

Appendix I - Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) Template

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

1A. Name of Public Authority.

Department for the Economy

1B. Please provide a short title which describes the activity being undertaken by the Public Authority that is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.

Revocation of EU Guarantees of Origin (GoOs)

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

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

1D. Please provide the official title (if any) of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service document or initiative relating to the category indicated in Section 1C above.

As per 1B above

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

The policy is to revoke the trading of EU GoOs and CHP GoOs in line with the rest of the UK. In January 2021 the equivalent UK GoOs, known as Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin (REGOs) were no longer tradeable within the EU yet EU GoOs remained tradeable throughout the UK. Legislation being brought forward by BEIS will amend the trading status of EU GoOs in the UK.

1F. What 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 applicable.

Details of alternative definition of 'rural' used.

n/a

Rationale for using alternative definition of 'rural'.

n/a

Reasons why a definition of 'rural' is not applicable.

n/a

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 If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **2E**.

2B. Please explain how the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas.

2C. 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 is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently.

2D. Please indicate which of the following rural policy areas the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to primarily impact on.

Rural Businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Tourism	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education or Training in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deprivation in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Crime or Community Safety	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Development	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agri-Environment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please state)	<input type="text"/>

If the response to Section 2A was YES GO TO Section 3A.

2E. Please explain why the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is NOT likely to impact on people in rural areas.

Guarantees of Origin (GoOs) are certificates used by electricity suppliers to demonstrate that a portion of supplied electricity is renewable or from high-efficiency cogeneration. In the UK (known as REGOs) they are issued by Ofgem and are then used by electricity suppliers to back up the renewable and/or green electricity tariffs offered to consumers. The primary use of REGOs in GB and Northern Ireland is for Fuel Mix Disclosure (FMD). FMD requires licensed electricity suppliers to disclose to potential and existing customers the mix of fuels (coal, gas, nuclear, renewable and other) used to generate the electricity supplied. There is currently an asymmetry, whereby the UK recognises EU GoOs issued in the EU, while the EU no longer recognises REGOs issued in the UK. Although the industry has developed a market to give REGOs/EU GoOs a market value it is not envisaged that this will have an impact on consumers.

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 If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **3E**.

3B. Please indicate which of the following methods or information sources were used by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

Consultation with Rural Stakeholders	<input type="checkbox"/>	Published Statistics	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consultation with Other Organisations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Research Papers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surveys or Questionnaires	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Methods or Information Sources (include details in Question 3C below).			<input type="checkbox"/>

3C. Please provide details of the methods and information sources used to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas including relevant dates, names of organisations, titles of publications, website references, details of surveys or consultations undertaken etc.

There are only a small number of companies in Northern Ireland that trade in REGOs and EU GoOs to meet their Fuel Mix Disclosure.

The proposal to revoke the recognition of EU GoOs in Northern Ireland is subject to full public consultation. The consultation will include the gathering of evidence from stakeholders, on how the policy may affect consumers, which includes those living in rural areas. No CHP GoOs have ever been issued since the scheme was introduced.

3D. Please provide details of the social and economic needs of people in rural areas which have been identified by the Public Authority?

There is no impact envisaged on the social needs of people living in rural areas. An economic impact, if any, will be covered within the questions in the consultation.

If the response to Section 3A was YES GO TO Section 4A.

3E. Please explain why no steps were taken by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas?

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.

It is not envisaged that the revocation of EU GoOs will have an effect on the social needs of rural people in relation to local facilities; funding programmes; transport; education; mobile services; or accessing of services.

The economic impact, if there is one, would be difficult to quantify. The industry has given EU GoOs a financial value and if the certificate price rises this may affect the cost of electricity to consumers. Stakeholders are being asked within the consultation on the potential effect on consumers.

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

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

Yes No If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **5C**.

5B. Please explain how the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, has been influenced by the rural needs identified.

N/A

If the response to Section **5A** was **YES** GO TO Section **6A**.

5C. Please explain why the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or the delivery of the Public Service, has NOT been influenced by the rural needs identified.

The Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin (REGO) scheme provides transparency to consumers about the proportion of electricity that supplier's source from renewable generation. The purpose of the certificate is to provide evidence to the final customer that a given share of electricity supplied was produced from renewable sources.

As of 1 January 2021, the EU no longer recognises UK REGOs, however EU GoOs continue to be tradeable within the UK. The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) recently consulted within Great Britain to end the policy of accepting EU Guarantees of Origin (GoOs) and intend to introduce legislation later this year revoking that arrangement. BEIS also intend to revoke Combined Heat & Power GoOs in the same legislation. The purpose of this consultation is to seek the views of stakeholders on how they envisage the revocation of EU GoOs and CHP GoOs will affect Northern Ireland.

SECTION 6 - Documenting and Recording

6A. Please tick below to confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained by the Public Authority and relevant information on the Section 1 activity compiled in accordance with paragraph 6.7 of the guidance.

I confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained and relevant information compiled.

Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:	Darren Colville
Position/Grade:	DP
Division/Branch	Renewable Electricity Branch
Signature:	Darren Colville
Date:	7 July 2022
Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:	Peter Russell
Position/Grade:	Director
Division/Branch:	Heat, Energy Efficiency & Renewables
Signature:	Peter Russell
Date:	7 July 2022