



**Northern
Ireland
Office**

Programme of NIO Consultations, Screenings, and Equality Impact Assessments

SIX MONTHLY UPDATE – JULY TO DECEMBER 2022

NIO Governance Team

January 2023

SECTION 75 – THE LEGAL BACKGROUND

Under section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the Northern Ireland Office (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; and
- 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.

Monitoring & Publication

The NIO uses **Screening** and **Equality Impact Assessments** to assess the likely impact of a policy on the promotion of equality of opportunity and good relations. In carrying out these assessments, we must relate them to the intended outcomes of the policy in question and follow Equality Commission guidance:

- Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 – A Guide for Public Authorities; and
- Practical guidance on equality impact assessment.

In line with Schedule 9 Para 4(2)(d) of the Act the NIO is required to publish details of any Screening Policies & Equality Impact Assessments. Our Equality Scheme sets out that we will publish this information on a six monthly basis.

A summary of Screening Reports & Equality Impact Assessments will be included in the Section 75 Annual Progress Report. To aid in publication of this information and the completion of The Annual Progress Report, each Business Group within the NIO completes a return detailing:

- Any Consultation Exercises
- Screening Exercises
- Equality Impact Assessments (EQIAs)

Details of Consultations, Screening Exercises and Equality Impact Assessments undertaken in the last six months are shown in the tables below.

NIO Programme of Consultations, Equality Screening & Equality Impact Assessments

i) Consultation Exercises within the last six months

Policy	Current Status	Last Updated	Limited Consultation*
Recently completed consultations			
Current consultations			
Consultation on the use of non-jury trials in Northern Ireland	Consultation closed on 26 January 2023		No
Forthcoming consultations (within the next 3 months)			

* A limited Consultation is a consultation that lasts less than 12 weeks

ii) **Screening Exercises within the last six months**

Policy	Current Status
Screening Exercises	
Non-Jury Trial provisions under the Justice and Security (Northern Ireland) Act 2007	Published 21 November 2022
Funding for Integrated Education	Published 7 July 2022
Draft provisions to exercise of public appointments functions	Published 2 December 2022
Draft provisions on MLA pay	Published 2 December 2022
Draft provisions on the exercise of Departmental functions	Published 2 December 2022
Draft provisions to set regional rates	Published 2 December 2022
Executive Formation period	Published 2 December 2022
Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement UK Government approach to the 25th anniversary	Published 13 December 2022
Determination on MLA pay	Published 21 December 2022

iii) **EQIA Timetable**

Policy	Current Status
Equality Impact Assessments	