



Northern  
Ireland  
Office

## **SECTION 75**

# **EQUALITY SCREENING FORM**

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE POLICY

Name of the policy	Proposed amendments to the Control of Explosives Precursors etc. Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.
Is this an existing, revised or new policy?	Revised
What is it trying to achieve (intended aims/outcomes)?	<p>This policy enhances existing rules around the making available, introduction, possession and use of substances or mixtures that could be misused for the illicit manufacture of explosives, with a view to restricting their availability.</p> <p>This would be achieved by amending the 2014 Regulations to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• give full effect to Regulation (EU) 2019/1148 by ensuring it is enforceable in NI. Regulation (EU) 2019/1148 has applied in Northern Ireland since 1 February 2021, and</li> <li>• match the controls on hexamine, phosphoric acid, hydrochloric acid and sulfur which are currently in place in Great Britain.</li> </ul>
Are there any s75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy? If so, explain how.	No, this legislation will be applied equally to end users and businesses to ensure the safety of all the people of Northern Ireland.
Who initiated or wrote the policy?	<p>In order to facilitate dual access to both the UK Internal Market and the EU Single Market, Northern Ireland continues to apply certain EU rules in relation to explosives precursors under the terms of the Windsor Framework. This instrument will therefore ensure that Northern Ireland fully implements Regulation (EU) 2019/1148 as required by the Windsor Framework.</p> <p>The additional controls on hexamine, phosphoric acid, hydrochloric acid and sulfur which are currently in place in Great Britain, were introduced in the Control of Explosives Precursors and</p>

	Poisons Regulations 2023, which were made by the then Minister for Security in the Home Office.
Who owns and who implements the policy?	<p>The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) are responsible for the policy.</p> <p>NIO, Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) and the Health and Safety Executive (NI) implement and enforce the policy</p>

## IMPLEMENTATION FACTORS

Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision?	Yes
If yes, are they: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- financial</li> <li>- legislative</li> <li>- other (please specify)</li> </ul>	<p>There will be minor resourcing implications for PSNI and HSE(NI) in enforcing the regulations.</p> <p>There will be minor resourcing implications for NIO when issuing licences for controlled explosives precursors.</p>

## MAIN STAKEHOLDERS AFFECTED

Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the policy will impact upon? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- staff</li> <li>- service users</li> <li>- other public sector organisations</li> <li>- voluntary/community/trade unions</li> <li>- other (please specify)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PSNI</li> <li>• Health and Safety Executive (Northern Ireland)</li> <li>• NIO Casework Team</li> <li>• Those who require licences to acquire, introduce, possess or use certain explosives precursors at concentrations above certain limit values.</li> <li>• Suppliers of explosives precursors</li> </ul>
--	---

## OTHER POLICIES WITH A BEARING ON THIS POLICY

What are they?	These regulations update the existing Control of Explosives Precursors etc. Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.
----------------	--

Who owns them?	The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and the NIO are responsible for the policy.

## AVAILABLE EVIDENCE

1.5. Evidence to help inform the screening process may take many forms. Please ensure that your screening decision is informed by relevant data.

**What evidence / information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy? Specify details for each of the s75 categories.**

Section 75 category	Details of evidence/information
Religious belief	There is no requirement for licence applicants to provide this information, or for it to be collected.
Political opinion	There is no requirement for licence applicants to provide this information, or for it to be collected.
Racial group	There is no requirement for licence applicants to provide this information, or for it to be collected.
Age	Collected for Points of Contact from each private company, or members of the general public, who apply to the NIO for an explosives precursor licence
Marital status	There is no requirement for licence applicants to provide this information, or for it to be collected.
Sexual orientation	There is no requirement for licence applicants to provide this information, or for it to be collected.
Men and women generally	There is no requirement for licence applicants to provide this information, or for it to be collected.
Disability	There is no requirement for licence applicants to provide this information, or for it to be collected.
Dependants	There is no requirement for licence applicants to provide this information, or for it to be collected.

## NEEDS, EXPERIENCES AND PRIORITIES

1.6. 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 s75 categories.

Section 75 category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
Religious belief	None identified.
Political opinion	None identified.
Racial group	None identified.
Age	The data is collected to assist with identity verification. From the data provided by licence holders there have been no specific needs or experiences identified.
Marital status	None identified.
Sexual orientation	None identified.
Men and women generally	None identified.
Disability	None identified.
Dependants	None identified.

## PART 2 – SCREENING QUESTIONS

### INTRODUCTION

2.1. In making a decision as to whether or not there is a need to carry out an EQIA, please give consideration to your answers to the questions 1-4 which are given on pages 66-68 of the Equality Commission's "A Guide for Public Authorities".

2.2. If your conclusion is **none** in respect of all of the Section 75 equality of opportunity and/or good relations categories, you may decide to screen the policy out. If a policy is 'screened out' as having no relevance to equality of opportunity or good relations, you should give details of the reasons for the decision taken.

2.3. If your 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.

2.4. If your 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:

- take measures to mitigate the adverse impact; or
- introduce 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.

2.5. 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	The policy is purely technical in nature and will have no bearing in terms of its likely impact on equality of opportunity.	None.
Political opinion	The policy is purely technical in nature and will have no bearing in terms of its likely impact on equality of opportunity.	None.
Racial group	The policy is purely technical in nature and will have no bearing in terms of its likely impact on equality of opportunity.	None.
Age	The policy is purely technical in nature and will have no bearing in terms of its likely impact on equality of opportunity.	None.
Marital status	The policy is purely technical in nature and will have no bearing in terms of its likely impact on equality of opportunity.	None.
Sexual orientation	The policy is purely technical in nature and will have no bearing in terms of its likely impact on equality of opportunity.	None.
Men and women generally	The policy is purely technical in nature and will have no bearing in terms of its likely impact on equality of opportunity.	None.



Disability	The policy is purely technical in nature and will have no bearing in terms of its likely impact on equality of opportunity.	None.
Dependants	The policy is purely technical in nature and will have no bearing in terms of its likely impact on equality of opportunity.	None.

**2. Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories?**

<b>Section 75 category</b>	<b>If Yes, provide details</b>	<b>If No, provide reasons</b>
Religious belief	N/A	There is no evidence to suggest that there is any potential for this Section 75 group to be adversely or disproportionately affected by this revision of the existing policy.
Political opinion	N/A	There is no evidence to suggest that there is any potential for this Section 75 group to be adversely or disproportionately affected by this revision of the existing policy.
Racial group	N/A	There is no evidence to suggest that there is any potential for this Section 75 group to be adversely or disproportionately affected by this revision of the existing policy.
Age	N/A	There is no evidence to suggest that there is any potential for this Section 75 group to be adversely or disproportionately affected by this revision of the existing policy.
Marital status	N/A	There is no evidence to suggest that there is any potential for this Section 75 group to be adversely or disproportionately affected by this revision of the existing policy.
Sexual orientation	N/A	There is no evidence to suggest that there is any potential for this Section 75 group to be adversely or disproportionately affected by this revision of the existing policy.
Men and women generally	N/A	There is no evidence to suggest that there is any potential for this Section 75

		group to be adversely or disproportionately affected by this revision of the existing policy.
Disability	N/A	There is no evidence to suggest that there is any potential for this Section 75 group to be adversely or disproportionately affected by this revision of the existing policy.
Dependants	N/A	There is no evidence to suggest that there is any potential for this Section 75 group to be adversely or disproportionately affected by this revision of the existing policy.

**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)**

<b>Good relations category</b>	<b>Details of policy impact</b>	<b>Level of impact minor/major/none</b>
Religious belief	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.	None
Political opinion	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.	None
Racial group	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.	None

**4. Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?**

<b>Good relations category</b>	<b>If Yes, provide details</b>	<b>If No, provide reasons</b>
Religious belief		This legislation would be applied equally to end users and businesses to ensure the safety of all the people of Northern Ireland. There is no opportunity to promote good relations within the context of this legislation.
Political opinion		This legislation would be applied equally to end users and businesses to ensure the safety of all the people of Northern Ireland. There is no opportunity to promote good relations within the context of this legislation.
Racial group		This legislation would be applied equally to end users and businesses to ensure the safety of all the people of

		Northern Ireland. There is no opportunity to promote good relations within the context of this legislation.
--	--	---

## 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*).

**Provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned.**

No additional impacts on people with multiple identities have been identified.

## PART 3 – SCREENING DECISION

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

The level of impact is judged to be **None** in all Section 75 Categories. Therefore the decision is to **screen out** this policy from requiring an equality impact assessment.

**If the decision is not to conduct an equality impact assessment, you should consider if the policy should be mitigated or an alternative policy be introduced.**

The NIO may revisit the decision to not conduct an equality impact assessment, following the conclusion of the public consultation, to ensure the original assumptions remain accurate in light of any further relevant evidence that may be provided on the matter.

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

The decision is to not subject this policy to an equality impact assessment.

3.1. All public authorities' equality schemes must state the 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 Equality 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 the Equality Commission publication: "Practical Guidance on Equality Impact Assessment".

### MITIGATION

3.2. If you have concluded that the likely impact is 'minor' and an equality impact assessment is not to be conducted, you 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?**  
No

**If so, give the reasons to support your decision, together with the proposed changes/amendments or alternative policy.**

N/A

## TIMETABLING AND PRIORITISING

3.3. 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	N/A
Social need	N/A
Effect on people’s daily lives	N/A
Relevance to the NIO’s functions	N/A
<b>Total rating score (total of 12)</b>	N/A

*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 you in timetabling. Details of the NIO’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?**

N/A (not screened in)

**If yes, please provide details.**

N/A (not screened in)

## **PART 4 – MONITORING**

4.1. The NIO should consider the guidance contained in the Commission's Monitoring Guidance for Use by Public Authorities (July 2007).

4.2. The Equality Commission recommends that where the policy has been amended or an alternative policy introduced, you should monitor more broadly than for adverse impact (See Benefits, P.9-10, paras 2.13 – 2.20 of the Monitoring Guidance).

4.3. Effective monitoring will help you identify any future adverse impact arising from the policy which may lead you to conduct an equality impact assessment, as well as help with future planning and policy development.



## PART 5 - APPROVAL AND AUTHORISATION

<b>Screened by:</b>	SPG Policy Adviser
<b>Grade/Branch/Group:</b>	SEO/National Security Policy Team/Security & Protection Group
<b>Date:</b>	14/04/2025
<b>Approved by Deputy Director:</b>	Security & Protection Group Deputy Director
<b>Date:</b>	14/04/2025

*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 and made available on request.*

*Any screening forms completed within the Department will be published on a six monthly basis in line with our Departmental Equality Policy monitoring arrangements. Such information will be collated and published by the Corporate Governance Team.*

## ANNEX A – MAIN GROUPS IDENTIFIED AS RELEVANT TO THE SECTION 75 CATEGORIES

Category	Example Groups
<b>Religious Belief</b>	<p>Buddhist; Catholic; Hindu; Jewish; Muslims; people of no religious belief; Protestants; Sikh; other faiths.</p> <p>For the purposes of Section 75, the term “religious belief” is the same definition as that used in the <i>Fair Employment &amp; Treatment (NI) Order</i>. Therefore, “religious belief” also includes any <i>perceived</i> religious belief (or perceived lack of belief) and, in employment situations only, it also covers any “<i>similar philosophical belief</i>”.</p>
<b>Political Opinion</b>	Nationalists generally; Unionists generally; members/supporters of other political parties.
<b>Racial Group</b>	Black people; Chinese; Indians; Pakistanis; people of mixed ethnic background; Polish; Roma; Travellers; White people.
<b>Men and women generally</b>	Men (including boys); Trans-gendered people; Transsexual people; Women (including girls).
<b>Marital Status</b>	Civil partners or people in civil partnerships; divorced people; married people; separated people; single people; widowed people.
<b>Age</b>	Children and young people; older people.
<b>Persons with a disability</b>	Persons with disabilities as defined by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.
<b>Persons with dependants</b>	Persons with personal responsibility for the care of a child; care of a person with disability; or the care of a dependant older person.
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	Bisexual people; heterosexual people; gay or lesbian people.

## ANNEX B – SCREENING FLOWCHART

