



Northern
Ireland
Office

‘Shared History Fund - Northern Ireland Centenary Programme’

SECTION 75 SCREENING DOCUMENT

Section 75: The Legal Background

Under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the NIO is required to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between:

- persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation
- men and women generally
- persons with a disability and persons without
- persons with dependants and persons without.

In addition, and without prejudice to the obligations above, in carrying out our functions in relation to Northern Ireland we are required to have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group. The NIO is also required to meet our legislative obligations under the Disability Discrimination Order.

Introduction

This form should be read in conjunction with the Equality Commission's Section 75 guidance "A Guide for Public Authorities" April 2010, available on the Equality Commission's website (www.equalityni.org). Staff should complete a form for each new or revised policy for which they are responsible (see page 4 for a definition of a policy in respect of Section 75).

The purpose of screening is to identify those policies that are likely to have an impact on equality of opportunity and/or good relations and so determine whether an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) is necessary. Screening should be introduced at an early stage when developing or reviewing a policy.

The lead role in the screening of a policy should be taken by the policy decision-maker who has the authority to make changes to that policy and should involve in the screening process:

- other relevant team members;
- those who implement the policy;
- staff members from other relevant areas of work; and
- key stakeholders.

A flowchart which outlines the screening process is attached at Annex A.

The first step in the screening exercise is to gather evidence to inform the screening decisions. Relevant data may be either quantitative or qualitative or both (this helps to indicate whether or not policies are likely to impact equality of opportunity and/or good relations.. Relevant information will help to clearly demonstrate the reasons for a policy being either 'screened in' for an EQIA or 'screened out'.

The absence of evidence does not indicate that there is no likely impact but if none is available, it may be appropriate to consider subjecting the policy to an EQIA.

Screening provides an assessment of the likely impact, whether 'minor' or 'major', of its policy on equality of opportunity and/or good relations for the relevant categories. In some instances, screening may identify the likely impact is none.

The Equality Commission has developed a series of four questions, included in Part 2 of this screening form with supporting sub-questions, which should be applied to all policies as part of the screening process. They identify those policies that are likely to have an impact on equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

SCREENING DECISIONS

Completion of screening should lead to one of the following three outcomes. The policy has been:

- i. 'screened in' for equality impact assessment;
- ii. 'screened out' with mitigation or an alternative policy proposed to be adopted; or
- iii. 'screened out' without mitigation or an alternative policy proposed to be adopted.

SCREENING AND GOOD RELATIONS DUTY

The Equality Commission recommends that a policy is 'screened in' for EQIA if the likely impact on good relations is 'major'. While there is no legislative requirement to engage in an equality impact assessment in respect of good relations, this does not necessarily mean that EQIAs are inappropriate in this context.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information on equality, including a copy of the NIO Equality Scheme, yearly progress reports on equality to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland, information on data sources and the Cabinet Office code of practice on consultation may be found on the NIO Intranet under About the NIO > Equality.

If you have any questions regarding the screening exercise or Section 75 in general please contact the Corporate Governance Team on 028 9076 5497; or nio.equalityscheme@nio.gov.uk.

When you have completed the form please retain on file in the branch for record purposes, and send a copy to the s75 equality advisor.

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

Name of the policy

“Shared History Fund” - part of the UK Government’s commitment to ‘mark the centenary of Northern Ireland in 2021’¹

Is this an existing, revised or a new policy?

The New Decade, New Approach (NDNA) deal set out the UK Government’s commitment to mark the centenary of Northern Ireland in 2021. A screening has been completed on our wider approach to developing a programme of events to mark the centenary - the Shared History Fund (SHF) was referenced in that screening, as well as being further developed here.

What is it trying to achieve? (intended aims/outcomes)

As outlined in NDNA, the UK Government is committed to facilitating national recognition and international awareness of this significant anniversary. The Shared History Fund will underpin these objectives by supporting wider public awareness of, and engagement with, the centenary.

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

We are committed to marking the centenary in a spirit of mutual respect, inclusiveness and reconciliation that promotes equality of opportunity and good relations across all Section 75 groups. However, there is evidence from stakeholder engagement and wider public commentary to demonstrate that some Section 75 groups (in particular, religious belief, political opinion) may have a greater interest in marking the centenary, and might therefore be more likely to apply for the Shared History Fund. We also recognise that some Section 75 groups may be less inclined to apply for the Shared History Fund which we will address with measures set out below to mitigate the impact.

¹ *New Decade, New Approach* (2020)

If so, explain how.

As above, some Section 75 groups (in particular, religious belief, political opinion) may have a greater interest in marking the centenary, and might therefore be more likely to apply for or benefit from the Shared History Fund. However, as this screening sets out, a key aim of the UK Government's strategy will be to raise awareness that the Shared History Fund is open to support those of all Section 75 categories to engage with the centenary, in line with promoting equality of opportunity.

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

Northern Ireland Office

Who owns and who implements the policy?

Northern Ireland Office has developed the Shared History Fund policy intent and criteria, working closely with the National Lottery Heritage Fund as the delivery partner.

Implementation factors

Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision?

If yes, are they



financial



legislative



other, please specify:

The ongoing situation with the global Covid-19 pandemic is uncertain. Bids for Shared History Fund funding will be asked to demonstrate how their bid is in line with, or could pivot (if necessary) to be in line with public health advice.

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

As above, the Shared History Fund is part of the wider Northern Ireland centenary programme, to which the UK Government committed in the *New Decade, New Approach* deal.

Background Information

In 2012, the then Prime Minister David Cameron and Irish Taoiseach Enda Kenny released a [joint statement on British-Irish relations](#). This statement, which launched the Decade of Centenaries², said that it offered “*an opportunity to explore and reflect on key episodes of our past...But we want to ensure that this is a decade not only of remembering but also of looking forward; a decade of renewed and strengthened cooperation between our two countries*”. This approach was adopted by both the UK and Irish governments, and has wide support from those across all political spectrum as a way of addressing our shared history.

This is further evidenced in the Department for Culture Media and Sport’s *First World War Centenary Programme: Legacy Evaluation [report](#)*, which reflects on engagement from both unionist and nationalist communities in those commemorations³. The report highlights “this collaborative, inclusive approach was important in helping to ensure that the FWWC Programme was not only less divisive in Northern Ireland than it might otherwise have been, but also that it was generally held to bring people together across the community divide in the commemoration of shared history”.

The centenary of Northern Ireland marks another key date in that Decade of Centenaries. As outlined in NDNA, the Principles of Remembering will be central to the programme of events.

² The Decade of Centenaries is the term widely used to refer to the period 2012-2022, including many significant national anniversaries for both the UK and Ireland.

³ Department for Culture Media and Sport: *First World War Centenary Programme: Legacy Evaluation*, September 2019

The Principles, which framed World War One commemorations in NI, were developed by the Community Relations Council and Heritage Lottery Fund and were successful in marking key events, which had historically proven challenging, in a spirit of mutual respect, inclusiveness and reconciliation.

The Principles include:

- starting from the historical facts;
- recognising the implications and consequences of what happened;
- understanding that different perceptions and interpretations exist; and
- showing how events and activities can deepen understanding of the period.

The UK Government is developing a programme of events to mark the centenary of Northern Ireland in 2021 in line with our NDNA commitments. In doing so, we have [established](#) and are working with 3 bodies - a stakeholder forum, an historical advisory panel and a cross-Whitehall working group.

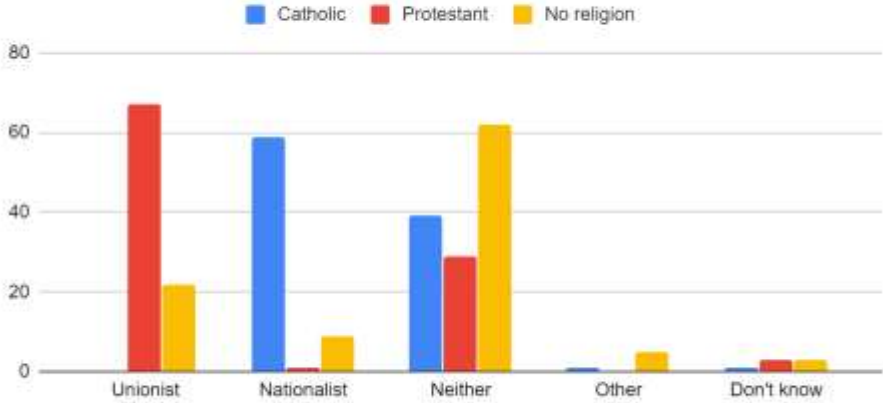
Also in line with NDNA, we will take a two-stranded approach to the centenary:

- 'Reflecting on Our Past', continuing with the Decade of Centenaries
- 'Building for the Future', promoting Northern Ireland as an attractive place to visit and do business, and celebrate the contribution that the people of Northern Ireland make to all aspects of life in the UK, and further afield.

As part of NDNA, we committed to exploring a number of projects to mark the centenary - a Shared History Fund was one of those projects.

Available evidence

Our evidence has come from the most recent qualitative and quantitative data provided by a variety of surveys and studies including the Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey (2019) and the Census (2011), in addition to the standing of parties following the most recent elections to Westminster and the Northern Ireland Parliament in 2019 and 2017 respectively.

Section 75 category	Details of evidence/information																								
Religious belief	<p><u>Northern Ireland religious demographics</u></p> <p>In the 2011 census in Northern Ireland, 45% of the population defined themselves as being from a Catholic religious upbringing; 48% of the population defined themselves as being from a Protestant religious upbringing; 7% of the population are recorded as having no defined religious upbringing or were from other religious upbringings.</p> <p>We also note the following from the Life and Times Survey of NI (2019) illustrating the overlap between religious belief and political opinion. Public narrative and stakeholder input has demonstrated that marking the centenary may be of more interest to those of one religious belief than another.</p> <p>UNINATID: Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a unionist, a nationalist or neither?</p>  <table border="1"> <caption>UNINATID: Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a unionist, a nationalist or neither?</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Political Category</th> <th>Catholic (%)</th> <th>Protestant (%)</th> <th>No religion (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Unionist</td> <td>~1</td> <td>~68</td> <td>~22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nationalist</td> <td>~58</td> <td>~1</td> <td>~10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Neither</td> <td>~38</td> <td>~28</td> <td>~62</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>~1</td> <td>~1</td> <td>~5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Don't know</td> <td>~1</td> <td>~3</td> <td>~2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Source: ARK NI Life and Times Survey, 2019</p>	Political Category	Catholic (%)	Protestant (%)	No religion (%)	Unionist	~1	~68	~22	Nationalist	~58	~1	~10	Neither	~38	~28	~62	Other	~1	~1	~5	Don't know	~1	~3	~2
Political Category	Catholic (%)	Protestant (%)	No religion (%)																						
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<p>Political opinion</p>	<p><u>Northern Ireland electoral makeup</u></p> <p>In the most recent General Election, Northern Ireland elected 18 members of Parliament, from the DUP (8), Sinn Fein (7), SDLP (2) and Alliance (1) respectively.</p> <p>In terms of vote share, 30.6% voted for the DUP, 22.8% for Sinn Fein, 14.9% for SDLP, 16.8% for Alliance and 11.7% for UUP. Of the five main parties, this amounted to a combined 'Unionist' vote of 42.3%, a combined 'Nationalist' vote of 37.7% and a cross-community vote of 16.8%. The most recent Life and Times Survey of Northern Ireland (2019) noted that 33% of respondents viewed themselves as unionists, 23% as nationalists and 39% as neither unionist or nationalist.</p> <p>Public narrative and stakeholder input has demonstrated that marking the centenary may be of more interest to those of one political opinion than another.</p>
<p>Racial group</p>	<p><u>Northern Ireland demographics</u></p> <p>The Life and Times Survey (2019) found that 6% of respondents identified as an ethnic minority. Of the total surveyed, 30% of respondents felt there was more racial prejudice now than 5 years ago, while 33% felt it had stayed the same, only 24% felt it had decreased. The survey found that 66% of respondents felt it was fairly or very important that public bodies (including trusts and government departments) take into account the needs of minority ethnic communities. The survey also found that 64% of respondents agreed that organisations and leaders in public life should encourage members of minority ethnic communities to participate in public life.</p> <p>Public narrative and stakeholder input has demonstrated that marking the centenary may be of more interest to those of one racial group than another.</p>
<p>Age</p>	<p>It is not expected this group will be particularly impacted. Care will be taken to provide a range of events that are accessible to all.</p>
<p>Marital status</p>	<p>It is not expected this group will be particularly impacted. Care will be taken to provide a range of events that are accessible to all.</p>
<p>Sexual orientation</p>	<p>It is not expected this group will be particularly impacted. Care will be taken to provide a range of events that are accessible to all.</p>

Men and women generally	It is not expected this group will be particularly impacted. Care will be taken to provide a range of events that are accessible to all.
Disability	It is not expected this group will be particularly impacted. Care will be taken to provide a range of events that are accessible to all.
Dependants	It is not expected this group will be particularly impacted. Care will be taken to provide a range of events that are accessible to all.

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.

Section 75 category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
Religious belief	<p>Our approach to the Shared History Fund (SHF) is to take into account the needs/experiences/priorities of those with different religious beliefs by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adhering to the Principles for Remembering ● Engaging with a range of stakeholders both within the Centenary Forum, and as part of wider engagement, to encourage dialogue and inclusion ● Seeking to ensure the SHF is widely-accessible and inclusive, and seen to be so, with funding criteria which facilitate applications from those of all religious beliefs and none. ● Noting the religious beliefs of some faith groups which may prevent them from accessing lottery funding, and highlighting prominently that the SHF is UK Government funding which is simply being delivered by NLHF.
Political opinion	<p>Our approach to the Shared History Fund is to take into account the needs/experiences/priorities of those with different political opinions by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adhering to the Principles for Remembering ● Engaging with a range of stakeholders both within the Centenary Forum, and as part of wider engagement, to encourage dialogue and inclusion ● Seeking to ensure the Shared History Fund is widely-accessible and inclusive, and seen to be so, with funding criteria which facilitate applications from those of all political opinions and none.
Racial group	<p>Our approach to the Shared History Fund is to take into account the needs/experiences/priorities of those from different racial groups by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adhering to the Principles for Remembering ● Engaging with a range of stakeholders both within the Centenary Forum, and as part of wider engagement, to encourage dialogue and inclusion ● Seeking to ensure the Shared History Fund is widely-accessible and inclusive, and seen to be so, with funding criteria which facilitate applications from those of all racial groups.

Age	As above.
Marital status	As above.
Sexual orientation	As above
Men and women generally	As above.
Disability	As above.
Dependants	As above.

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 66-68 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	<p>It is recognised that marking the centenary may be of more interest to those of one religious belief than another, as evidenced by recent stakeholder engagement and wider public commentary. We want to ensure that it is clear that the SHF welcomes applications from all religious beliefs, and none - this will be done via SHF comms, criteria and engagement. Any residual potential impacts on people of different religious beliefs are judged to be minimal, due to our commitments as set out below.</p> <p>We will ensure equality of opportunity is not affected for each of the Section 75 categories by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adhering to the Principles for Remembering ● Engaging with a range of stakeholders both within the Centenary Forum, and as part of wider engagement, to encourage dialogue and inclusion ● Seeking to ensure the Shared History Fund is widely-accessible and inclusive, and seen to be so, with funding criteria which facilitate applications from those of all religious beliefs, and none. 	Minor

<p>Political opinion</p>	<p>It is recognised that marking the centenary may be of more interest to those of one political opinion than another, as evidenced by recent stakeholder engagement and wider public commentary. We want to ensure that it is clear that the SHF welcomes applications from all political opinions, and none - this will be done via SHF comms, criteria and engagement. Any residual potential impacts on people of different political opinions are judged to be minimal, due to our commitments as set out below.</p> <p>We will ensure equality of opportunity is not affected for each of the Section 75 categories by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adhering to the Principles for Remembering ● Engaging with a range of stakeholders both within the Centenary Forum, and as part of wider engagement, to encourage dialogue and inclusion ● Seeking to ensure the Shared History Fund is widely-accessible and inclusive, and seen to be so, with funding criteria which facilitate applications from those of all political opinions, and none. 	<p>Minor</p>
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Racial group	<p>It is recognised that marking the centenary may be of more interest to some racial groups than others, as evidenced by recent stakeholder engagement and wider public commentary. We want to ensure that it is clear that the SHF welcomes applications from all racial groups - this will be done via SHF comms, criteria and engagement. Any residual potential impacts on people of different racial groups are judged to be minimal, due to our commitments as set out below.</p> <p>We will ensure equality of opportunity is not affected for each of the Section 75 categories by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adhering to the Principles for Remembering ● Engaging with a range of stakeholders both within the Centenary Forum, and as part of wider engagement, to encourage dialogue and inclusion ● Seeking to ensure the Shared History Fund is widely-accessible and inclusive, and seen to be so, with funding criteria which facilitate applications from all racial groups. 	Minor
Age	<p>We will ensure equality of opportunity is not affected for each of the Section 75 categories by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adhering to the Principles for Remembering ● Engaging with stakeholders both within the Centenary Forum, and as part of wider engagement, to encourage dialogue and inclusion ● Seeking to ensure the Shared History Fund is widely-accessible and inclusive, and seen to be so, with funding criteria which facilitate applications from those of all Section 75 categories. 	None
Marital status	As above.	None

Sexual orientation	As above.	None
Men and women generally	As above.	None
Disability	As above.	None
Dependants	As above.	None

2 Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories?		
Section 75 category	If Yes , provide details	If No , provide reasons
Religious belief	A comms handling plan, carefully-considered application criteria and other stakeholder engagement, will emphasise that the Shared History Fund is open to those from all Section 75 categories. The application process will also encourage applications which propose accessible centenary activity, inclusive of different audiences and demographics.	
Political opinion	As above.	
Racial group	As above.	
Age	As above.	
Marital status	As above.	

Sexual orientation	As above.	
Men and women generally	As above.	
Disability	As above.	
Dependants	As above.	

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	<p>Any residual potential impacts on good relations between people of different religious beliefs are judged to be minimal, due to our commitments as outlined in NDNA, and our approach below.</p> <p>Key criteria for accessing the Shared History Fund will be the Principles of Remembering, which have been hugely valuable in navigating the 14-18 centenaries. Bids to SHF will need to demonstrate how they are in line with the Principles. The Principles include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● starting from the historical facts; ● recognising the implications and consequences of what happened; ● understanding that different perceptions and interpretations exist; and ● showing how events and activities can deepen understanding of the period. <p>There may also be positive impacts on good relations developed through a better understanding of historical facts, and of different perceptions held by those of different religious beliefs.</p>	Minor

<p>Political opinion</p>	<p>Any residual potential impacts on good relations between people of different political opinions are judged to be minimal, due to our commitments as outlined in NDNA, and our approach below.</p> <p>Key criteria for accessing the Shared History Fund will be the Principles of Remembering, which have been hugely valuable in navigating the 14-18 centenaries. Bids to SHF will need to demonstrate how they are in line with the Principles. The Principles include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● starting from the historical facts; ● recognising the implications and consequences of what happened; ● understanding that different perceptions and interpretations exist; and ● showing how events and activities can deepen understanding of the period. <p>There may also be positive impacts on good relations developed through a better understanding of historical facts, and of different perceptions held by those of different political opinions.</p>	<p>Minor</p>
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Racial group	<p>Any residual potential impacts on good relations between people of different racial groups are judged to be minimal, due to our commitments as outlined in NDNA, and our approach below.</p> <p>Key criteria for accessing the Shared History Fund will be the Principles of Remembering, which have been hugely valuable in navigating the 14-18 centenaries. Bids to SHF will need to demonstrate how they are in line with the Principles. The Principles include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • starting from the historical facts; • recognising the implications and consequences of what happened; • understanding that different perceptions and interpretations exist; and • showing how events and activities can deepen understanding of the period. <p>There may also be positive impacts on good relations developed through a better understanding of historical facts, and of different perceptions held by those of different racial groups.</p>	Minor
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4 Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?		
Good relations category	If Yes , provide details	If No , provide reasons
Religious belief	The approach detailed above at (3) outlines steps taken to ensure good relations are promoted.	
Political opinion	As above.	
Racial group	As above.	

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).

None are expected.

Part 3. Screening decision

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

Based on the evidence identified during this screening process, we have decided that the policy should be screened out, with mitigation. An equality impact assessment will therefore not be conducted. We have concluded that any residual potential impacts on equality of opportunity or good relations are negligible, restricted to the categories of political opinion, religious belief racial group, and we have outlined below measures we intend to take to mitigate the impact.

In *New Decade, New Approach* (NDNA), the Government committed to marking the centenary of Northern Ireland in 2021 in a spirit of mutual respect, inclusiveness and reconciliation, in line with the Principles of Remembering (per background above). The Shared History Fund (SHF) relies on those Principles for some of its key funding criteria, which will ensure that the Fund is inclusive of different perceptions and interpretations, as well as encouraging a deeper and more diverse understanding of the period.

We also acknowledge that, as evidenced in recent stakeholder engagement and wider public commentary, marking the centenary of Northern Ireland may be of more interest to those of one religious belief, political opinion or racial group, than another. As mitigations, we will work with NLHF to ensure that the SHF is promoted in such a way that it is clearly seen to be inclusive and open to all, in line with the Principles. These mitigations will include carefully-considered application criteria, a comms handling plan and wider direct stakeholder engagement to encourage applications from all 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.

In order to deliver the centenary with due regard to our obligation under Section 75, we assess that mitigating actions should be taken in order to maintain the promotion of good relations - as outlined above.

If the decision is to subject the policy to an equality impact assessment, please provide details of the reasons.

N/A

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.

As indicated above, we have concluded that the policy should be screened out, with mitigation in order to promote good relations particularly among the categories of political opinion, religious belief and racial group. These mitigating factors include:

- Adhering to the Principles for Remembering, and foregrounding these in the application criteria for the Fund
- Engaging with a range of stakeholders both within the Centenary Forum, and as part of wider engagement, to encourage and support involvement in the Fund
- Seeking to ensure the Shared History Fund is widely-accessible and inclusive, and seen to be so, with funding criteria which facilitate applications from those of all Section 75 groups.

This approach has been tried and tested in the earlier part of the Decade of Centenaries, and has been successful in marking sensitive anniversaries in a way which is inclusive, and in a spirit of reconciliation. This approach, anchored in the Principles for Remembering, should reassure people with of different racial groups, and differing religious and political beliefs that due care and consideration has been given to minimising any negative impact on good relations.

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	
Social need	
Effect on people's daily lives	
Relevance to a public authority's functions	

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?

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

Screened by:	Position/Job Title	Date
H. McKinley	Comms and External Relations	26/10/20 (reviewed 18/12/20)
Approved by:		
C. Sloan	Deputy Director	26/10/20 (reviewed 18/12/20)

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.

ANNEX B

