

Annex

A) General Information

4. Measures regarding official development assistance (ODA):

The amount of ODA provided to LDCs is published in our Statistics on International Development, publication¹.

5. Measures taken to collect data relevant to assessing the extent to which Covenant rights are realised in the UK:

Guernsey and Jersey collect a range of data that can be used to assess their own performance and indicate the realisation of Covenant rights. In Guernsey this includes:

- Guernsey and Alderney Wellbeing Survey
- Guernsey Child Measurement Programme
- Notification of infectious diseases (statutory)
- Notification of abortion (statutory)
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for substance use

Indicators of poverty, household income and deprivation include the Household Income Report 2019 and 2020, Guernsey Indicators of Poverty Report 2021, and Annual Better Life Indicators Report 2021².

Guernsey's latest population, employment, unemployment and earnings-related data can be found in the Quarterly Population, Employment and Earnings Bulletin, along with the Annual Electronic Census Report 2022³.

6. 2016 National Action Plan on implementing the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights:

The UK also works to raise awareness and increase the impact of the Voluntary Principles Initiative which advances the implementation of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights, through guidance on responsible business practices to oil, gas, and mining companies, which often operate in high-risk and conflict-affected areas.

The UK's NCP also runs a non-judicial grievance mechanism to assess alleged non-compliance with the Guidelines. It also offers a platform for mediation and conciliation. The UK NCP engages UK businesses to increase awareness and understanding of these voluntary principles and standards for responsible business conduct.

¹ [Statistics on International Development - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk).

² [OECD Better Life Indicators and Indicators of Poverty - States of Guernsey \(gov.gg\)](https://gov.gg).

³ [Electronic Census; Latest Population, Employment and Earnings - States of Guernsey \(gov.gg\)](https://gov.gg).

7. Mitigation of climate change:

Reducing per capita greenhouse gas emissions

Although not routinely published, the UK has published estimates for UK territorial GHG emissions per capita. Based on current pledges, UK per capita emissions in 2030 are set to be amongst the lowest in the G7/G20.

B) Issues relating to the general provisions of the Covenant (arts. 1-5)

Maximum available resources (art. 2 (1))

8. Information on the evolution of the following:

The proportion of the population living below the nationally defined poverty line

Absolute Poverty Rate (AHC) for all Individuals: 2012/13 – 2021/22

	Year									
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Absolute Poverty Rate (AHC)	22%	22%	20%	20%	19%	19%	20%	18%	17%	17%

Relative Poverty Rate (AHC) for all Individuals: 2012/13 – 2022/23

	Year										
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23

Relative Poverty Rate (AHC)	21%	21%	21%	22%	22%	22%	22%	22%	20%	22%	21%
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Funding of official development programmes over the past ten years, in proportion to GNI, and the conditionality or requirements for the receiving countries

The table below sets out the UK's total ODA spending by volume and as a percentage of Gross National Income (GNI). We have provided this analysis in GNI as the UN ODA spending target is based on a country's GNI.

Year	UK Net ODA, £ million	ODA:GNI ratio (%) Current methodology in given year
2012	8,802	0.56
2013	11,407	0.70
2014	11,700	0.70
2015	12,136	0.70
2016	13,377	0.70
2017	14,051	0.70
2018	14,542	0.70
2019	15,176	0.70
2020	14,478	0.70
2021	11,423	0.50
2022	12,795	0.51
2023*	15,374	0.58

*Data for 2023 is provisional. Final figures for 2023 UK ODA spending will be published in autumn 2024 as part of the Statistics on International Development publication.

The UK follows the reporting rules of the OECD's development finance standards.

Criteria for reporting ODA transactions:

- Is a flow to countries and territories on the DAC List of ODA Recipients.
- Is administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as its main objective.

- Is concessional in character and conveys a grant element of at least 25 per cent (calculated at a rate of discount of 10 per cent).
- Is an official flow i.e. transactions which are undertaken by a state agency at their own “risk and responsibility, regardless of whether these agencies have raised the funds through taxation or through [private sector] borrowing”.

Non-discrimination (art. 2 (2))

9. Measures taken to adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination law:

Socio-economic inequalities

The socio-economic duty – the provisions for which are in Part 1 of the Equality Act 2010 (the Act) – had the intention of addressing the persistent barriers/disadvantage that some people experience because of their socio-economic status and to give individuals from such backgrounds the opportunities to succeed as far as their talents will take them. The duty is a devolved matter and has been commenced in Scotland (2018) and Wales (2020), but not in England, or for Great Britain-wide bodies.

10. Refugees and asylum seekers:

Statutory Framework for Claims

In Stage One, the decision-maker must determine if it is more likely than not that: the claimant has a characteristic which would cause them to fear persecution for one or more of the convention reasons, and that they do in fact fear persecution.

At Stage Two, the decision-maker must assess whether there is a real risk that the claimant would in fact face the harm they fear if they returned to their country of nationality (or in a case where they do not have a nationality, the country of their formal habitual residence).

Statistical information

Asylum outcomes

The grounds of rejection for an asylum claim are not published but the data is broken down by type of refusal (e.g. third country refusal, certified refusal). Definitions of the types of refusals can be found in the ‘Definitions’ page of the Asy_D02 workbook.

Asylum intake (last 5 years)

Data on asylum applications is published in table Asy_D01 of the ‘Asylum applications, initial decisions and resettlement detailed datasets’.

Between October 2018 and September 2023, the UK received 256,185 applications relating to 315,213 people.

Asylum outcomes

Data on outcomes of asylum applications at initial decision, including refusals, is published in table Asy_D02 of the ‘Asylum applications, initial decisions and resettlement detailed datasets’.

Between October 2018 and September 2023, 109,176 initial decisions were made on asylum applications (relating to 140,509 people and excluding 29,985 withdrawn applications). Of these decisions, 71,120 (91,456 people) were grants of protection or other leave and 38,056 claims (49,053 people) were refused.

Average waiting time for the processing of asylum requests

The average time taken to process a substantive decision is not published.

However, the Home Office does publish data on the number of asylum claims awaiting an initial decision by duration. This data can be found at table Asy_D03 of the 'Asylum applications, initial decisions and resettlement detailed datasets'. As of 30 Sep 2023, 125,173 applications were awaiting an initial decision, of which 73% (91,943 applications) had been waiting for more than 6 months.

Additionally, data on the percentage of applications processed within 6 months is published in table ASY_01 of the 'Immigration and Protection' data of the Migration Transparency Data collection. In the year ending March 2023, 16% of 87,366 asylum applications were decided within 6 months, compared with 7% in the year ending March 2022. In the short term, the proportion of cases decided within 6 months is likely to remain low whilst the Home Office focuses on processing the older cases awaiting an asylum decision.

Equal rights of men and women (art. 3)

11. With reference to the Committee's previous concluding observations, please provide information on the following:

The State party's report on equality between women and men

The aim of the FCDO is to help people with disabilities achieve their full rights and freedoms on an equal basis with others. We do this by embedding disability across FCDO through our Disability Inclusion and Rights strategy and by influencing the global system.

Statistical data on the representation of women

In Scottish local authorities, 35% of councillors are now women, up from 29% in 2017. In judicial positions in Scotland women account for just 27% of all appointments. Summary Sheriffs have the highest proportion of women at 51%. In the Scottish Parliament, women now account for 46% of Members. The Scottish Cabinet, which is the main decision-making body of the Scottish Government, is made up of the First Minister and Cabinet Secretaries, comprises of 8 women and 4 men. Of the 18 additional junior Ministers who support Cabinet Secretaries, 10 are women.

There are two elements to addressing the Gender Pay Gap in NI. Firstly, legislation to provide for Gender Pay Gap reporting, which will require the Department to bring forward amendments to section 19 of the Employment Act (NI) 2016 via primary legislation, as well as subordinate legislation to make provision for reporting arrangements.

The second element of this work is addressing the Gender Pay Gap by way of a Gender Equality Strategy. Both of these elements are required to ensure the Gender Pay Gap is meaningfully addressed.

The way forward on how this legislation is to be enacted is being considered in the context of the development of the Gender Equality Strategy and a way forward will be announced in due course.

The CPANI Code of Practice for Ministerial Public Appointments in Northern Ireland outlines principles and practices which Government Departments are required to adopt to ensure all public appointments are made on merit. Section 2.3 and 2.4 of the Code highlight the principles of Diversity and Equality. Departments are required to ensure, as far as possible, that Boards are balanced in terms of skills and experience and that opportunities to apply for positions of Boards are open to the communities they serve. Departments must also ensure equality of opportunity for all applicants and adhere to anti-discrimination law.

The Department for Communities (DfC) leads on the development of the Executive's Gender Equality Strategy (GES) which will incorporate actions from all departments, including any relevant actions targeted at increasing the representation of women in public life.

The Minister for Communities is currently considering the next steps to be taken in relation to the development of the Gender Equality Strategy. Final decisions on the content and the timings of the implementation of this Executive Strategy will be subject to Executive Agreement.

The Discrimination (Jersey) Law 2013 (the DJL) prohibits direct and indirect discrimination on the basis of a protected characteristic. The protected characteristics within the scope of the 2013 Law are race, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, age and disability.

Right to work (art. 6)

12. Information covering:

Unemployment and under-employment rates

- The 2023 UK 16+ unemployment rate is 4.0%. The unemployment rate rose in 2020 following the COVID-19 pandemic and has since gradually declined. The unemployment rate is now down -0.5% on 2020 and down -0.1% compared to 2018.
- The 2023 underemployment rate is currently 7.3%. This is down -1.3% on 2020 and down -0.3% compared to 2018.
- The 2023 unemployment rate for men is 4.3%. This is down -0.5% on 2020 but up 0.1% compared to 2018. For women, the 2023 unemployment rate is 3.8%. This is down -0.5% on 2020 and down -0.2% compared to 2018.
- The 2023 disability unemployment rate is currently 6.7%. This is down -0.9% on 2020 and down -2.2% on 2018.
- The ethnic minority unemployment rate is 7.1% in 2023. This is up 0.3% when compared to 2018 and down -0.6% on 2020.

- There is large variation of unemployment rates across the UK's regions. In 2023, the West Midlands had the highest unemployment rate in the UK at 5.1% with London (4.9%) and Wales (4.7%) having the 2nd and 3rd highest respectively. Northern Ireland had the lowest unemployment rate in the UK at 2.6% – the South West, Scotland, Yorkshire & the Humber, East Midlands, North West and the South East also have rates lower than the 2023 UK average. Each region has seen a fall in its unemployment rate when compared to 2020 with the exception of Wales, the South East and the East of England.
- The unemployment rate is down for all age groups when compared to 2020 with the exception of the 65+ age group which remains unchanged. The age group which experienced the largest fall in the unemployment rate is 16–24-year-olds. The 16-24 unemployment rate in 2023 was 11.8%, this is down - 1.9% on 2020.

	Scheme name	Scheme purpose	Outcomes
1	Restart	Provides up to 12 months of intensive, tailored support to help Universal Credit (UC) and Jobseeker's Allowance claimants who have been unemployed for more than nine months move into sustained employment.	As of the end of Apr-23, 450,000 people have started this scheme since July 2021. 150,000 people have reported first earnings.
2	Kickstart	Was designed to support 16- to 24-year-olds on UC at risk of long-term unemployment. The programme launched in September 2020 and provided funded, six-month jobs. Kickstart ended in September 2022.	Supported over 163,000 young people.
3	Sector-based Work Academy Programmes (SWAPs)	Offer training, work experience and a guaranteed interview for a job or apprenticeship	91,600 SWAP starts in 2022-23. The 2023 Spring Budget provided additional funding for an extension of 40,000 SWAP starts across the two financial years to enable DWP to deliver

			80,000 SWAP starts in both 2023-24 and 2024-25.
4	Job Entry Targeted Support (JETS)	This scheme provided up to six months light-touch personalised employment support to help people effectively re-engage with the labour market and focus on job search by building on providers' links with local employers. JETS referrals ended on 30 September 2022 and the last participants finished the programme in April 2023.	JETS supported 340,000 customers in total.

13. Information covering:

Ethnic minorities

Northern Ireland’s Racial Equality Strategy 2015 - 2025, provides a framework for Government departments to tackle racial inequalities, eradicate racism and hate crime, and promote good race relations and social cohesion. The Strategy recognised that a lack of available data on minority ethnic and migrant populations continues to be a significant barrier to racial equality here and therefore, implementation of Ethnic Equality Monitoring is one of the most important priorities for the racial equality sector.

Officials commissioned an independent report to examine whether ethnic monitoring should be introduced and implemented here. Utilising the report’s findings and recommendations, Officials have since formulated a Cross-Departmental working Group, developed new guidance, and are exploring the introduction of Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) workforce monitoring before expanding to incorporate the wider public and private sectors.

15. National minimum wage:

	2023 rate	2024 rate	% nominal increase	Cash increase
National Living Wage 21 and over (previously 23 and over)	£10.42	£11.44	9.8%	£1.02

18 to 20	£7.49	£8.60	14.8%	£1.11
Under 18	£5.28	£6.40	21.2%	£1.12
Apprentice	£5.28	£6.40	21.2%	£1.12
Accommodation Offset	£9.10	£9.99	9.8%	89p

The National Living Wage and National Minimum Wage rates increase on 1 April each year.

Right to just and favourable conditions of work (art. 7)

16. Temporary employment, precarious self-employment and “zero-hour contracts”:

The UK Government has also:

- Introduced a method to calculate statutory holiday entitlement for irregular hours and part-year workers and also introduced rolled-up holiday pay as an alternative method to calculate holiday pay for irregular hours workers and part-year workers.
- Closed a loophole which sees agency workers employed on cheaper rates than permanent workers.
- Given all workers the right to receive a statement of their rights from day one.
- Introduced Key Information Documents to ensure that temporary work-seekers have all the facts they need to know upfront.
- Since banning exclusivity clauses, which could restrict staff from working with multiple employers, in Zero Hours Contracts in 2015, the Government has now widened the ban to those whose income is below or equivalent to the Lower Earnings Limit at £123 a week.

Individuals on zero hours contracts represent a very small proportion of the workforce. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes quarterly data on the number of individuals in work on zero hours contracts in the UK. The ONS estimates that between April – June 2023, 3.6% of people aged 16 or over in employment in the UK were on a zero-hours contract.

Other jurisdictions

NI

On 1 July 2024, the NI Minister for the Economy launched a wide-ranging Employment Rights Bill consultation which will explore what measures should be introduced to address zero hours contracts.

18. Physical and mental harassment, including sexual harassment, and its means of enforcement:

The Government Equalities Office’s experimental survey into Sexual Harassment in the Workplace in 2020 found:

- 29% of those in employment experienced some form of sexual harassment in their workplace or work-related environment in the last 12 months. Unwelcome sexual jokes and unwelcome staring were the most common forms of sexual harassment experienced in the workplace (by 15% and 10% of those in work respectively).
- Men were almost as likely to experience workplace harassment as women in the last 12 months (the incidence of experiencing harassment was 30% among women and 27% among men) although there were differences in the types of sexual harassment experienced.
- Levels of formal reporting of sexual harassment in the workplace were very low: only 15% reported their experience formally (internally or externally),
- Those who had experienced sexual harassment in their current workplace during the previous 12 months were less likely to know that their organisation had a clear or accessible policy on sexual harassment (32% compared to 37% of those who had not), with (25%) knowing or thinking it did not.

The Northern Ireland Worker Protection (Amendment of Equality Act 2010) Act 2023 recently received Royal Assent in GB. The Department for Communities (DfC) have legislative responsibility for the NI equivalent Sex Discrimination Order 1976 (Amendment) Regs (NI) 2008. It will be a matter for Ministers/Executive/Assembly, once in place, to determine future measures here. The Department for the Economy's (DfE) remit would be confined to early conciliation through the Labour Relations Agency (LRA) and enforcement through the Industrial and Fair Employment Tribunals (ITFET).

19. Modern Slavery Act 2015:

The Director of Labour Market Enforcement's 2020-21 annual strategy had a focus of improving our understanding of labour exploitation and the effectiveness of enforcement across the labour market, as well as recommendations on how to perform systematic reviews of the extended labour supply chain. Progress on these recommendations will be reported in the next annual report covering 2020 –23, which will be published in 2024.

20. Enforcement of employment rights:

Debt Bondage issues largely appear to arise via parties overseas – be that loaning money to would-be applicants, or nefarious third parties attempting to charge for access to the route. Whilst the GLAA does regulate the latter, where those parties are part of the recruitment chain of the UK based Scheme Operators, the majority of these issues take place outside of UK legal jurisdiction.

Right to social security (art. 9)

22. Welfare Reform Act 2012 and the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016:

Benefit cap

At February 2024, 78,000 households were capped. 88% of those households (69,000) included children. 16% (13,400 households) were couples with children and 73% (61,000 households) were single parent households.

Of the households including children that were capped at February 2024, 89% (17,000) had between 1 and 4 children and 11% (7,700) had 5 or more children.

Two child policy

In April 2024, there were 570,000 UC households with 3 or more children, of these 370,000 (65%) were not receiving a child element/amount for at least one child due to the policy to provide support for a maximum of two children. (This was 720,000 households for both UC and CTC, with 61% not receiving a child element/amount for at least one child).

There were 1.3 million children living in a UC household that was not receiving a child element for at least one child due to being affected by the policy (1.6 million children in UC and CTC households).

Around 21,000 UC households that had a third or subsequent child born on or after 6 April 2017, were in receipt of an exception (24,000 households for UC and CTC). The most common reason for an exception was multiple births (16,000 or 69% of those with an exception).

The number of households affected by the policy has increased since the first statistics were published in 2018, as more children have been born since 6 April 2017 into families with at least two children.

Removal of the limited capability for work element

The measure was intended to provide the right incentives and support to enable those who have limited capability, but who have some potential for work to move closer to the labour market and when they are ready, back into work. Aligning the rate of benefit paid to new claims for ESA and UC with limited capability for work with the standard rate paid to claimants who are fully capable of work from April 2017 was intended to remove the financial incentives that could otherwise discourage claimants from taking steps back to work.

23. Universal Credit scheme:

Other jurisdictions

NI

Universal Credit (UC) is being implemented in this jurisdiction as agreed by the NI Executive and in line with wider UK Government delivery of welfare reform. The latest published statistics in relation to the UC scheme here show that there are as of February 2024, 170,320 individual claimants on Universal Credit, or 149,240 households. The final stage of implementation, known as Move to UC, is the managed migration of those people who remain in receipt of the benefits and credits being replaced by UC. Managed migration for tax credit claimants commenced in this jurisdiction and is due to be completed by the end of 2024/25 in line with the Department for Work and Pensions. Plans to complete the movement of the remaining legacy benefits onto Universal Credit are being finalised by the Department. Further statistics in relation to Universal Credit are available via the link as follows ([Universal Credit statistics | Department for Communities \(communities-ni.gov.uk\)](#)).

24. Indexation between State benefit rates and the cost of living:

LHA determines the maximum housing support for tenants in the private rented sector. It ensures that claimants in similar circumstances living in the same area are entitled to the same maximum rent allowance regardless of the contractual rent paid.

Protection of the family and children (art. 10)

26. Childcare services, Shared Parental Leave (SPL) and paid maternity leave:

SPL and Pay was introduced in 2015. The scheme enables eligible parents to share childcare for the first year after a child is born or placed for adoption. Qualifying working couples can share up to 50 weeks of leave and up to 37 weeks of pay. Couples can take leave flexibly, together or in turn, giving the partner a greater role in the child's early life and enabling the mother to retain connections to the workplace, helping to narrow the gender pay gap.

The Government has recently made changes to Paternity Leave which came into force on 8 March. These changes:

- Allow fathers and partners to take their leave in non-consecutive blocks (two non-consecutive weeks of leave compared to one block of leave taken as either one or two weeks);
- Allow fathers and partners to take their leave and pay at any point in the first year after the birth or adoption of their child, which gives partners more flexibility to take their Paternity Leave at a time that works for their family;
- Shortened the notice period required for each period of leave, requiring an employee to give only four weeks' notice prior to each period of leave.

On 6 April changes to the Right to Request Flexible Working came into force, which means it applies from the first day of employment (bringing an additional 2.6 million people into scope). This encourages better dialogue between employers and

employees about the benefits of flexible working opportunities and increases the possible frequency of requests and speed up their administration.

28. Social care services:

Once registered, services are monitored and inspected in line with CQC's published inspection methodology and risk-based approach. CQC's inspections seek to understand whether services are safe, caring, responsive to people's needs, and well-led. Where care does not meet the required standard, CQC has both civil and criminal enforcement powers to keep people safe and hold providers to account.

CQC does not collect data on staffing ratios (and does not prescribe staffing ratios as part of its regulation). However, CQC consider staffing levels as part of their inspections.

Generally, care homes should have open visiting. Any limitations may be due to an infectious outbreak but named visitors should be able to visit albeit with some limitations on numbers.

Other jurisdictions

Scotland

The National Care Service (NCS) will be delivered in a person-centred way that respects, protects, and fulfils the human rights of people accessing care support and their carers. In order to achieve this, the NCS will be designed together with the people who access and deliver social care support, including unpaid carers. As part of taking a human rights-based approach we are working to deliver a range of policies to further realise human rights in the NCS including:

- Developing an NCS Charter of Rights and Responsibilities to empower people to claim their care specific rights.
- Establishing a complaints service for the NCS that provides a fair, effective and consistent approach to complaints. Creating a comprehensive approach to independent advocacy support for the NCS. Undertaking an extensive programme of co-design to ensure that the development of the NCS is participatory and delivers for people accessing support.

The new Dementia Strategy for Scotland sets out an ambitious 10-year vision for dementia policy in Scotland, developed in collaboration with people with lived experience and wider partners.

TURAS Care Home Data collection, holds information on transitions to and from care homes. It is Management Information and under GDPR is not for onward sharing

NI

Minimum standards of care

On 1 April 2005 The Nursing Homes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 and The Residential Care Homes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 came into effect. These set out the Regulations governing the conduct and establishment of such premises.

The quality standards for health and social care in care homes here can be found in the following two published documents – Care Standards for Nursing Homes and the Residential Care Homes Minimum Standards. These standards aim to improve the quality and consistency of care for residents.

Right to an adequate standard of living (art. 11)

29. Poverty rates:

Isle of Man

The Isle of Man Government's commitment to combatting poverty is underpinned by the Government's Island Plan to build a secure, vibrant and sustainable future for the Isle of Man. Published in January 2023, the plan lays out a range of methods by which Government will combat poverty including implementing the approved recommendations of the July 2021 Poverty Report by 2026. This includes bringing the minimum wage into line with living wage in the Isle of Man, access to free school meals for eligible households and simplifying and increasing digital accessibility to social security benefits.

Guernsey

The Guernsey Indicators of Poverty Report 2021 (issued on 25 April 2023) states that, in 2020 (the latest information available), the number of approved applications for uniform grants represented 12.2% of the total number of school children.

30. Impact and concrete results of the Affordable Housing Program, the Shared Ownership scheme, the Care & Support Specialized Housing Fund, and Housing 2040

NI

In addition, £8m in funding has been provided for Co-Ownership to operate their Co-Own for over 55s pilot, this novel affordable housing option was designed in response to our ageing population, providing an innovative shared ownership solution for older people. Our aim is to help over 100 people move to a home more suitable to their needs between 2022 and 2026.

The Social Housing Development Programme (SHDP) is a three year rolling programme used by the Department for Communities to inform social housing funding investment decisions. Both the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) and Registered Housing Association movement are involved in the programme. In 2022/23, 1,956 starts and 1,449 completions were achieved with a spend of £184M, the highest ever annual investment in social housing in this jurisdiction.

Housing support services here are funded through delivery of accommodation through the Social Housing Development Programme and provision of support services through the Supporting People Programme. Despite a challenging funding environment, Supporting People continues to provide services to approximately 19,000 service users, with c.82% of its funding spent on accommodation-based

services and the remainder on floating support up to 31 March 2023. A total of £76M was distributed to SP providers in 2022/23.

A draft housing supply Strategy has been developed and was subject to public consultation, which closed in February 2022. The draft strategy sets out a framework for policies and actions up to 2037. The strategy remains in draft pending approval from a future Executive.

Homelessness and rough sleeping

Homelessness

Official Statutory Homelessness Statistics for England were introduced at the same time as the Homelessness Reduction Act in 2018 and is the quarterly data return on local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation. The data is used to inform funding under the Homelessness Prevention Grant.

Statutory homelessness statistics for England: [Homelessness statistics - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/homelessness-statistics).

Statistics are from the Greater London Authority Affordable Housing Statistics [Affordable Housing statistics | London City Hall](https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/housing/affordable-housing-statistics) and Homes England Housing statistics 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 [Housing statistics 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/housing-statistics-1-april-2022-to-31-march-2023).

All 2021-26 AHP delivery data is from England Housing statistics 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 [Housing statistics 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/housing-statistics-1-april-2022-to-31-march-2023).

Rough Sleeping

Headline Statistics, Autumn 2022:

There were 3,898 people estimated to be sleeping rough on a single night in autumn 2023 in England.

The number of people estimated to be sleeping rough on a single night in autumn 2023 is up by 829 people or 27% from 2022 and up 120% since 2010 when the snapshot approach was introduced.

It is down 18% from the peak in 2017 and down 9% from 2019 which was before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nearly half (46%) of all people sleeping rough on a single night in autumn are in London and the South East.

Most people sleeping rough in England are male, aged over 26 years old and from the UK. This is similar to previous years.

In 2023, there were 3,189 people (82% of the total) sleeping rough on a single night in autumn who were aged 26 years and over and 201 people (5% of the total) who were aged between 18 and 25 years. The age of people sleeping rough was 'Not known' for 369 people (12% of the total). 1 person under the age of 18 was found sleeping rough in the latest snapshot.

In 2023, there were 3,214 men (82% of the total) and 568 women (15% of the total) sleeping rough on a single night in autumn. Gender was 'Not known' for 116 people (3% of the total). The gender breakdown of people sleeping rough was similar across all regions in England and was similar to previous years.

In 2023, 2,420 people estimated to be sleeping rough on a single night were from the UK (62% of the total), 718 people (18% of the total) were EU nationals and 336 people (9% of the total) were from outside the EU and the UK. The nationality of 424 people (11% of the total) was 'Not known'.

The largest increase in people sleeping rough on a single night were those from the UK, whereas the largest percentage increase was for those people from outside the EU and the UK.

Provision and standards of HO accommodation for asylum seekers awaiting a decision on their claim

The standards of accommodation and service are set within AASC (Asylum Accommodation & Support Contracts) and represent a higher standard of quality than the preceding COMPASS contracts.

The AIRE (Advice, Issue Reporting & Eligibility) service has also introduced more independent and transparent oversight of standards through clearer complaints mechanisms for asylum seekers and supporting data that allows more intelligent targeting of performance improvement.

The HO reviews all reports relevant to Provider Performance whether that be scheduled visits, spot check visits and complaints/feedback via Migrant Help, and will continue to do so to ensure our Service Providers meet the standards set out within AASC.

Asylum accommodation is not a permanent housing arrangement but is provided as a temporary measure until the individual's asylum claim has been determined. Initial accommodation is usually shared accommodation in a hostel-type environment or hotel. It is for asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute and need accommodation urgently before their Section 95 support applications have been determined. Asylum seekers who have been granted support from the Home Office may remain in initial accommodation until there is space in dispersal accommodation.

Dispersal accommodation is longer-term temporary accommodation managed by accommodation providers on behalf of the Home Office. Asylum seekers will normally be able to stay in dispersal accommodation until their asylum claim has been fully determined. It is not always possible to stay in the same property.

31. Inequalities in housing in Northern Belfast:

The Programme takes a public health approach to violence reduction, interrupting the spread of violence and investing in initiatives that help those facing paramilitary harm in the here and now, as well as ensuring that people are not drawn into a further cycle of paramilitarism. The approach is unique to this jurisdiction and currently the only funded public health approach to violence prevention being

operationalised at this scale through a range of primary, secondary and tertiary interventions. There is considerable international interest in the model and its efficacy.

The projects address different types of vulnerability, harm and violence at different stages but work together to achieve shared outcomes. These outcomes are beginning to show real impact. Paramilitary style attacks have reduced as have paramilitary intimidations. There are many other documented positive outcomes including reduction of trauma and increases in protective factors.

32. The Traveller site Fund, the Affordable Housing Program, the Housing 2040, the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 and the Irish Traveller's Accommodation Strategy (2021-2026):

Other jurisdictions

NI

Ensuring adequate access to culturally appropriate accommodation, including permanent and transit pitches [sites used to provide permanent or temporary accommodation for their residents], for Gypsies, Roma and Travellers communities is the focus of objective 2 in the Irish Travellers Accommodation Strategy 2021-2026. Actions which fall under this objective are that the NIHE will:

- undertake a strategic review of all our Irish Traveller sites to identify options for their future improvement or replacement;
- review the current emergency halting, transit or serviced site classifications for each of our sites to ensure they reflect how the sites are being used in practice;
- undertake a review of transit sites to establish, through a generated needs assessment, the existing and future demand for transit sites within the Irish Traveller community;
- investigate the potential to work with our stakeholders, in particular DfI, DfC and Councils, on how fitness standards for caravans might be defined and enforced for the benefit of Irish Travellers; and
- work with Housing Association partners and other stakeholders to promote good relations within the Irish Traveller community as a means of maximising existing and future Irish Traveller-specific accommodation.

The review of NIHE owned sites is completed for all but one site, which is pending improvement works after which the review will be completed. The improvement scheme has been impacted by unforeseen delays which has had a knock-on effect for the review timescales. NIHE has commenced engagement with colleagues in Irish Housing Agency to progress an all-Ireland review into transitory living. Completion of this work is funding dependent.

Police, Crime, Sentencing and Court Act 2022, particularly regarding Part 4 on "unauthorized encampments" does not apply to this jurisdiction. The Unauthorised Encampments (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 provides powers to the Police Service

of Northern Ireland (PSNI) to remove trespassers on land in certain circumstances. If the trespassers are members of the Irish Traveller community the PSNI is required to consult with the Housing Executive as to whether there is a suitable pitch for the caravan(s) on a relevant caravan site and situated within a reasonable distance of the land where the trespass is occurring.

Department of Infrastructure have a stakeholder role in travellers' accommodation.

The Racial Equality Strategy 2015 - 2025, provides a framework for Government departments to tackle racial inequalities, eradicate racism and hate crime, and promote good race relations and social cohesion. Under the Racial Equality Strategy 2015-2025, there was a commitment to establish a Travellers' Thematic Group and Roma Thematic Group as it was noted that these two distinct communities faced discrimination in specific ways that was not experienced by other minority ethnic groups. The Travellers' Thematic Group (TTG) membership is mainly made up of people and organisations working closely with and supporting Irish Traveller communities, these organisations act as facilitators for engagement with individuals and families in places of their choosing and allow us to better understand the issues that are impacting lives firsthand. TEO continues to seek representation of those with lived experience. The TTG has identified accommodation as being a primary area of focus and has begun liaising with the NI Housing Executive to progress work in this area.

33. A comprehensive national strategy to promote and protect the right to adequate food.

Although there is no formal assessment of malnutrition at a population-level, NHS England collects data on finished hospital admission episodes of malnutrition in England. Data on malnutrition-related deaths in England is held by the Office for National Statistics. National datasets can also be used to estimate population prevalence of underweight. However, being underweight does not automatically mean someone would receive a clinical diagnosis of malnutrition.

Other jurisdictions

Scotland

Scotland is the first nation in the UK to publish a Plan, grounded in human rights, that works towards ending the need for food banks. The Cash-First Plan outlines 9 collaborative actions over the next 3 years to improve our response to crisis so that fewer people need to turn to emergency food parcels. This includes a new £1.8 million programme to improve urgent access to cash in a crisis, maintaining the value of the Scottish Government's £41 million Scottish Welfare Fund, and continuing to invest in dignified community-led responses to food insecurity.

The Annual Family Resources Survey provides UK-wide data on prevalence of low and very low household food security, and this includes Scotland-specific data. It can be disaggregated further by household composition, age of the head of the household, disability in the household, and the ethnicity of the head of the household in Scotland using three year averages. The Scottish Health Survey provides

Scotland-specific data and includes prevalence of adult food insecurity by age and sex. It also provides data on diet, obesity and physical activity.

NI

AFFFA has had a focus on outcomes across the life of the framework, with short, medium and long-term outcomes set and reviewed every 3 years. The latest set of short-term outcomes, covering 2019-2022 were agreed in October 2019. The framework, associated papers and progress reports are available at: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/obesity-prevention>.

82% of these latest short-term outcomes were either achieved or on track for achievement as of June 2022 while 18% were on track for achievement, but with some delay.

Right to physical and mental health (art. 12)

34. Information covering:

The impact of COVID-19 on the National Health Service (NHS):

The NHS will triage patients waiting for elective care, including surgeries, through three key stages. Firstly, through clinical prioritisation, ensuring the order in which patients are seen reflects clinical judgement on need. Secondly, by targeting those waiting the longest, and thirdly by increasing the number of cancer referrals, ensuring those patients who have not yet presented to services are included. Thanks to the brilliant work of NHS staff, levels of first treatments following an urgent cancer referral have been consistently above pre-pandemic levels, with activity in September 2023 standing at 108% of pre-pandemic levels on a per working day basis. And over 335,000 (335,855) people received their first cancer treatment in the 12 months to October 2023.

35. The Mental Health Act 1983 and mental health strategies:

Other jurisdictions

NI

The Mental Health Strategy 2021 - 2031 sets out the vision for Northern Ireland as a society which promotes emotional wellbeing and positive mental health for everyone with a lifespan approach, which supports recovery, and seeks to reduce stigma and mental health inequalities.

The Strategy seeks to reduce barriers so that the individual and their needs are placed right at the centre, respecting diversity, equality and human rights, and ensuring people have access to the most appropriate, high-quality help and treatment at the right time, and in the right place. The aim is for a regionally consistent system that provides equity of service for everyone.

36. Sexual and reproductive health:

Women also have access to safe, regulated termination of pregnancy services under the Abortion Act 1967. These services are available free of charge through the National Health Service. Women seeking an abortion can self-refer by contacting an

abortion provider directly. In addition, women can contact either their GP or a sexual health clinic and ask for a referral to an abortion service.

Other jurisdictions

NI

Regulation 12 of the 2020 Regulations provides for staff to conscientiously object to participation in treatment authorised by the regulations. Staff members who have a conscientious objection are obliged to discuss this with their Trust management in the first instance. The professional regulatory bodies set practice standards in relation to personal beliefs held by regulated professionals. The operation of these standards in the provision of commissioned care pathways is a matter for HSC Trusts. The Department regularly receives assurance from Trusts, through its governance oversight structures, that conscientious objection is being managed appropriately and is not impacting on service delivery. Trusts, as employers, are required to have relevant policies and procedures in place and provide training to staff in relation to conscientious objection. While medical practitioners may exercise their right to conscientious objection where appropriate, this does not appear to limit service provision or access to commissioned pathways which Trusts are on course to provide fully by end of 2023. Legislative amendments are therefore not foreseen at the present time.

A key part of the abortion services project has involved additional investment to enhance sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services across this jurisdiction. Funding has been provided to support recruitment of senior medical and nursing staff within each of the five HSC Trust SRH services. There has been considerable progress with recruitment, including the appointment of NI's first two locum SRH consultants in two out of five Trusts to date. Additionally, each HSC Trust has been allocated a recurrent investment to support training in SRH services and this has facilitated an increase in nurse-led provision of Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC). Since formal commissioning of abortion services from December 2022, including the expansion of SRH services, there has been recruitment in all Trusts.

In addition, an online contraception ordering service is now consistently available across all Trusts and indeed increases access in rural communities where there may be fewer face-to-face services (SRH clinics, Pharmacies) or historic challenges in accessing services. From February 2022 there has been regular communication activity to promote the online contraception service to excellent effect. There are now over 1200 orders for hormonal contraception, including emergency hormonal contraception (the 'morning after pill'), per month. The service provides a flexible way for women to access contraception and feedback shows this is particularly welcome for women with caring responsibilities who find it difficult to get to clinics with fixed appointment times. The Department of Health has also increased access to Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) by including this within the Pharmacy First model. This means women can access EHC for free in participating community pharmacies.

All relevant government public information sources (NI Direct, [Sexual Health Northern Ireland \(sexualhealthni.info\)](#), HSC Trust websites) have been updated to include information on how to access SRH services including abortion services. Under the current governance oversight arrangements for Abortion Services, a specific Task and Finish Group has been established to consider further information and communication in this area as services become more established.

The Department is currently focussed on implementing the current service specification for 2022 – 2025 as instructed by the SoS. Services will be monitored during this period and the current aim is that an external review of services will be undertaken in 2025. At that stage, any proposed changes to the service model or to the current legislative framework will be brought forward to a Minister for consideration and for public consultation as appropriate.

Guernsey

The [Abortion \(Guernsey\) Law, 1997](#) was amended in [2021](#). Section 5(3A) sets out that the legal right to conscientious objection does not apply unless that care provider ensures the woman has sufficient information to make alternative arrangements to access another professional or, where not possible, makes those arrangements for her. Further amendments included increased abortion provision to 24 weeks gestation for women who wish to end their pregnancy for health reasons, and the removal of the gestational threshold within which an abortion can occur in the presence of foetal anomaly. The requirement for a second practitioner to authorise an abortion was removed and the criminal offence of attempting or successfully self-procuring an abortion was similarly removed from statute.

The States of Alderney passed [abortion legislation](#) in 2022 which, when commenced, will repeal extant legislation criminalising abortion among other things. However, as is the case with all specialist care, abortion provision for women resident in Alderney is currently and will continue to be provided in Guernsey under the legal framework set out in Guernsey legislation.

37. Drug use:

Overview of Drug-Related Infectious Diseases in England

In 2021 the prevalence of HIV (measured by antibodies to HIV) among PWID participating in the UAM was 1.5% across England, Wales and NI and has remained low over the last decade. There has been a recent increase prevalence in NI reflective of an ongoing outbreak of HIV and HCV in the country.

Self-reported uptake of voluntary confidential testing for HIV has plateaued over the past decade at 81% in 2021 reporting ever testing for HIV and 33% in the current or previous year.

In 2021 5.9% of participants in the UAM had a marker of ever being infected with hepatitis B virus (anti-HBc) which has declined from 16% in 2012. Among those with evidence of ever being infected with hepatitis B virus, 4.0% had evidence of current infection (HBsAg positive) which has not changed over the past decade.

However, uptake of at least one dose of HBV vaccine among survey participants has declined over the past decade and more needs to be done to optimise offer and uptake of vaccination.

In 2021 57% of participants in the UAM survey had evidence of ever being infected with HCV (anti-HCV). Among those with evidence of ever infection with hepatitis C virus, the prevalence of current infection (RNA positive) declined to 26% in 2021 from 58% in 2012 and corresponds to the scale-up of directly acting antivirals. Among the whole cohort 14.4% had evidence of current infection (RNA positive) which is a decline from 28.1% in 2015. [\[Link 3\]](#)

Self reported uptake of diagnostic HCV testing has remained steady over the past decade at 86% in 2021 with an increase in testing in the current or previous year to 43% in 2021. Although awareness of current HCV infection would be expected to decline as those with diagnosed HCV are linked to care and treatment, awareness of current infection in 2021 was 30% among survey participants. However, as the survey is offered alongside diagnostic BBV testing this proportion is likely higher once participants receive their results shortly after.

Using data reported to the HIV and AIDS reporting system, 62 people newly diagnosed with HIV in 2022 reported exposure through injecting drug use compared to 97 in 2018. In 2022, 1354 people living with diagnosed HIV were attending HIV care.

Other jurisdictions

Wales

In 2021, there were 322 drug poisoning deaths registered in Wales. This is an increase of 44 per cent compared to the previous year where 224 deaths were reported.

Of these, 210 (65%) were classified as drug misuse deaths, up 41 per cent from 149 the previous year. This is the highest number of drug misuse deaths ever reported in Wales.

Opioids remain the most common substances reported in Wales with 46% of in drug poisonings deaths reporting at least one opioid. The most commonly reported was Heroin/Morphine, which was reported in 62% all deaths involving opioids.

Benzodiazepines were the second most recorded substance group, reported in 61 deaths.

Drug legislation:

Legislation in relation to the misuse of drugs is not a devolved matter and any review of criminalising personal drug use would remain a responsibility at UK Government level.

Overdose Measures:

Welsh Government continues to fund Naloxone (a drug which temporarily reverses the effects of opiate overdose)

Since the 1st of July 2009 over 35,000 kits have been distributed in Wales and in 2021-22:

3,226 individuals supplied with naloxone (supply or re-supply), an increase of 31 per cent from the previous year.

1,584 new individuals supplied with naloxone, an increase of 70 per cent from the previous year.

6,003 kits supplied, an increase of 47 per cent from the previous year.

There have been 3,371 reported instances where naloxone was used during a suspected opioid poisoning event.

Officials have worked closely with the four police forces on the provision of nasal Naloxone. Police forces in Wales currently provide nasal Naloxone to officers who have volunteered into the scheme.

In total, 731 nasal naloxone kits have been supplied to police officers and has been used 76 times. All areas continue to roll this out with support from substance misuse services and Welsh Government officials including financial support from Welsh Government.

Peer to Peer Distribution:

Wales is the first country in the world to have embedded a National P2PN programme and is delivered across the seven Area Planning Boards, Police Forces, Harm Reduction Leads and Provider Leads. Over 30 trained Peers are now involved in Naloxone Supply, Dry Blood Spot Testing and mobile needle exchange.

Achievements to date:

Over 3,000 Naloxone kits given out with training provided by peers to probation staff, housing staff, security staff, Burger King staff, traffic wardens, social services.

Over 50 BBV tests completed. Other work includes: Peer-led Evaluations, the production of Benzodiazepine Harm Reduction Leaflets & Peer Education/Early warning, alongside attendance at the National Peer and Gwent Drug Related Death groups.

Click and Deliver:

Our national DAN/27 helpline has now launched the all Wales Naloxone Click and Deliver page on www.dan247.org.uk. This was launched on International Overdose Awareness day (31st August): Naloxone Click and Deliver – DAN 247. This service as of 30th October 2023 has distributed 244 kits.

WEDINOS:

The Welsh Emerging Drugs & Identification of Novel Substances (WEDINOS) programme is a vital part of our harm reduction agenda in Wales. Testing substances allows us to examine the chemical compound of the substance but also to convey the risk factors involved when individuals take them. It provides real-time

data and harm reduction information about new and emerging substances circulating across Wales, reducing the harm to individuals.

Buvidal:

The Welsh Government supported the national implementation of injectable buprenorphine (Buvidal) in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Buvidal is an alternative form of Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST) for ex-heroin users and there are over 1,600 service users across Wales now benefitting from this treatment and there is significant anecdotal evidence that many are experiencing significantly improved outcomes.

Right to education (arts. 13-14)

38. Educational attainment and children's access to education:

Remote Learning

The Department for Education along with Sandringham School, developed a training course designed to support school leaders who are responsible for the quality and delivery of remote education provision. Support was also available for schools and colleges in England to get set up on Google Workspace for Education Fundamentals or Microsoft 365 Education. Over 6,000 schools were supported to enrol on a platform. Through a grant funding partnership, Nesta supported the National Tutoring Programme by supporting participating tuition partners to strengthen their digital and online offering and capabilities. Nesta awarded grants of up to £100k to organisations to support projects such as adapting online content to better meet the needs of students with special educational needs (SEN), developing lower-bandwidth platforms, and embedding impact measurement into online provision.

Qualifications

Exams and formal assessments in England, including GCSE, AS level, A level and T Level, went ahead largely as normal in 2023. To acknowledge that students may still have experienced some disruption they were supported in GCSE maths, physics and combined science with formulae and equation sheets during exams. There was also return to pre-pandemic grading with some protection built in against any disruption, which meant that a student was just as likely to achieve a particular grade in 2023 as they would have been before the pandemic.

The Department in November 2023 asked Ofqual to make arrangements to extend formulae and equation sheets for GCSE exams in maths, physics and combined sciences for 2024. Ofqual held a two-week consultation on the changes which closed at the end of November 2023.

Attendance

To improve attendance the previous UK government in England put in place a strategy, which included: publishing new stronger expectations of schools, academy trusts and LAs to work together to improve attendance, deploying 10 expert Attendance Advisers, the collection of data directly from school's electronic registers to help identify children at risk of persistent absence and to enable early intervention,

convening an Attendance Action Alliance of system leaders, doubling the number of attendance hubs to 32 which will see 2000 schools supported to tackle persistent absence.

Attainment and support for disadvantage children

Further wider support for disadvantage children in England is available through several different programmes, including the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme which provides healthy meals, enriching activities, and free childcare places to children from low-income families. Since 2022, the HAF programme has provided 10.7 million HAF days to children and young people in England. The National School Breakfast Programme (NSBP) has been operating since 2018 to set up or improve breakfast clubs in deprived areas. DfE are currently investing up to £40m until the end of the summer term in 2025. Over 2,690 schools are participating in the programme, and Family Action estimates that over 350,000 children are receiving a breakfast from the NSBP on an average school day.

DfE data on completion rates

Age: <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/data-tables/permalink/f0cf6632-d9ed-4136-40b5-08dbf561a83f>

Sex: <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/data-tables/permalink/9486f11b-aa61-40bd-2f5f-08dbf56f0faa>

Region: <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/data-tables/permalink/ceeb86e4-f3dd-40f3-2f60-08dbf56f0faa>

Local authority (in addition to region): <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/data-tables/permalink/85c04594-eff2-426c-40b6-08dbf561a83f>

Special educational needs (disability is unavailable) by type of provision: <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/data-tables/permalink/a6b3560b-c47d-4439-40b8-08dbf561a83f>

Special educational needs (disability is unavailable) by type of provision and type of need: <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/data-tables/permalink/be4b4201-5611-402d-40b9-08dbf561a83f>

Ethnicity: <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/data-tables/permalink/9c7612db-946b-4920-40b7-08dbf561a83f>

Other jurisdictions

NI

The Department of Education (NI) has in place the [Traveller Child In Education Action Framework](#) and the [Supporting Newcomer Pupils Policy](#), which set out a range of measures aimed at ensuring equal access to education for Irish Traveller and Roma pupils and those pupils who do not share a first language (i.e. English) in common with their teacher/peers. Both policies are under review by DENI to

measure levels of effectiveness and to reflect the increasing complexity of need for children arriving in NI.

The Department uses its Common Formula Funding mechanism to provide a pupil premium for children in education from the newcomer, Traveller and Roma communities.

The Department also funds the Education Authority's (EA) Intercultural Education Service (IES), which aims to meet the additional educational needs of the newcomer, Roma and Traveller communities by providing advice and support to families with school-aged children. The main areas of support include school admissions, transfers, free school meals, uniforms, transport, multi-disciplinary meetings and appeals - including Special Education, Behaviour Support, Education Psychology and Education Welfare.

The Education and Training Inspectorate's evaluation of the Engage Programme for 2020/21 can be found [here](#) and 2021/22 [here](#).

Details of the report and progress to date can be found [here](#).

39. The Shared Education Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 and the Integrated Education Act (Northern Ireland) 2022:

The Integrated Education Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 came into operation on 26 October 2022. The Department of Education has put governance structures in place to oversee the implementation of the Act with both the Steering Group and Working Group meeting regularly with interested parties including Departmental ALB's and other sectoral bodies. Consultation will continue with all groups going forward.

The Department published the Strategy and associated Action Plan on 26 April 2023 as required by the Act.

A consultation on the Action Plan, as required by legislation, launched on 31 August 2023, and closed on 30 November 2023.

A consultation report was published on 29 February 2024.

Section 10 of the Integrated Education Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 required the Department of Education to prepare and publish a report on Integrated education within 2 years of the Act receiving Royal Assent. This report was laid with the Assembly on 26 April 2024.

As implementation of the Act progresses, one of the actions will be to identify the outcomes for children and young people and indicators to measure progress towards achieving those outcomes. This is in line with Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA) methodology and the outcomes and indicators will be included in a future Strategy. An OBA workshop for all bodies in the ongoing consultation process took place on 26 June which proved very useful and informative. There is more work to do in this space and this was highlighted at the most recent IE Act Steering Group. Work is also underway to review and update the Strategy, as required by the legislation.

The Department has allocated £50,000 of initial additional funding to support implementation of the Strategy.

Cultural rights (art. 15)

41. Access to sports, sports facilities and competitions by persons with disabilities and transgender persons:

Sport England's most recent Active Lives for Children and Young People survey, published in December 2023, found that children and young people with disabilities are slightly more active than those without (51% vs 48%), and that disabled children's activity levels are up 4.5% from three years ago.

The most recent Active Lives Survey for adults, published in April 2024, found that those who identify as having a disability are less likely to be active than those who don't (47.8% vs 68.6%). When it comes to competitive sport, national governing bodies set their own policies for who can participate in their sports in domestic competitions.

In 2021 the UK's Sports Councils published Transgender Guidance, which provides domestic sports bodies with a framework to help determine the right position for their sport. The guidance makes clear that inclusion, fairness, and safety cannot always be balanced in gender-affected sport due to the retain physiological advantages from testosterone during male puberty.

42. Access to the internet and digital literacy training, as well as measures to safeguard the right to privacy and cultural identities:

Media literacy

The Department for Education's essential digital skills offer plays an important role in the Department's wider support for the Government's new Digital Strategy, which sets out our vision for harnessing digital transformation, accelerating growth, and building a more inclusive, competitive and innovative digital economy for the future.

From August 2020 the Department for Education introduced a digital entitlement for adults (19+) with no or low digital skills to undertake specified digital qualifications, free of charge:

- Essential Digital Skills Qualifications (EDSQs) at entry level and level 1, introduced in August 2020. EDSQs are based on the new national standards for essential digital skills and are designed to meet the diverse needs of adults with no or low digital skills, reflecting different learning needs, motivations and starting points.
- Digital Functional Skills qualifications (FSQs) at entry level and level 1, introduced in August 2023. Digital FSQs have standardised content and assessment, providing a benchmark of digital skills for employers.

We also fund community learning and other non-regulated learning, such as building confidence in essential digital skills, through the Adult Education Budget. Many Local Authorities and other further education providers are already delivering these

courses that help equip adults with the essential digital skills they need for work, life and further learning.

The Department for Education is committed to supporting teachers to deliver these topics safely and with confidence and has published a range of resources, including RSHE teacher training modules covering ‘online and media’ and ‘internet safety and harms’; and “teaching online safety in schools” non-statutory guidance. In addition, the Oak National Academy, which became an independent Arm’s Length Body in September 2022, will provide adaptable, optional and free support for schools, reducing teacher workload and enabling pupils to access a high-quality curriculum. Oak’s next phase of procurement of curriculum resources launched in October 2023 and will include citizenship, computing and RSHE.

One of the government’s priorities is to ensure that no one is left behind in the digital age. This also includes people who do not have the access or motivation to use the internet.

We aim to ensure that as many people as possible across the whole of the UK, no matter their age or background, can overcome the barriers of digital inclusion and make the most of digital opportunities.

We are working to ensure that online services are as inclusive as possible by making public sector websites accessible to as many people as possible. Furthermore, assisted digital support services aim to increase digital inclusion for those online users who lack digital confidence, digital skills or access to the internet.

The Cabinet Office is monitoring the accessibility of all public sector websites to make sure that everyone, including people with disabilities and impairments, can access public services.

For those unable or unwilling to own a device with internet access, public libraries play an important role in supporting digital inclusion. Around 2,900 public libraries in England provide a trusted network of accessible locations.