

## 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.

<b>Policy Title (in full):</b>	The Future of the Northern Ireland Non-Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme
<b>Policy Aim</b>	<p>The identification of a long-term policy on the future of the Northern Ireland Non-Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme ('NIRHI' or 'the Scheme') is required to support its original policy to support the generation of renewable heat and to balance the Department's obligation to provide a reasonable rate of return on investment to the Scheme participants (acceptable to the European Commission in terms of State aid), with its duty to safeguard the public interest.</p> <p>Following the consultation exercise, the Department proposes to progress an amended Option 4 by setting the Tier 2 tariff at zero and reducing the Tier 1 tariff to 1.7p/kWh. Further detail on this proposal is set out in Part 1 below.</p>
<b>Decision (delete as appropriate)</b>	Policy screened out without mitigation.
<b>Business Area:</b>	Department for the Economy, Renewable Heat Incentive Taskforce
<b>Contact:</b>	Jamie Warnock
<b>Date of form completion:</b>	27/02/19

**For Equality Unit Completion:**

<b>Date received:</b>	
<b>Amendments requested?</b>	Yes/ No
<b>Date returned to Business Area:</b>	
<b>Date final version received:</b>	
<b>Date placed on S75 Screening Webpage:</b>	

# **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.

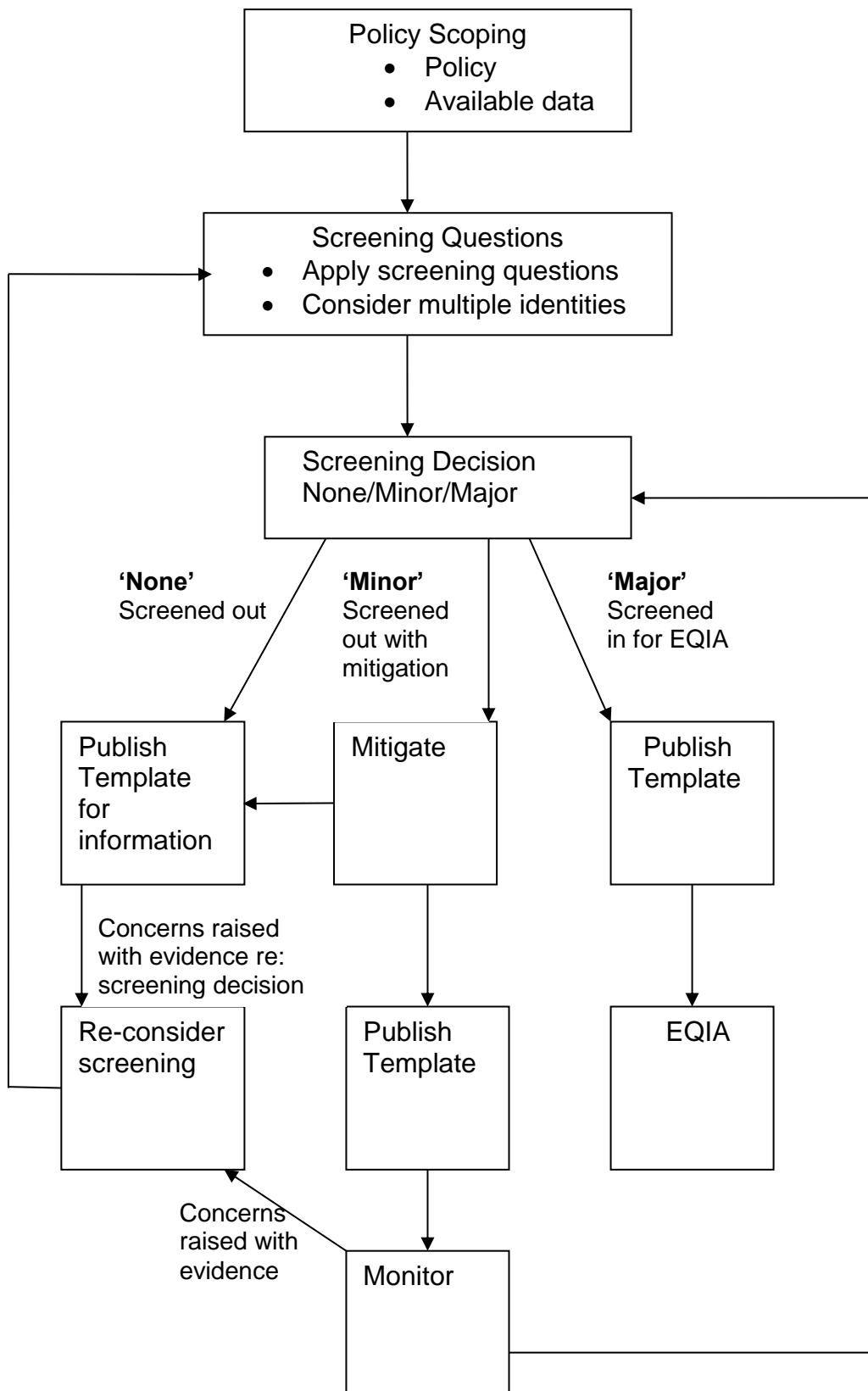
**Part 2. Screening questions** – asks about the extent of the likely impact of the policy on groups of people within each of the Section 75 categories. Details of the groups consulted and the level of assessment of the likely impact. This includes consideration of multiple identity and good relations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

<p><b>Name of the policy</b> The Long-Term Future of the Northern Ireland Non-Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme.</p>
<p><b>Is this an existing, revised or a new policy?</b> This is a revision to the Department's existing policy on the incentivisation of renewable heat. This policy was previously screened out of the need for a full Equality Impact Assessment.</p>
<p><b>What is it trying to achieve? (intended aims/outcomes)</b></p> <p>The Department has a responsibility to develop a long-term policy for the Northern Ireland Non-Domestic Renewable. To do this, the Department has undertaken a public consultation on the future of the Scheme including proposals on tariff options. This included eight biomass tariff options set out in Annex 1. Where specific information, particularly on costs associated with biomass installations and the impact of tariff changes on businesses, has been identified through the consultation exercise, it has been used to inform the development of the long-term policy in conjunction with data collected via the running of the Scheme, the Ricardo Tariff Review, and other information that has come into the public domain, for example, through court proceedings and the Public Inquiry into the RHI Scheme.</p> <p>If the Scheme were to revert to the 2012 tariff structure, it would require substantial funding from the Northern Ireland block grant, in the region of £500m based on current estimates. With the information available from the consultation responses and the ongoing Public Inquiry into the Scheme the Department cannot justify reverting to the 2012 tariffs as being in the public interest in respect of protecting the Northern Ireland budget, value for money and State aid.. All other options contained in the consultation are anticipated to be affordable within the allocated budget. The projected total cost for each tariff option is shown in the table below: With the exception of Options 1 and 4, the prospective rate of return for each of the options in the consultation document are anticipated to deliver a rate of return which would not be compliant with the State aid rules.</p>

Option 4 (tier 1 tariff of 2.3p/kWh and a negative tier 2 tariff of -0.4p/kWh) is affordable and provides a prospective rate of return of 12%, the introduction of a negative tier 2 tariff could be disruptive to participants' cash flow which was a key area of concern raised during the consultation exercise.

Furthermore, any future payment structure must be able to be implemented by the Department, Ofgem and Scheme participants. The introduction of a negative tier 2 tariff would require users with higher load factors to receive incentive payments early in the year before then making payments back to the Department/Ofgem as they move onto the second (negative) tier. This additional time and expense, to both the Department and Scheme participants, is considered sub-optimal. The Department therefore proposes to amend Option 4 by setting the Tier 2 tariff at zero and reducing the Tier 1 tariff to 1.7p/kWh.

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

The screening exercise has concluded that any of the proposed options for a change in policy is not likely to have a specific impact on any of the Section 75 groups.

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

The Department for the Economy, Renewable Heat Incentive Taskforce.

Who owns and who implements the policy?

The Department for the Economy, Renewable Heat Incentive Taskforce.

## 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)<sup>1</sup> 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.

### **Northern Ireland Executive - Programme for Government**

The Programme for Government 2011-2015<sup>2</sup> 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 draft Programme for Government Framework 2016-2021<sup>3</sup> does not set out any specific targets for renewable heat.

### **Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI)- Strategic Energy Framework**

Under the 2010 Strategic Energy Framework<sup>4</sup>, 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.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32009L0028>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.northernireland.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/nigov/pfg-2011-2015-report.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.northernireland.gov.uk/consultations/programme-government-consultation>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/deti/sef%202010.pdf>



## **Available evidence**

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 has now supplemented this with evidence from its experience of the operation of the Scheme since its launch.

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.

Section 75 category	Details of evidence/ information
Religious belief	<p>The 2011 Census 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. 26<sup>5</sup> indicates that 52% of the (monitored) private sector workforce are from a Protestant background and 48% from a Roman Catholic background.</p> <p>The NIRHI application form did not specifically request information on applicants' community background. In the absence of this information in relation to specific owners, the Department has 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 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<sup>6</sup> 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</p>

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<http://www.equalityni.org/ECNI/media/ECNI/Publications/Delivering%20Equality/FETO%20Monitoring%20Reports/No26/MonitoringReportNo26.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/2011-census-results-key-statistics-summary-report.pdf>

	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.														
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 2016<sup>7</sup> 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="418 751 1373 1329" data-label="Figure"> <p style="text-align: center;">NI Marital and Civil Partnership Status 2011</p> <table border="1"> <caption>NI Marital and Civil Partnership Status 2011</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Status</th> <th>Color</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Single</td> <td>Blue</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Married</td> <td>Orange</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Registered same-sex civil partnership</td> <td>Grey</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a same-sex civil partnership)</td> <td>Yellow</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Divorced or formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved</td> <td>Dark Blue</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Widowed or surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership</td> <td>Green</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </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>	Status	Color	Single	Blue	Married	Orange	Registered same-sex civil partnership	Grey	Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a same-sex civil partnership)	Yellow	Divorced or formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved	Dark Blue	Widowed or surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership	Green
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Widowed or surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership	Green														
Sexual orientation	The NIRHI application form did not request this information.														

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/daera/17.18.088%20EU%20Farm%20Structure%20Survey%202016%20V2.pdf>

<p><b>Men and women generally</b></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 sole traders or smaller enterprises 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 Census<sup>8</sup>, 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 smaller organisations, such as sole traders or partnerships. After removing duplicate authorised signatories (i.e. where the authorised signatory is the same for multiple installations), the unique authorised signatory figure is 470, of which 93% are male and 7% are female.</p> <p>It should be noted that, whilst the split is based on data in relation to authorised signatories of from sole traders or smaller enterprises, 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><b>Disability</b></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>

<sup>8</sup> [https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/daera/16.17.214%20The%20Agricultural%20Census%20in%20NI%202016%20final\\_0.PDF](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/daera/16.17.214%20The%20Agricultural%20Census%20in%20NI%202016%20final_0.PDF)

Dependants	The NIRHI application form did not request this information.
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## 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

<b>Section 75 category</b>	<b>Details of needs/experiences/priorities</b>
Religious belief	No differential impact has been identified in respect of the proposed changes in policy, and from consultation responses to previous publications about the Scheme, 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 from consultation responses to previous publications about the Scheme, 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 from consultation responses to previous publications about the Scheme, 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 52.3% 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. However it is not expected that people in different age groups will have different needs, experiences and priorities, with respect to changes in NIRHI.
Marital status	No differential impact has been identified in respect of the proposed changes in policy, and from consultation responses to previous publications about the Scheme, 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 from consultation responses to previous publications about the Scheme, the Department does not anticipate any difference in needs, experience or priorities.
Men and women generally	While a differential impact has been identified, with 93% of authorised signatories for smaller enterprises being male, it is not expected that males and females will have different needs, experiences and priorities, with respect of changes to NIRHI.
Disability	No differential impact has been identified in respect of the proposed changes in the policy, and from consultation responses to previous publications about the Scheme, 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 from consultation responses to previous publications about the Scheme, 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
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2 Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories?		
Section 75 category	If <b>Yes</b> , provide details	If <b>No</b> , 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 <b>Yes</b> , provide details	If <b>No</b> , 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).*

Due to the high percentage (88%) of farming related Non-Domestic RHI applications, there is likely to be a minor differential impact on older men.

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

Details of data in relation to the impact of the Section 75 groups relating to age and gender are outlined in the "Available Evidence" section.

### Part 3. Screening decision

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

The Northern Ireland 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 proposed changes in the policy will have any direct impact on equality of opportunity for any of the Section 75 groups, nor is it 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.

At this time the Department considers that policy may be introduced without mitigation. The reasons for this are set out in the "Mitigation" section below.

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.

The screening exercise has concluded that any of the proposed options for a change in policy is not likely to have a specific impact on any of the Section 75 groups. The Department has therefore concluded that the proposed policy options should be introduced without mitigation. The reasons for this are set out below:

- The intention of any change in policy is to find a long-term policy which balances the interests of Scheme participants and the general public, while receiving State aid approval from the European Commission.
- The policy is not likely to impact on good relations between people of any of the Section 75 groups; and as potential mitigation, the Department is consulting on a range of options including voluntary buy-out payment options for participants whose rate of return falls below that envisaged when the Scheme was introduced in 2012.

Ultimately, decisions on the final policy will be implemented by new legislation, given that the 2018 legislation as approved by Parliament in March 2018 only provide for the period to 31st March 2019. The Department for the Economy intends to complete a further Equality Screening form once a final policy decision has been made.



## 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?

No.

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.

## Part 5 - Approval and authorisation

<b>Screened by:</b>	<b>Position/Job Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Joanne Adair	DP	19/02/2019
<b>Approved by:</b>		
Jamie Warnock	Grade 6	27/02/2019

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.

<b>Annex 1</b>								
<b>Tariff Option</b>	<b>Bands</b>	<b>Tier1 (p/kWh)</b>	<b>Tier 2 (p/kWh)</b>	<b>Tier 1 Threshold (hours)</b>	<b>Usage limit (kWh)</b>	<b>Voluntary Buy-out</b>	<b>Typical Rate of Return over 20 years</b>	<b>Total Cost to end of Scheme £m</b>
1. Tariff structure under the 2017 and 2018 legislation is not continued	0-19kW, 20-199kW	0.0/0.0	0.0/0.0	-	-	-	0.1%	0
2. Retain tariff structure under 2017 and 2018 legislation	0-19kW, 20-199kW	7.5/7.2	1.6/1.6	1,314	400,000	No	50%	480
3. Revert to tariff structure under 2012 Regulations (including post 18 November 2015 installations)	0-19kW, 20-199kW	7.5/7.2		None	None	No	100%	1,040
4. Adopt the base case tariff structure from the Ricardo Tariff Review	0-19kW,20-99kW, 100-199kW	7.4/2.3/1.2	1.8/-0.4/-0.7	1,314	None	Yes	12%	75
5. Adopt the tariff structure from the Ricardo Tariff Review excluding fuel costs	0-19kW,20-99kW, 100-199kW	7.5/3.4/2.1	1.9/0.5/0.3	1,314	300,000	Yes	25%	185
6. Adopt the hybrid tariff structure from the Ricardo Tariff Review	0-19kW,20-99kW, 100-199kW	7.4/2.8/1.8	1.9/0.0/0.0	1,314	None	Yes	19%	140
7. Adopt the current GB tariff structure	0-199kW	3.14	2.20	3,066	None	Yes	40%	390
8. Adopt the tariff structure for entrants to the GB Scheme in autumn 2015	0-199kW	4.66	1.24	1,314	None	Yes	35%	345