

The Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

Rural Needs Impact Assessment Template

(April 2018)



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

1A. Name of Public Authority - Department of Health

1B. Please provide the official title/ description of the Strategy, Policy, Plan or Public Service document or initiative:

A consultation on proposed amendments to the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (Membership, Procedure, Functions and Committee) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012

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

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



1D. Please provide the aims and/or objectives of the Strategy, Policy, Plan or Public Service:

The SBNI is a partnership of key organisations from the statutory, community and voluntary sectors with statutory responsibility for coordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of work undertaken by those represented on the SBNI for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Its functions include developing policies and procedures, promoting communications and awareness of the need to safeguard children and young people and undertaking Case Management Reviews (CMRs).

In a review of operations and impact in 2016 (the Jay Review), a number of areas for service development of the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNI) were identified. The Review was accepted by the Department in August 2016. The Safeguarding Board Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 details specific functions of the SBNI that require change as a result of the Jay Review, and thus regulatory/legislative amendment. The proposed amendments to the 2012 Regulations will give effect to some of the recommendations/points of note contained in the Review report. The Department is also taking this opportunity to make additional changes to facilitate operational and corporate hosting improvements in relation to the SBNI, reduce bureaucracy and ensure SBNI functions are performed as effectively as possible. The consultation on the amendments is also highlighting that the Department may need to introduce any identified legislative amendments to facilitate the migration of the HSCB into the Department of Health.

The proposed amendments will not change the overall objective of the SBNI and all members/bodies/persons will continue to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Northern Ireland.

1E. Which 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 applicable¹

¹If a definition of 'rural' is not applicable, the policy is unlikely to fall under the scope of the Act and you should be able to screen out at this stage



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

Please explain:

The proposed amendments to the SBNI 2012 Regulations are expected to have a neutral impact on rural areas as the overall objective of the SBNI will not change. If it is assessed, at consultation stage, that the proposed revisions to the SBNI 2012 Regulations may have a bearing on rural needs, mitigating actions will be considered at that stage in the process.

If the response is **NO** after entering explanation GO TO Section **3**

2B. 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 will impact people in rural areas differently:

N/A



2C. Please indicate the rural policy areas the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on (see list at note 1):

N/A

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

X

Please explain:

Given the intended aim of the proposed change to the SBNI 2012 Regulations (as outlined in Sections 1 and 2 above), it is not envisaged that this policy will impact on the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

If the response is **NO** please explain above and **GO TO Section 4**

3B. Please indicate which methods or information sources were used to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas (see note 2 for examples) and provide details including relevant dates, names of organisations, titles of publications, website references, details of surveys or consultations undertaken etc:

N/A



3C. Please provide details of the social and economic needs of people in rural areas which have been identified:

N/A

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 identified by the Public Authority:

As with Section 3 above, it is not expected that the application and implementation of this policy will present specific barriers to delivery in rural areas.

If it is assessed, at consultation stage, that the proposed revisions to the SBNI 2012 Regulations may have a bearing on rural needs, mitigating actions to assess the social and economic needs of persons in rural areas will be considered at that stage in the process.

SECTION 5 – Influencing the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

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

Yes

No

Please explain:

Given that the overall objective of the SBNI, to promote and safeguard the welfare of children, will not change, it is considered that rural needs will not be affected when designing and delivering services to meet the proposed amendments to the SBNI 2012 Regulations.

If highlighted as an issue at consultation stage, a rural needs assessment can be undertaken at that point in the process.

In line with existing reporting and monitoring arrangements, the SBNI reports to the Department of Health for the discharge of its statutory functions. It will nevertheless be a matter for the SBNI in the first instance to measure and report on any outcomes where rural needs have been identified in applying the 2012 SBNI Regulations.



SECTION 6 – Documenting and Recording

6A. I confirm that details of the Rural Needs Impact Assessment will be recorded on the Public Authority’s Annual Monitoring Return and the RNIA Template retained by the Public Authority (please check box)

Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:	
Position / Grade:	
Division/Branch	
Signature:	
Date:	
Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:	
Position / Grade:	
Division / Branch	
Signature:	
Date:	

Note 1

Rural Policy Areas (relates to question 2C):

- Rural Businesses
- Rural Tourism
- Rural Housing
- Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas
- Education or Training in Rural Areas
- Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas
- Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas
- Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas
- Poverty in Rural Areas
- Deprivation in Rural Areas
- Rural Crime or Community Safety
- Rural Development
- Other (Please specify)

Note 2

Examples of methods or information sources used (relates to question 3B):

- Consultation with Rural Stakeholders
- Consultation with Other Organisations
- Surveys or Questionnaires
- Other Methods or Information Sources (include details)
- Published Statistics
- Research Papers
- Other Publications