful arrest or detention of a person to prevent his effecting an unauthorised entry into the country or of a person against whom action is being taken with a view to deportation or extradition.
2. Everyone who is arrested shall be informed promptly, in a language which he understands, of the reasons for his arrest and of any charge against him.
3. Everyone arrested or detained in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 1(c) of this Article shall be brought promptly before a judge or other officer authorised by law to exercise judicial power and shall be entitled to trial within a reasonable time or to release pending trial. Release may be conditioned by guarantees to appear for trial.
4. Everyone who is deprived of his liberty by arrest or detention shall be entitled to take proceedings by which the lawfulness of his detention shall be decided speedily by a court and his release ordered if the detention is not lawful.
5. Everyone who has been the victim of arrest or detention in contravention of the provisions of this Article shall have an enforceable right to compensation.

## **ARTICLE 6**

### ***Right to a fair trial***

1. In the determination of his civil rights and obligations or of any criminal charge against him, everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial tribunal established by law. Judgment shall be pronounced publicly but the press and public may be excluded from all or part of the trial in the interest of morals, public order or national security in a democratic society, where the interests of juveniles or the protection of the private life of the parties so require, or to the extent strictly necessary in the opinion of the court in special circumstances where publicity would prejudice the interests of justice.
2. Everyone charged with a criminal offence shall be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law.
3. Everyone charged with a criminal offence has the following minimum rights:
  - a. To be informed promptly, in a language which he understands and in detail, of the nature and cause of the accusation against him;
  - b. To have adequate time and facilities for the preparation of his defense;
  - c. To defend himself in person or through legal assistance of his own choosing or, if he has not sufficient means to pay for legal assistance, to be given it free when the interests of justice so require;
  - d. To examine or have examined witnesses against him and to obtain the attendance and examination of witnesses on his behalf under the same conditions as witnesses against him;
  - e. To have the free assistance of an interpreter if he cannot understand or speak the language used in court.



## **ARTICLE 7**

### ***No punishment without law***

1. No one shall be held guilty of any criminal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a criminal offence under national or international law at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the criminal offence was committed.
2. This Article shall not prejudice the trial and punishment of any person for any act or omission which, at the time when it was committed, was criminal according to the general principles of law recognised by civilised nations.

## **ARTICLE 8**

### ***Right to respect for private and family life***

1. Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence.
2. There shall be no interference by a public authority with the exercise of this right except such as is in accordance with the law and is necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security, public safety or the economic well-being of the country, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

## **ARTICLE 9**

### ***Freedom of thought, conscience and religion***

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief, in worship, teaching, practice and observance.
2. Freedom to manifest one's religion or beliefs shall be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of public safety, for the protection of public order, health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

### **ARTICLE 10**

#### ***Freedom of expression***

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers. This Article shall not prevent States from requiring the licensing of broadcasting, television or cinema enterprises.
2. The exercise of these freedoms, since it carries with it duties and responsibilities, may be subject to such formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary.

### **ARTICLE 11**

#### ***Freedom of assembly and association***

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and to freedom of association with others, including the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.
2. No restrictions shall be placed on the exercise of these rights other than such as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others. This Article shall not prevent the imposition of lawful restrictions on the exercise of these rights by members of the armed forces, of the police or of the administration of the State.

### **ARTICLE 12**

#### ***Right to marry***

Men and women of marriageable age have the right to marry and to found a family, according to the national laws governing the exercise of this right.

### **ARTICLE 14**

#### ***Prohibition of discrimination***

The enjoyment of the rights and freedoms set forth in this Convention shall be secured without discrimination on any ground such as sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status.

### **Protocol 1**

#### **ARTICLE 1**

#### ***Protection of property***

Every natural or legal person is entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of his possessions. No one shall be deprived of his possessions except in the public interest and subject to the conditions provided for by law and by the general principles of international law.

The preceding provisions shall not, however, in any way impair the right of a State to enforce such laws as it deems necessary to control the use of property in accordance with the general interest or to secure the payment of taxes or other contributions or penalties.

### **Protocol 1**

#### ***ARTICLE 2***

##### ***Right to education***

No person shall be denied the right to education. In the exercise of any functions which it assumes in relation to education and to teaching, the State shall respect the right of parents to ensure such education and teaching in conformity with their own religious and philosophical convictions.

### **Protocol 1**

#### ***ARTICLE 3***

##### ***Right to free elections***

The High Contracting Parties undertake to hold free elections at reasonable intervals by secret ballot, under conditions which will ensure the free expression of the opinion of the people in the choice of the legislature.

For further information:

Equality Unit,  
Equality & Diversity Branch  
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)  
Jubilee House  
111 Ballykelly Road  
Ballykelly  
Limavady  
BT49 9HP

Tel: 028 7744 2027

Email: [equality@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:equality@daera-ni.gov.uk)



Department of  
**Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs**

[www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk)

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