Is it State aid? Desk Aid

Is the assistance provided with, or through, State resources?

NOTE: Are you sure? Many types of assistance are considered State resources, including Lottery Funding and EU Structural Funds

Probably not

State

Aid

No

Yes

Still No

Does the assistance

give one or more undertakings an

advantage over its competitors?

NOTE: May include not-for-profits and charities as well as businesses. An advantage is anything that they couldn’t obtain themselves on the open market on the same terms.

No

Still No

Yes

Does the assistance distort or have the potential to distort competition?

Still No

No

NOTE: Even small potential distortions count!

Yes

Still No

NOTE: This is very broad – if something is tradable then it is included

Does the assistance

affect trade between Member States?

No

Yes

Go to *Section 2* on Page 14 of ‘State aid: A Beginner’s Guide for Public Bodies in Northern Ireland’ for more information on ‘W*hat do I do if it might be State aid*?’

Assistance is likely to be State aid

Go to

**NB.** It is essential that you record your conclusions on State aid on the policy/scheme/project file, even if you ultimately determine that State aid is not present. Your records should clearly reflect the rationale for your ‘State aid’/‘no State aid’ decision, and should be kept on file for at least ten years.