

DEPARTMENT FOR ECONOMY

SECTION 75 EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY SCREENING TEMPLATE

This form should be completed when considering options for a new policy, service or programme, or changing an existing policy, service or programme.

Those policies identified as having significant implications for equality of opportunity must be subject to full EQIA.

The template will provide a record of the factors taken into account if a policy is screened out, or excluded for EQIA. It will be included in the quarterly Screening Report which is published on the Department's website.

Policy Title (in full):	Future of the Northern Ireland Non-Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) Scheme
Policy Aim	Long term policy on implementation of the Non-Domestic RHI Scheme following New Decade, New Approach commitment to Scheme closure.
Decision	Screened out without mitigation
Business Area:	Department for the Economy, Heat, Minerals and Operations Division
Contact:	
Date of form completion:	

For Equality Unit Completion:

Date received:	10/2/2021
Amendments requested?	Yes/ No
Date returned to Business Area:	
Date final version received:	
Date placed on S75 Screening Webpage:	

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.

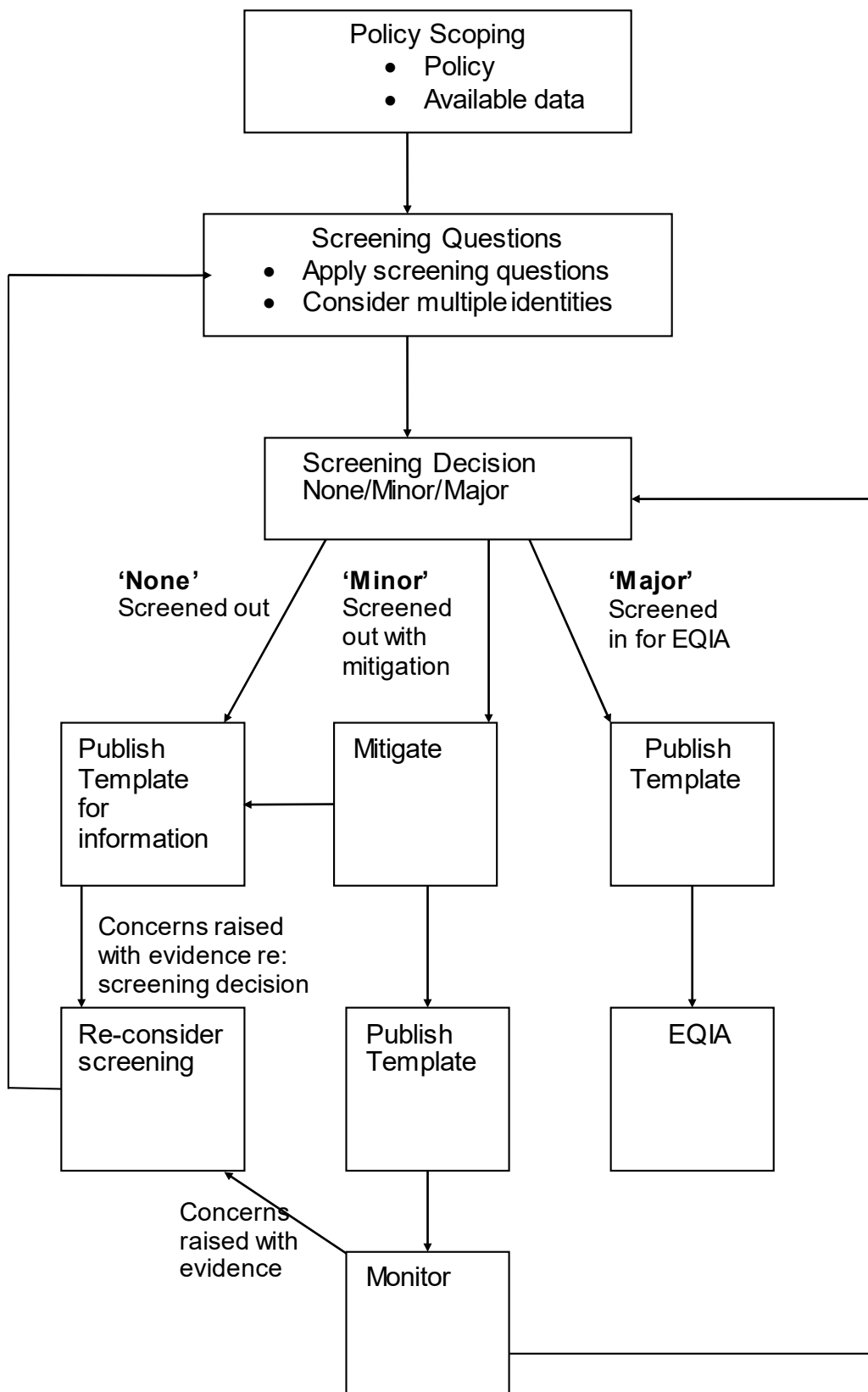
Part 2. Screening questions – asks about the extent of the likely impact of the policy on groups of people within each of the Section 75 categories. Details of the groups consulted and the level of assessment of the likely impact. This includes consideration of multiple identity and good relations issues.

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. 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 overleaf.



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

Future of the Northern Ireland Non-Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) Scheme

Is this an existing, revised or a new policy?

Revised. The Non-Domestic NI RHI Scheme ('NIRHI' or 'the Scheme') was introduced in 2012 with the aim of incentivising generation of heat from renewable sources rather than fossil fuels, reducing carbon emissions. The Scheme has been subject to several legislative amendments.

Four options for the future of the Scheme are under consideration and subject to public consultation. While one option represents the status quo, the other three, including the Executive's preferred option, would constitute a revision to the existing policy.

The policy was previously screened out of the need for a full Equality Impact Assessment.

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

The future of the Scheme is being considered in light of the January 2020 publication of the New Decade, New Approach document which stated that: 'RHI will be closed down and replaced with a scheme that effectively cuts carbon emissions'.

It is the view of the Department for the Economy that the final option progressed for the future of the Scheme should be guided by the following objectives:

- be consistent with the political agreement of the main political parties in Northern Ireland, as expressed within the New Decade, New Approach document;
- be fair to legitimate participants of the Scheme who entered and participated in good faith;
- consider the findings of the 'Buglass report'¹ on hardship, and the outworking of the public consultation on Cornwall Insight's recommended medium biomass tariffs²;
- be fair to wider taxpayers, delivering value for money and being affordable within existing budgets;
- address the systemic weakness in the design and operation of the Scheme, including long term financial uncertainty for both participants and taxpayers arising from the necessary tariff changes to the Scheme to date; the likelihood of future tariff reviews should the Scheme remain open, and ongoing risk of associated legal challenges; and
- facilitate the most efficient use of available resources to achieve the strategic environmental objectives of cutting carbon emissions and addressing the challenges of climate change.

Four options are under consideration and subject to public consultation from 11 February 2021 to 9 February 2021 as follows:

- Option 1: Scheme remains operational for current participants with present tariffs for all technologies (status quo);
- Option 2: Scheme remains operational for current participants with all tariffs subject to review and adjustment as necessary;
- Option 3: Scheme closure with no further payments made to participants; or
- Option 4: Scheme closure with compensation paid to legitimate current participants.

Option 4 is the Executive's preferred option.

Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy?

The screening exercise has concluded that none of the proposed options are likely to have a specific impact on any of the Section 75 groups.

¹ NI Non-Domestic RHI - Buglass Energy Advisory - Research into Hardship - Report of Findings

² NI Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme – 2020 Tariff Review

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

The Department for the Economy, Heat, Minerals and Operations Division

Who owns and who implements the policy?

The Department for the Economy

Implementation factors

Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision?

Yes

If yes, are they:

- financial
- legislative
- other - please specify

Main stakeholders affected

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

- 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?
- who owns them?

European Commission (EC) - Renewable Energy Directive (RED)

The 2009 Renewable Energy Directive (RED)³ committed the UK to increasing its share of renewable energy to 15% by 2010.

The requirement to meet the very challenging 15% renewable energy target falls at Member State level, not at devolved administration level. However, while energy is a devolved matter for Northern Ireland, each devolved administration is expected to contribute as much as possible to the overall UK target. The Northern Ireland Renewable Heat Incentive (NIRHI) was introduced as a measure aimed at contributing to Northern Ireland's element of the aforementioned RED 15% Member State target.

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI⁴) - Strategic Energy Framework

Under the 2010 Strategic Energy Framework⁵ DETI undertook to:

- Consider how best to encourage new entrants into the renewable heat market.
- Publish a Renewable Heat Route Map by March 2011 setting out key actions to achieve a 10% contribution from renewable heat by 2020, including opportunities for geothermal energy.
- Promote opportunities for switching to lower carbon fuels such as natural gas and biomass, where it is cost effective to do so.
- Work with other relevant Government Departments to manage the impact of the increase in the uptake of renewable heat and associated demand for renewable fuels.

Northern Ireland Executive – Programme for Government

The Programme for Government 2011-2015⁶ set out a key commitment to encourage achievement of 4% renewable heat by 2015, with milestones/outputs of 2% by 2012-13, 3% by 2013-14 and 4% by 2014-15.

The present Executive's Programme for Government draft Outcomes Framework consultation document⁷ (public consultation open until 22 March 2021) notes the potential contribution of the forthcoming Energy Strategy towards "*We live and work sustainably – protecting the environment*" and "*Our economy is globally competitive, regionally balanced and carbon-neutral*".

³ The 2009 Renewable Energy Directive (RED)

⁴ On 8 May 2016, DETI merged with the Department of Employment and Learning to form the Department for the Economy (DfE)

⁵ A Strategic Energy Framework for NI

⁶ The Programme for Government 2011-2015

⁷ PfG draft Outcomes Framework consultation

UK Government – legislative commitment to net zero carbon by 2050

In June 2019, Parliament passed legislation requiring the government to reduce the UK's net emissions of greenhouse gases by 100%, relative to 1990 levels by 2050. In December 2020, the Climate Change Committee, an independent, statutory body responsible for advising the UK and devolved governments in emissions targets published 'The Sixth Carbon Budget – The UK's path to Net Zero'. The Committee recommended that any climate legislation for Northern Ireland must include a target to reduce greenhouse gases by at least 82%, underpinned by a 100% decarbonisation of energy by 2050.

Department for the Economy – Energy Strategy under development

The Department for the Economy is currently developing an Energy Strategy for Northern Ireland which will include policy to support the achievement of net zero carbon by 2050. Possible incentives for green energy, including renewable heat, are under consideration in the process of developing the new Energy Strategy. Closure of the Non-Domestic RHI Scheme, in line with the New Decade, New Approach document, would make way for the Department to bring forward proposals for replacement support that would more effectively reduce carbon emissions resulting from the generation of heat and contribute to the reduction in greenhouse gases.

Northern Ireland Executive – New Decade, New Approach

In January 2020 publication of the New Decade, New Approach document⁸ provided the basis for restoration of devolution and the formation of a new Northern Ireland Executive. New Decade, New Approach included a commitment for reform to take account of the findings of the Independent Public Inquiry into the Non-Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) Scheme. In relation to the Executive's potential Programme for Government strategic priority of addressing climate change, stated that "*RHI will be closed down and replaced by a scheme that effectively cuts carbon emissions*".

The final decision on the future of the Scheme will be taken by the Northern Ireland Executive, informed by the outcome of a public consultation which will run from 11 February 2021 to 9 April 2021.

⁸ The New Decade, New Approach document

Evidence to help inform the screening process may take many forms. Public authorities should ensure that their screening decision is informed by relevant data.

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

The original equality screening carried out on the introduction of the Renewable Heat Incentive in 2012 concluded that the policy would be open to, and for the benefit of, the entire population of Northern Ireland, and that none of the Section 75 categories would specifically benefit from the policy. The Department supplemented this with evidence from its experience of the operation of the Scheme since its launch, and carried out a further equality screening in relation to the implementation of the revised long term tariff structure in 2019. A 2020 public consultation exercise on potential introduction of revised tariffs was accompanied by a further draft equality screening⁹.

This is a Non-Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme, and as a result the focus of any change in policy is on businesses and commercial enterprises. Thus the impact of the proposed options will be directly felt, primarily, by business and commercial entities rather than individuals. As a result there are no means to readily identify indirect impacts on individuals as our information sources relate to business and commercial entities – primarily private sector.

The main sources of qualitative and quantitative information gathered by the Department in relation to those most affected by the policy, i.e. accredited Scheme participants, are set out below.

Information from Scheme Participants

The Department holds a significant amount of information in relation to individual RHI accreditations. This includes information provided by Ofgem to the Department, such as information provided by Scheme participants in their accreditation applications, and information provided directly to the Department from participants, such as information provided in response to inspection requests, responses to previous consultations and calls for evidence in relation to the Scheme, and other correspondence from participants.

As part of the accreditation process, applicants were asked to specify the sector in which their business operated. A breakdown of the sectors relevant to RHI applications for accreditation is set out in the following table.

⁹ Cornwall consultation draft screening template

Sector	Number of Installations	% of Installations	Total Installation Capacity MW	Total Eligible Heat Output GWh
Agriculture	1,124	53%	124.9	1,402.70
Forestry / Wood	178	8%	24.1	211.5
Retail & Offices	145	7%	11.7	76.3
Hospitality	106	5%	9.1	76.4
Other*	575	27%	51.8	435.4
Grand Total	2,128	100%	221.6	2,202.30

*Examples of sectors within 'other' include education, manufacturing, and sport and recreation.

RHI Inquiry Report

The RHI Inquiry published its final report¹⁰ on Friday 13 March 2020.

Buglass Report

In summer 2019 the Department for the Economy undertook a call for evidence relating to hardship associated with participation in the Scheme, and in October 2019 appointed energy expert Andrew Buglass to undertake independent research into the issue. The Buglass report¹¹ was published in April 2020 along with an associated statement from the Minister for the Economy¹². The Buglass report has been considered in development of options for the future of the Scheme.

Cornwall Tariff Review

In April 2019, the Department for the Economy implemented a long-term tariff structure for the Non-Domestic Scheme. The Northern Ireland (Regional Rates and Energy) Act 2019 introduced a revised tariff structure applicable to all small and medium-sized biomass installations (0-199kW). The revised tariffs ('2019 Tariffs') were calculated on the basis that the typical boiler on the Scheme would achieve a prospective 12% internal rate of return (IRR).

The Department recognises that there are costs involved in the operation of renewable heat installations which will change over time, such as the price of biomass and the alternative fossil fuel and service and maintenance costs. Following an inquiry by the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee, DfE committed to an independent review of the variables which underpin the medium biomass tariffs. Energy consultants Cornwall Insight ('Cornwall'), were engaged to carry out the review. Cornwall completed the work in February 2020 and their report is available on the Department's website.

¹⁰ The Report of the Independent Public Inquiry into the Non-domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) Scheme

¹¹ DfE Article: Minister publishes Buglass report

¹² NI Non-Domestic RHI scheme - Buglass research on hardship - Ministerial response

Responses to a public consultation on implementation of Cornwall's recommendations have been taken into consideration in development of the options for the future of the Scheme.

Section 75 category	Details of evidence/information
Religious belief	<p>The 2011 Census¹³ found that 48% of the population in Northern Ireland came from a Protestant background and 45% from a Catholic background. The Equality Commission's Fair Employment Monitoring Report No. 29¹⁴ indicates that 50.7% of the (monitored) private sector workforce are from a Protestant background and 49.3% from a Roman Catholic background.</p> <p>The NIRHI application form did not specifically request this information. In the absence of information in relation to specific owners, the Department has previously compared the locations of all boilers with a 2011 Census dataset showing wards in Northern Ireland by Religion/Religion brought up in. The overall result demonstrates an almost even religious denomination split in the areas in which the boilers are located.</p> <p>Relying on the geographic location of boilers to determine the Section 75 groups of the owners of boilers has limitations. There are instances where multiple boilers within a ward all belong to the same individual or company and are installed at the same location, and applying the ward split will therefore skew the results. Similarly, a significant number of wards contain only one boiler, which limits the accuracy of the exercise.</p> <p>It should be noted that even if this data had been collected by the application form, many of the participants are larger companies (with a number of outlets or buildings). Any Section 75 information collected would therefore have been of limited usefulness in categorising the company as a whole.</p>
Political opinion	<p>The NIRHI application form did not request this information. Consideration of the likely community backgrounds of applicants is above.</p>
Racial group	<p>The 2011 Census reported that 98% of total NI population is white. The NIRHI application form did not request information on the racial groups of applicants, however the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Social Survey of Farmers and Farm Families in Northern Ireland in 2001-02 was consistent with the 2011 Census findings, as it found that the farming population of Northern Ireland was "overwhelmingly white". The NIRHI has had significant uptake in rural areas of 88% and so is likely to reflect this distribution.</p>

¹³ NISRA - NI Census 2011

¹⁴The Equality Commission's Fair Employment Monitoring Report No. 29

Age	<p>The 2011 Census for Northern Ireland stated the average age of the population to be 37.59.</p> <p>The NIRHI application form did not request applicants' ages; however, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs EU Farm Structure Survey 2016¹⁵ states that the median age of farmers in Northern Ireland is 58. Again, this is likely to be relevant to the NIRHI Scheme given the higher uptake in rural areas (88%).</p>
Marital status	<p>The 2011 Census also contains some information in relation to the marital and civil partnership status of the population within Northern Ireland:</p> <div data-bbox="407 674 1357 1241" data-label="Figure"> <p style="text-align: center;">NI Marital and Civil Partnership Status 2011</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Single ■ Married ■ Registered same-sex civil partnership ■ Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a same-sex civil partnership) ■ Divorced or formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved ■ Widowed or surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership </div> <p><i>Source: NISRA - Census 2011 Key Statistics for Northern Ireland December 2012</i></p> <p>The NIRHI application form did not request information in relation to the marital status of applicants.</p>
Sexual orientation	<p>The NIRHI application form did not request this information.</p>

¹⁵ DAERA - European Union Farm Structure Survey 2016

<p>Men and women generally</p>	<p>While the overall NI workforce has a majority of females (52%) there are differences between the public and private sector. The public sector has a large majority of females within its composition (65%) whereas just under half (45%) of the private sector workforce is female.</p> <p>The gender split of Non-Domestic NIRHI authorised signatories associated with applications from individuals is approximately 7% female and 93% male. The percentage of male Non-Domestic NIRHI authorised signatories (93%) is broadly similar to the findings of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs 2016 NI Agricultural Census¹⁶ which reported that 96% of full-time farmers and 89% of part-time farmers are male.</p> <p>In calculating this split, the Department has excluded authorised signatories of limited companies and other large organisations. 56% of Non-Domestic NIRHI applications are from limited companies and other larger organisations and have been excluded. The remaining 44% applications are classed as applications from individuals. After removing duplicate authorised signatories (i.e. where the same individual is the authorised signatory in relation to more than one application), the unique authorised signatory figure is 470, of which 93% are male and 7% are female based on the titles declared on participant application forms.</p> <p>It should be noted that whilst the split is based on data in relation to authorised signatories of individuals' applications, many of these authorised signatories are acting on behalf of small family businesses or family farms and the signatory will not be the sole recipient in these cases.</p>
<p>Disability</p>	<p>The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs 'Farmers and Farm Families in Northern Ireland' report, which details the findings of a social survey of farmers and farm families, found that of those who worked on farms, 19% reported a long-term illness or disability which limited their farm work activities in some way and a further 7% were disabled but their work activities were not limited.</p> <p>The NIRHI application form did not request information in relation to applicants' disabilities.</p>
<p>Dependants</p>	<p>The NIRHI application form did not request this information.</p>

¹⁶ DAERA - Agricultural Census in Northern Ireland 2016

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 for each of the Section 75 categories

Section 75 category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
Religious belief	No differential impact has been identified in respect of the proposed changes in policy and, based on previous consultation exercises, the Department does not anticipate any difference in needs, experience or priorities.
Political opinion	No differential impact has been identified in respect of the proposed changes in policy and, based on previous consultation exercises, the Department does not anticipate any difference in needs, experience or priorities.
Racial group	No differential impact has been identified in respect of the proposed changes in policy and, based on previous consultation exercises, the Department does not anticipate any difference in needs, experience or priorities.
Age	The Department does not have evidence of participants' ages but, given that the farming community, as identified under the crop and animal production sector comprises 53% of the installations under the Non-Domestic NIRHI Scheme and the median age of farmers is substantially higher than the average ages of the Northern Ireland workforce and population as a whole, it is reasonable to assume that the median age of boiler owners is higher than average across Northern Ireland. It is not, however, expected that people in different age groups will have different needs, experiences and priorities.
Marital status	No differential impact has been identified in respect of the proposed changes in policy and, based on responses to previous consultation exercises, the Department does not anticipate any difference in needs, experience or priorities.
Sexual orientation	No differential impact has been identified in respect of the proposed changes in the policy and, based on previous consultation exercises, the Department does not anticipate any difference in needs, experience or

	priorities.
Men and women generally	No differential impact has been identified in respect of the proposed changes in the policy and, based on previous consultation exercises, the Department does not anticipate any difference in needs, experience or priorities.
Disability	No differential impact has been identified in respect of the proposed changes in the policy and, based on previous consultation exercises, the Department does not anticipate any difference in needs, experience or priorities.
Dependants	No differential impact has been identified in respect of the proposed changes in the policy and, based on previous consultation exercises, the Department does not anticipate any difference in needs, experience or priorities.

Part 2. Screening questions

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 which are given on pages 10-12 of this Guide.

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

- a) The policy has no relevance to equality of opportunity or good relations.
- b) 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? minor/major/none		
Section 75 category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact? minor/major/none
Religious belief	There is likely to be no specific impact on this category.	None
Political opinion	There is likely to be no specific impact on this category.	None
Racial group	There is likely to be no specific impact on this category.	None
Age	There is likely to be no specific impact on this category.	None
Marital status	There is likely to be no specific impact on this category.	None
Sexual orientation	There is likely to be no specific impact on this category.	None
Men and women generally	There is likely to be no specific impact on this category.	None
Disability	There is likely to be no specific impact on this category.	None

Dependants	There is likely to be no specific impact on this category.	None
------------	--	------

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
Religious belief		No - this policy has no direct impact on equality of opportunity.
Political opinion		No - this policy has no direct impact on equality of opportunity.
Racial group		No - this policy has no direct impact on equality of opportunity.
Age		No - this policy has no direct impact on equality of opportunity.
Marital status		No - this policy has no direct impact on equality of opportunity.
Sexual orientation		No - this policy has no direct impact on equality of opportunity.
Men and women generally		No - this policy has no direct impact on equality of opportunity.
Disability		No - this policy has no direct impact on equality of opportunity.
Dependants		No - this policy has no direct impact on equality of opportunity.

3 To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group? minor/major/none		
Good relations category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact minor/major/none
Religious belief	The policy has no direct good relations impact.	None
Political opinion	The policy has no direct good relations impact.	None
Racial group	The policy has no direct good relations impact.	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 - the policy has no direct good relations impact.
Political opinion		No - the policy has no direct good relations impact.
Racial group		No - the policy has no direct good relations impact.

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?

(For example; disabled minority ethnic people; disabled women; young Protestant men; and young lesbians, gay and bisexual people).

No.

Provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned.

Not applicable.

Part 3. Screening decision

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

The Department for the Economy has given consideration to carrying out an equality impact assessment. It has concluded that an equality impact assessment should not be carried out as none of the potential changes in the policy will have any direct impact on equality of opportunity for any of the Section 75 groups, nor are they likely to impact on good relations between people of any of the Section 75 groups.

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.

The screening exercise has concluded that none of the potential amendments are likely to have a specific impact on any of the Section 75 groups, and is not likely to impact on good relations between people of any of the Section 75 groups. The Department considers that the policy should be introduced, and that mitigation is not required.

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

Not applicable.

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: Practical Guidance on 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?

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

Not applicable.

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	Not applicable.
Social need	Not applicable.
Effect on people's daily lives	Not applicable.
Relevance to a public authority's functions	Not applicable.

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?

Not applicable

If yes, please provide details

Part 4. Monitoring

Public authorities should consider the guidance contained in the Commission's Monitoring Guidance for Use by Public Authorities (July 2007).

The Commission recommends that where the policy has been amended or an alternative policy introduced, the public authority should monitor more broadly than for adverse impact (See Benefits, P.9-10, paras 2.13 – 2.20 of the Monitoring Guidance).

Effective monitoring will help the public authority identify any future adverse impact arising from the policy which may lead the public authority to conduct an equality impact assessment, as well as help with future planning and policy development.

Through the process of public consultation, information will be gathered from stakeholders on four specific options which will help to determine the future of the Non-Domestic RHI Scheme.

Part 5 - Approval and authorisation

Screened by:	Position/Job Title	Date
Approved by:		

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.