

Equality and Human Rights Screening Template

The RQIA is required to address the 4 questions below in relation to all its policies.

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)

Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equality categories?

To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of a different religious belief, political opinion or racial group? (minor/ major/ none)

Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of a different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

As part of the audit trail documentation needs to be made available for all policies and decisions examined for equality and human rights implications. The screening template is a pro forma to document consideration of each screening question.

For information (evidence, data, research etc.) on the Section 75 equality groups see the Equality Portal - [Screening Resources & Evidence](#).

SCREENING TEMPLATE

See [Guidance Notes](#) for further information on the ‘why’ ‘what’ ‘when’, and ‘who’ in relation to screening, for background information on the relevant legislation and for help in answering the questions on this template.

(1) INFORMATION ABOUT THE POLICY OR DECISION

1.1 Title of policy or decision

Fire Safety

1.2 Description of policy or decision

- **what is it trying to achieve? (aims and objectives)**
- **how will this be achieved? (key elements)**
- **what are the key constraints? (for example financial, legislative or other)**

RQIA has an obligation to comply with recommendation and requirements contained in Firecode, Statutes and other public guidance. This Policy addresses these in such a manner as set out within these documents. This policy applies across the Public Sector and therefore by following their guidance and instructions, shall comply with Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act (1988) and Human Rights Act (1998). This Policy aims to mitigate the risk of fire related incidents posing a threat to people and infrastructure

1.3 Main stakeholders affected (internal and external)

For example staff, actual or potential service users, other public sector organisations, voluntary and community groups, trade unions or professional organisations or private sector organisations or others

Staff, Board Members, actual or potential service users, contractors other public organisations, voluntary and community groups, trade unions or professional organisations or private sector organisations or general public and the Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue. Whilst this list is not exhaustive, it aims to capture the most applicable groups. It is recognised that there are those with specific needs

and the organisation will take reasonable steps to assist those identified

1.4 Other policies or decisions with a bearing on this policy or decision

- **what are they?**
- **who owns them?**

Health & Safety Policy

Policy on reporting of accidents ,incidents and near misses

RIDDOR

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

COSSH

Health and Safety at work.

(2) CONSIDERATION OF EQUALITY AND GOOD RELATIONS ISSUES AND EVIDENCE USED

2.1 Data gathering

What information did you use to inform this equality screening? For example previous consultations, statistics, research, Equality Impact Assessments (EQIAs), complaints. Provide details of how you involved stakeholders, views of colleagues, service users, staff side or other stakeholders.

- Organisation wide staff equality data

2.2 Quantitative Data

Who is affected by the policy or decision? Please provide a statistical profile. Note if policy affects both staff and service users, please provide profile for both. Also give consideration to multiple identities.

Category	<i>What is the makeup of the affected group? (%) Are there any issues or problems? For example, a lower uptake that needs to be addressed or greater involvement of a particular group?</i>	
	RQIA Baseline Data 2020-21	
Gender	Male Female	26.72% 73.28%
Age	16-24 25-29 30-34 35-39 40-44 45-49 50-54 55-59 60-64 ≥65	1.72% 3.45% 6.03% 12.93% 12.93% 24.14% 18.10% 15.52% 5.17% 0.00%
Community Background	Perceived Protestant Protestant Perceived Roman C Roman Catholic Neither Perceived Neither Not assigned	0.86% 37.93% 1.72% 31.90% 7.76% 0.00% 19.83%
Political Opinion	Broadly Nationalist Other Broadly Unionist Not assigned Do not wish to answer	0.00% 2.59% 0.00% 92.24% 5.17%

Marital Status	Divorced	3.45%
	Mar/CP	40.52%
	Other	0.86%
	Separated	2.59%
	Single	14.66%
	Unknown	36.21%
	Widow/R	0.00%
	Not assigned	1.72%
Dependent Status	Yes	7.76%
	Not assigned	91.38%
	No	0.86%
Disability	No	46.55%
	Not assigned	53.45%
	Yes	0.00%
Ethnicity	Not assigned	91.38%
	White	8.62%
	Other	0.00%
	Black African	0.00%
	Indian	0.00%
	Chinese	0.00%
Sexual Orientation	Do not wish to answer	0.00%
	Not assigned	0.00%
	Opposite sex	92.24%
	same sex	6.90%
		0.86%

2.3 Qualitative Data

What are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the categories in relation to this policy or decision and what equality issues emerge from this? Note if policy affects both staff and service users, please discuss issues for both. Also give consideration to multiple identities (such as single parents for example).

Category	<i>Needs and Experiences</i>
Gender	Women who are pregnant may have mobility issues
Age	Age in itself is not a factor unless that person has a limited mobility issue due to same.
Religion	There is no evidence of a differential impact on the grounds of religion
Political Opinion	There is no evidence of a differential impact on the grounds of political opinion
Marital Status	There is no evidence of a differential impact on the grounds of marital status
Dependent Status	There is no evidence of a differential impact on the grounds of dependent status
Disability	Those with a disability may be more susceptible to mobility issues People with certain disabilities such as sight loss, hearing loss or learning disabilities can have communication difficulties and may need information presented in an alternative format.
Ethnicity	There is no evidence of a differential impact on the grounds of ethnicity
Sexual Orientation	There is no evidence of a differential impact on the grounds of sexual orientation

2.4 Multiple Identities

Are there any potential impacts of the policy or decision on people with multiple identities? For example; disabled minority ethnic people; disabled women; young Protestant men; and young lesbians, gay and bisexual people.

There are no known issues.

2.5 Making Changes

Based on the equality issues you identified in 2.2 and 2.3, what changes did you make or do you intend to make in relation to the policy or decision in order to promote equality of opportunity?

<i>In developing the policy or decision what did you do or change to address the equality issues you identified?</i>	<i>What do you intend to do in future to address the equality issues you identified?</i>
<p>This policy has been drawn up in line with legislation – the purpose of which is to provide every person the relevant information with regards to the BSO Fire Policy.</p> <p>Personal emergency evacuation plans are provided for in the policy for women who are pregnant, disabled people and older people with mobility issues.</p> <p>Requests for the policy in alternative formats will be considered in line with RQIA's Accessible Formats Policy</p>	<p>Contractors will be informed of the policy and associated procedures.</p>

2.6 Good Relations

What changes to the policy or decision – if any – or what additional measures would you suggest to ensure that it promotes good relations? (refer to guidance notes for guidance on impact)

<i>Group</i>	<i>Impact</i>	<i>Suggestions</i>
Religion	None	None
Political Opinion	None	None
Ethnicity	None	None

(3) SHOULD THE POLICY OR DECISION BE SUBJECT TO A FULL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT?

A full equality impact assessment (EQIA) is usually confined to those policies or decisions considered to have major implications for equality of opportunity

**How would you categorise the impacts of this decision or policy?
(refer to guidance notes for guidance on impact)**

Please tick:

Major impact	
Minor impact	X
No further impact	

Do you consider that this policy or decision needs to be subjected to a full equality impact assessment?

Please tick:

Yes	
No	X

Please give reasons for your decisions.

This Policy is administrative. It is driven primarily by legislation and staff safety.

(4) CONSIDERATION OF DISABILITY DUTIES

4.1 In what ways does the policy or decision encourage disabled people to participate in public life and what else could you do to do so?

<i>How does the policy or decision currently encourage disabled people to participate in public life?</i>	<i>What else could you do to encourage disabled people to participate in public life?</i>
This policy is grounded on a piece of Legislation that supports all people in seeking information about services provided for and on behalf of them.	It is recognised that there are those with specific needs and the organisation will take reasonable steps to assist those identified.

4.2 In what ways does the policy or decision promote positive attitudes towards disabled people and what else could you do to do so?

<i>How does the policy or decision currently promote positive attitudes towards disabled people?</i>	<i>What else could you do to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people?</i>
n/a	n/a

(5) CONSIDERATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

5.1 Does the policy or decision affect anyone's Human Rights? Complete for each of the articles

ARTICLE	Yes/No
Article 2 – Right to life	No
Article 3 – Right to freedom from torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment	No
Article 4 – Right to freedom from slavery, servitude & forced or compulsory labour	No
Article 5 – Right to liberty & security of person	No
Article 6 – Right to a fair & public trial within a reasonable time	No
Article 7 – Right to freedom from retrospective criminal law & no punishment without law	No
Article 8 – Right to respect for private & family life, home and correspondence.	No
Article 9 – Right to freedom of thought, conscience & religion	No
Article 10 – Right to freedom of expression	No
Article 11 – Right to freedom of assembly & association	No
Article 12 – Right to marry & found a family	No
Article 14 – Prohibition of discrimination in the enjoyment of the convention rights	No
1 st protocol Article 1 – Right to a peaceful enjoyment of possessions & protection of property	No
1 st protocol Article 2 – Right of access to education	No

*If you have answered no to all of the above please move on to **Question 6** on monitoring*

5.2 If you have answered yes to any of the Articles in 5.1, does the policy or decision interfere with any of these rights? If so, what is the interference and who does it impact upon?

List the Article Number	Interfered with? Yes/No	What is the interference and who does it impact upon?	Does this raise legal issues? Yes/No*

** It is important to speak to your line manager on this and if necessary seek legal opinion to clarify this*

5.3 Outline any actions which could be taken to promote or raise awareness of human rights or to ensure compliance with the legislation in relation to the policy or decision.

By ensuring staff are trained and aware of the existence of this policy and have the ability to apply this policy to their area of responsibility. It is about ensuring staff and the BSO takes responsibility with respect Fire Safety and the impact we have upon it.

(6) MONITORING

6.1 What data will you collect in the future in order to monitor the effect of the policy or decision on any of the categories (for equality of opportunity and good relations, disability duties and human rights)?

Equality & Good Relations	Disability Duties	Human Rights
Issues raised by all colleagues will be monitored.		Nil

Approved Lead Officer: Jacqui Murphy
Position: Head of Business Support (Acting)
Date: 19 May 2021
Policy/Decision Screened by: Hayley Barrett

Please note that having completed the screening you are required by statute to publish the completed screening template, as per your organisation's equality scheme. If a consultee, including the Equality Commission, raises a concern about a screening decision based on supporting evidence, you will need to review the screening decision.

Please forward completed template to:
Equality.Unit@hscni.net

Any request for the document in another format or language will be considered.
Please contact:

Equality Unit/ BSO /James House/ 2-4 Cromac Avenue/ Belfast/ BT7 2JA

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