

## **Equality and Human Rights**

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 requires departments in carrying out their functions relating to Northern Ireland to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity:

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

In addition, without prejudice to the above obligation, Departments should also, in carrying out their functions relating to Northern Ireland, have due regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

In accordance with guidance produced by the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland and in keeping with Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the Formula Review has been equality screened, and a preliminary decision has been taken that a full EQIA is not required.

Departments also have a statutory duty to ensure that their decisions and actions are compatible with the Human Rights Act 1998 and to act in accordance with these rights.