



# **The Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016**

**Rural Needs Impact Assessment Template**

**July 2023**

# 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 the official title/ description of the Strategy, Policy, Plan or Public Service document or initiative:**

Department for the Economy Resource Budget 2023-24

**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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Designing a Public Service		<input type="checkbox"/>				
Delivering a Public Service		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

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

The Departmental resource budget for 2023-24 aims at a strategic level to maximise the available funding to enable the achievement of objectives but the initial focus must be on fulfilling statutory and contractual obligations within the budget allocation provided.

**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 applicable<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>If 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?**

Please Yes  No  explain:

Overall, Northern Ireland departments face a 0.4% reduction in budgets; DfE's reduction is 1.3% against its 2022/23 year-end position. However, this does not reflect the real reduction in DfE RDEL spending power. In addition to the 1.3% (£13 million) reduction, DfE's one-off savings, totaling £75 million, delivered in 2022/23, must now be replicated in 2023/24, and additional new pressures including pay and price also funded. When comparing the Secretary of State's (SoS's) budget to the Draft Budget 2022–25, DfE must deliver its services with £100 million less and in addition, fund pressures of £30 million identified for 2023/24. Therefore, DfE's overall resource spending power is reduced by £130 million, or 16%.

DfE does not direct its budget on a regional basis. There will undoubtedly be impacts on people in rural areas due to reductions in funding. However, people in rural areas and urban areas will be equally impacted.

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:**

People in rural areas and urban areas will be equally impacted.

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

No impact identified.

## 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

Please explain:

People in rural areas and urban areas will be equally impacted.

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:

See 3A – no needs identified.

## 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:

People in rural areas and urban areas will be equally impacted.

## 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:	Susan Butler
Position / Grade:	7
Division/Branch	Financial Management Branch
Signature:	<i>S Butler</i>
Date:	18/07/23
Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:	Sharon Hetherington
Position / Grade:	Finance Director (Grade 5)
Division / Branch	Finance Division
Signature:	<i>Sharon Hetherington</i>
Date:	20/7/23

### 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