



**Northern
Ireland
Office**

Programme of NIO Consultations, Screenings, and Equality Impact Assessments

SIX MONTHLY UPDATE – JULY TO DECEMBER 2023

NIO Governance Team

January 2024

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			
Update of the Code of Practice (Northern Ireland) for the Authorisation and Exercise of Stop and Search powers relating to sections 43, 43A, 43C and 47A, and schedule 6B to the Terrorism Act 2000	Published on 9 October 2023 Ended on 2 January 2024	11 October 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	
The Code of Practice (Northern Ireland) for the Authorisation and Exercise of Stop and Search powers relating to Sections 43,43A, 43C, and 47A of, and Schedule 6B to, the Terrorism Act 2000 .	Published on 9 October 2023
The Northern Ireland Office's role in relation to His Majesty the King's Portrait Scheme.	Published on 18 January 2024

iii) **EQIA Timetable**

Policy	Current Status
Equality Impact Assessments	

