

# Equality and Human Rights Screening Template

29 October 2015

# Section A

## Details about the policy / decision to be screened

### **Title of policy / decision to be screened:-**

Proposals for a successor to the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Framework 2011-15

### **Brief description of policy / decision to be screened:-**

The proposals being equality screened relate to the successor to DARD's current TRPSI Framework 2011-15. The TRPSI Framework is a DARD-led initiative aimed at tackling rural poverty and social isolation through a package of measures designed to target the effects of poverty and social isolation among vulnerable groups in rural areas. In particular the Framework focuses on alleviating the effects of Access Poverty, Financial Poverty and Social Isolation among vulnerable rural dwellers through effective partnership working between Departments, other public sector organisations and rural communities.

### **Aims and objectives of the policy / decision to be screened:-**

The proposed aims and objectives of the successor TRPSI Framework are:

#### **Aim**

To provide a flexible mechanism for DARD to work effectively with other partnership organisations to develop and implement measures which help tackle poverty and social isolation among vulnerable people living in rural areas.

#### **Objectives**

- To promote the development of new and innovative approaches to tackling poverty and social isolation in rural areas;
- To encourage effective partnership working between DARD, other public sector organisations and the rural community sector in seeking to tackle poverty and social isolation among vulnerable people in rural areas;

- To encourage the design and delivery of measures which effectively target financial poverty, access poverty and social isolation among vulnerable people in rural areas in line with the key principles of the Framework;
- To support interventions which increase the level of funding and/or other resources available to target poverty and social isolation among vulnerable people in rural areas.

### **On whom will the policy / decision impact?**

Consider the internal and external impacts (both actual or potential)

- Staff
- service users
- rural community
- other public sector organisations
- voluntary / community groups / trade unions
- others, please specify

**Are there linkages to other NI Departments / NDPBs?**

Yes – the successor framework promotes partnership working between DARD, other Departments and public sector organisations. Partners under the previous Framework include the Department for Regional Development, the Department for Social Development, the Department for Employment and Learning, the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, the Department for Enterprise Trade and Investment, the Public Health Agency, the NI Housing Executive and Libraries NI.

## Section B

1. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories? What is the level of impact?

Section 75 category	Details of likely impact	Level of impact? Minor/Major/None
Religious belief	The proposals for the successor TRPSI Framework are aimed at reducing the effects of poverty and social isolation among vulnerable groups in rural areas. Statistics from the 2011 census show the make-up of the rural community to be 45% Catholic, 52% Protestant and other Christian and 3% other or no religion. The proposals for the successor TRPSI Framework are neutral as regards religious belief and therefore are considered to have no impact on the equality of opportunity as regards religious belief.	None
Political opinion	The proposals for the successor TRPSI Framework are aimed at reducing the effects of poverty and social isolation among vulnerable groups in rural areas. Statistics from the 2011 census show the make-up of the rural community to be 45% Catholic, 52% Protestant and other Christian and 3% other or no religion. The proposals for the successor TRPSI Framework are neutral as regards political opinion and therefore are considered to have no impact on the equality of opportunity as regards political opinion.	None
Racial group	The proposals for the successor TRPSI Framework are aimed at reducing the effects of poverty and social isolation among vulnerable groups in rural areas. Latest statistics taken from the 2011 census show the make-up of the rural community to be 99.4% white and 0.6% other ethnic groupings. The evaluation of the current Framework shows that ethnic minority groups have benefited from the community development measures and the Rural Challenge Fund funded under the Framework and that there was limited uptake of the Maximising Access Rural Areas Programme (MARA) by ethnic minority groups. The proposals specify ethnic	Minor positive

	<p>minorities as a group to be targeted under the successor TRPSI Framework and are considered to have the potential to have a minor positive impact on equality of opportunity for persons of different racial groups by addressing issues around access poverty, financial poverty and social isolation.</p>	
Age	<p>The proposals for the successor TRPSI Framework are aimed at reducing the effects of poverty and social isolation among vulnerable groups in rural areas. The proposals specify elderly people and children and young people as groups to be targeted under the Framework. Latest statistics taken from the 2011 census show the make-up of rural community to be 22% aged under 15, 24% aged 16 – 34, 39% aged 35 – 64 and 14% aged 65+.</p> <p>The evaluation of the current Framework shows that elderly people have benefited directly through the Connecting Elderly Rural Isolated (CERI) initiative, which supports older people in rural areas to remain active and engaged with their communities, living in their own homes even as their ability to function independently declines. The Assisted Rural Travel Scheme (ARTS) which allows any passenger with a valid SmartPass to travel for free or half fare on the Dial-a-Lift service operated by Rural Community Transport Partnerships thereby providing financial savings to rural dwellers and helps address social isolation. Equality monitoring statistics collected in respect of the current MARA programme show that 60% of those benefiting from the programme were over 65.</p> <p>The evaluation also shows that young people have benefited from the Rural Challenge Programme, the Youth Employability Programme and Youth Enterprise Programme.</p> <p>The proposals for the successor TRPSI Framework specify elderly people and children and young people as groups to be targeted and therefore are considered to have the potential to have a minor positive impact on equality of opportunity for elderly people and children and young people by addressing issues around access poverty, financial poverty and social isolation.</p>	Minor positive
Marital status	<p>The proposals for the successor TRPSI Framework are aimed at reducing the effects of poverty and social isolation among vulnerable groups in rural areas. Latest statistics taken from the 2011 census</p>	None

	<p>show the make-up of rural households to be 22.24% one person households, 48.67% married couple households, 0.03% same-sex civil partnership couple households, 4.58% cohabiting couple households, 11.05% lone parent households and 6.58% other types of households. The proposals for the successor TRPSI Framework are neutral as regards people of different marital status and consequently there is no opportunity to promote equality of opportunity.</p>	
<p><b>Sexual orientation</b></p>	<p>The proposals for the successor TRPSI Framework are aimed at reducing the effects of poverty and social isolation among vulnerable groups in rural areas. The current Framework supported a research project into the experiences of the LGBT Community in rural areas and aims to provide information to help inform policy making. Evidence from the evaluation of the current Framework also identified the LGBT Community as having benefited from the Maximising Access Rural Areas Programme (MARA) programme and from the community development measures. The proposals in the successor TRPSI Framework specify the LGBT Community as a group to be targeted and therefore are considered to have the potential to have a minor positive impact on equality of opportunity for people of different sexual orientation by addressing issues around access poverty, financial poverty and social isolation.</p>	<p>Minor positive</p>
<p><b>Men and women generally</b></p>	<p>The proposals for the successor TRPSI Framework are aimed at reducing the effects of poverty and social isolation among vulnerable groups in rural areas. Latest statistics taken from the 2011 census show the make-up of the rural community to be 50% men and 50% women. Evidence from the evaluation of the current TRPSI Framework shows for example that while carers and lone parents, who are predominantly women, benefited under measures such as the Maximising Access Rural Areas Programme (MARA) and the Rural Challenge Programme, women were not listed as a specific target group under the Framework. The evaluation also recognised the need to target rural women.</p> <p>Equality monitoring statistics collected in relation to the current Farm Families Health Checks programme show that 78% of the beneficiaries of</p>	<p>Minor positive</p>

	<p>the programme were men. This is mainly due to farming being a male dominated sector and farmers availed of this service as it was present in farmers markets as well as community settings with a key focus of targeting health inequalities within the farming sector.</p> <p>The proposals for the successor TRPSI Framework specify both women and farmers as groups to be targeted and are considered to have the potential to have a minor positive impact on equality of opportunity for men and women by addressing issues around access poverty, financial poverty and social isolation.</p>	
Disability	<p>The proposals for the successor TRPSI Framework are aimed at reducing the effects of poverty and social isolation among vulnerable groups in rural areas. Latest statistics taken from the 2011 census show that 40% of rural households contain at least one person with a long term health problem or disability. Equality monitoring statistics collected in relation to the current MARA programme show that 33% of the beneficiaries of the programme had a disability while 67% did not.</p> <p>The Assisted Rural Travel Scheme (ARTS) which allows any passenger with a valid SmartPass in particular the elderly and disabled access to free or half fare on the Dial-a-Lift service operated by Rural Community Transport Partnerships thereby providing financial savings to rural dwellers and helps address social isolation.</p> <p>The proposals for the successor TRPSI Framework specify people with a disability as a group to be targeted and therefore are considered to have the potential to have a positive impact on equality of opportunity for people with a disability in rural areas by addressing issues around access poverty, financial poverty and social isolation.</p>	Minor positive
Dependants	<p>The proposals for the successor TRPSI Framework are aimed at reducing the effects of poverty and social isolation among vulnerable groups in rural areas. Latest statistics taken from the 2011 census show the make-up of rural households to be 37% with dependants and 63% without. Equality monitoring statistics collected in respect of the Rural Challenge Programme show that 51% of those benefiting from the programme had dependents. The proposals for the successor TRPSI Framework</p>	Minor positive



	specify lone parents as a group to be targeted and therefore are considered to have the potential to have a minor positive impact on equality of opportunity for people with dependants by addressing issues around access poverty, financial poverty and social isolation.	
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**2. Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories?**

Section 75 category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide reasons
<b>Religious belief</b>		The proposals for the successor TRPSI Framework are neutral as regards people of different religious belief and consequently there is no opportunity to promote equality of opportunity.
<b>Political opinion</b>		The proposals for the successor TRPSI Framework are neutral as regards people of different political opinion and consequently there is no opportunity to promote equality of opportunity.
<b>Racial group</b>	Yes. The policy proposals for the successor TRPSI Framework are targeted towards addressing poverty and social isolation among vulnerable groups in rural areas. It is proposed that the successor TRPSI Framework will support a range of measures targeted at particular groups including ethnic	

	minorities and there is an opportunity for the proposals to promote equality of opportunity for people within this group.	
<b>Age</b>	Yes. The policy proposals for the successor TRPSI Framework are targeted towards addressing poverty and social isolation among vulnerable groups in rural areas. It is proposed that the successor TRPSI Framework will support a range of measures targeted at particular vulnerable groups including elderly people and children and young people. There is an opportunity for programmes targeting ethnic minorities to promote equality of opportunity for people within this group..	
<b>Marital status</b>		The proposals for the successor TRPSI Framework are neutral as regards people of different marital status and consequently there is no opportunity to promote equality of opportunity.
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	Yes. The policy proposals for the successor TRPSI Framework are targeted towards addressing poverty and social isolation among vulnerable groups in rural areas. The successor TRPSI Framework will support a range of measures targeted at particular vulnerable groups including the LGBT Community. There is an opportunity for programmes targeting the LGBT Community to promote equality of opportunity for people within this group.	
<b>Men and women generally</b>	Yes. The policy proposals for the successor TRPSI Framework are targeted towards addressing poverty and social isolation among vulnerable groups in rural areas. The proposals for the successor TRPSI Framework specify both women and farmers (who tend mainly to be male) as groups to be targeted by addressing issues around access poverty, financial poverty and social isolation.	
<b>Disability</b>	Yes. The policy proposals for the successor TRPSI Framework are targeted towards addressing poverty and social isolation among vulnerable groups in rural areas. It is proposed that the successor TRPSI Framework will support a range of measures	

	targeted at particular groups including people with a disability.	
<b>Dependants</b>	Yes. The policy proposals for the successor TRPSI Framework are targeted towards addressing poverty and social isolation among vulnerable groups in rural areas. It is proposed that the successor TRPSI Framework will support a range of measures targeted at particular groups including lone parents. There is an opportunity for programmes targeting lone parents to promote equality of opportunity for people within this group.	

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

<b>Good relations category</b>	<b>Likely impact?</b>	<b>Level of impact? Minor/Major/None</b>
<b>Religious belief</b>	The policy proposals for the successor TRPSI Framework are targeted towards addressing poverty and social isolation among vulnerable groups in rural areas. As the proposals are neutral as regards the impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group, there is likely to be no impact.	none
<b>Political opinion</b>	As above	none
<b>Racial group</b>	As above	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
Religious belief	No	Given that the policy proposals for the successor TRPSI Framework are neutral with regard to promoting good relations between people of different between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group, there is no opportunity in the proposals to better promote good relations between people within these groups.
Political opinion	As above	As above
Racial group	As above	As above

### Available evidence

What evidence / information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy? Set out all evidence below along with details of the different groups you have met and / or consulted with to help inform your screening assessment.

<b>Section 75 category</b>	<b>Details of evidence / information and engagement</b>
Religious belief	<p>Consideration of the breakdown of rural statistical data in the 2011 census.</p> <p>Evaluation of DARD's Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Framework 2011-15</p> <p>Equality information collected in respect of individual measures funded under DARD's Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Framework 2011-15 where available.</p>
Political opinion	As above
Racial group	As above
Age	As above
Marital status	As above
Sexual orientation	As above
Men & women generally	As above
Disability	As above
Dependants	As above

**No evidence held? Outline how you will obtain it:**

Further evidence will be obtained as part of the public consultation.

## Section C

DARD also has legislative obligations to meet under the [Disability Discrimination Order](#) and [Human Rights Act](#) (insert links) Questions 5 -9 relate to these two areas.

### Consideration of Disability Duties

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

No

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

Yes. The proposals for the successor TRPSI Framework are aimed at reducing the effects of poverty and social isolation among vulnerable groups in rural areas. The proposals specify people with a disability as a vulnerable group to be targeted under the Framework. The proposals therefore have the potential to actively increase the participation by disabled people in public life by addressing barriers to participation in public life such as difficulties in accessing transport, low incomes and social isolation.

## 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 (place an X in the appropriate box) any potential *adverse impacts* that the policy / decision may have in relation to human rights issues.

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



**Consideration of Human Rights (cont)**

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

No adverse impact identified.

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

None

**Monitoring Arrangements**

Section 75 places a requirement on DARD 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.

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

<b>Equality</b>	<b>Good Relations</b>	<b>Disability Duties</b>
S75 data monitoring of programmes funded under the successor TRPSI Framework will be carried out.	S75 data monitoring of programmes funded under the successor TRPSI Framework will be carried out.	S75 data monitoring of programmes funded under the successor TRPSI Framework will be carried out.

# Section D

## Formal Record of Screening Decision

**Title of Proposed Policy / Decision being screened** DARD Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Framework

I can confirm that the proposed policy / decision has been screened for –

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	equality of opportunity and good relations
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	disabilities duties; and
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	human rights issues

On the basis of the answers to the screening questions, I recommend that this policy / decision is –

\*place an X in the appropriate box below

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>*<u>Screened In</u></b> – Necessary to conduct a full EQIA
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>*<u>Screened Out</u></b> – No EQIA necessary (no impacts)</p> <p>Provide a brief note here to explain how this decision was reached:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The screening exercise has established that it is unlikely for Section 75 categories to be adversely impacted upon as a result of the proposals. The successor Framework will have the potential to have a positive impact in terms of their impact on equality of opportunity and disability duties. As regards Human Rights the proposals have no differential impact.</li> <li>• It is proposed that an Equality Screening exercise will be undertaken in respect of <u>each individual programme</u> delivered under the successor TRPSI Framework and, where appropriate, full EQIAs will be carried out by the lead public authority.</li> </ul>
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>* <u>Screened Out</u> - Mitigating Actions</b> (minor impacts)</p> <p>Provide a brief note here to explain how this decision was reached:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe clearly the mitigating actions and / or policy changes that</li> </ul>
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	<p>will now be introduced</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain how these actions will address the inequalities:</li> </ul>
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**Formal Record of Screening Decision** (cont)

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

Name: Niall Heaney

Grade 7



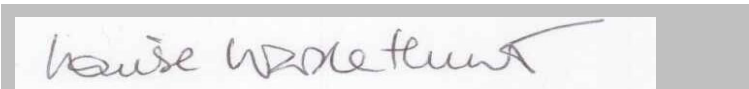
Date: 29/10/15

Branch: Sustainable Rural Communities

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

Name: Louise Warde Hunter

Grade 3



Date: 5/11/2015

Branch: Head of Central Policy Group

Please save the final version of the completed screening form in the TRIM container below as soon as possible after completion and forward the TRIM link to Equality Branch at [equalitybranch@dardni.gov.uk](mailto:equalitybranch@dardni.gov.uk). The screening form will be placed on the DARD website and a link provided to the Department's Section 75 consultees.



Strategic Management DARD - Equality Promotion & Implementation - Equality Schemes - Equality Screening of Departmental Policies.r5

For more information about equality screening, go to -

[http://dardintranet/coord\\_intranet/EqualityBranch/index.shtml](http://dardintranet/coord_intranet/EqualityBranch/index.shtml)

Or contact –

DARD Equality Branch

Room 509

Dundonald House

Upper Newtownards Road

Belfast BT4 3SB

Telephone 028 9052 4435

Textphone 028 9052 4420

[equalitybranch@dardni.gov.uk](mailto:equalitybranch@dardni.gov.uk).



Department of

**Agriculture and  
Rural Development**

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AN ROINN

**Talmhaíochta agus  
Forbartha Tuaithe**

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MÁNNYSTRIE O

**Fairms an  
Kintra Fordèrin**

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