

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.

Transposition of the EU Electricity (Recast) Directive 2019

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 EU Electricity (Recast) Directive 2019 was made on 5 June 2019 and has a transposition deadline of 31 December 2020. The aim of this Directive is to outline the rules on retail markets for electricity including, inter-alia, generation, transmission and distribution. It also clarifies and reinforces existing consumer rights and introduces new rights.

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.

It is the Department's view that transposition of the Electricity Directive should not have any impact, positive or negative, on the needs of people living, working or operating businesses in rural areas. The Directive establishes common rules for the generation, transmission, distribution, energy storage and supply of electricity, together with consumer protection provisions for all consumers. The legislation will transpose the articles within the Directive regarding updating the duties and obligations on the Regulatory Authority. Where the Directive requirements have an existing policy framework, the legislation will aim to ensure that the existing legislative framework is up to date and accurate in terms of references with no change to the policy or legal intent. Areas within the Directive which require further policy development will be taken forward separately and will be subject to impact assessments in due course.

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.

The Department consulted with relevant stakeholders through the issue of a public consultation document on the transposition of the Electricity Directive. This allowed stakeholders the opportunity to respond to the Department on a number of questions raised in the consultation. The consultation was issued on 3 September 2020, closing on 16 October 2020.

There were 2 responses from individuals who had concerns around Battery Energy Storage Schemes and the potential tendency for these systems to spontaneously combust producing toxic gases.

Energy storage is outside the scope of this consultation and will be taken forward as an integral part of the Department's Energy Strategy. The issues raised by the individuals will be forwarded to the Energy Strategy team.

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

It is not envisaged that the transposition of the recast Directive will have an impact, positive or negative, on the social or economic needs of people living and/or working in rural areas.

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?

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.

The transposition of the Directive should not have a disproportionate impact on rural issues around economy; availability of local facilities; funding programmes; transport; education; mobile services or accessing of services.

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.

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.

Member States must comply with EU law and in the case of the Electricity Directive by the 31 December 2020 there is an obligation on the Department to transpose the Directive into domestic legislation by the date as it falls within the Implementation period.

This Directive establishes common rules for the generation, transmission, distribution, energy storage and supply of electricity, together with consumer protection provisions, with a view to creating truly integrated competitive, consumer-centered, flexible, fair and transparent electricity markets in the EU. Using the advantages of an integrated market, this Directive aims to ensure affordable, transparent energy prices and costs for all consumers, a high degree of security of supply and a smooth transition towards a sustainable low-carbon energy system.

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	Brexit Impact Branch
Signature:	Darren Colville
Date:	04 November 2020
Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:	Davina McCay
Position/Grade:	Grade 7
Division/Branch:	Brexit Impact Branch
Signature:	Davina McCay
Date:	04 November 2020