

# Section 75 Policy Screening Form

## Part 1: Policy Scoping

The first stage of the screening process involves scoping the policy or policy area. The purpose of policy scoping is to help prepare the background and context and set out the aims and objectives for the policy being screened. At this stage, scoping the policy will help identify potential constraints as well as opportunities and will help the policy maker work through the screening process on a step by step basis.

You should remember that the Section 75 statutory duties apply to internal policies (relating to people who work for the authority), as well as external policies (relating to those who are, or could be, served by the authority).

### Information about the policy

Name of the policy or policy area:

**The sale and supply of alcoholic drinks at “special events” in Northern Ireland**

Is this an existing, revised or a new policy/policy area?

Existing	Revised	New
	X	

**Brief Description**

The policy intention is to give the Department the power to vary permitted hours at “special events” and to permit off-sales in certain circumstances.

The perceived restrictive nature of Northern Ireland’s liquor licensing laws has been cited as a difficulty for the organisers of special events who are often used to operating in jurisdictions where permitted hours for the sale of alcoholic drinks are more flexible.

There have also been difficulties for local producers of craft beers, ciders, whiskeys and gins who have been unable to sell their products for consumption off the premises at events such as the BBC Good Food Show.

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

To give the Department the power to:

- Designate an event as a “special event”;
- Vary permitted hours at “special events”;
- Permit the sale of alcoholic drinks for consumption off the premises at “special events”; and
- Impose conditions on a “special event”.

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

YES	NO	N/A
		X

If YES, explain how.

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

Department for Communities

Who owns and who implements each element of the policy?

Department for Communities

**Implementation factors**

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

YES	NO	N/A
X		

If YES, are they

Financial: Y / N (If YES, please detail)

NO

Legislative: Y / N (If YES, please detail)

YES. The policy change can only be delivered through legislation which would be brought through the Assembly or Westminster.

Other, please specify:

NO

**Main stakeholders affected**

Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the policy will impact upon?

**Staff:**

N/A

**Service users:**

All consumers attending a designated “special event” who wish to purchase alcoholic drinks.

**Other public sector organisations:**

N/A

**Voluntary/community/trade unions:**

N/A

**Other, please specify:**

N/A

**Other policies with a bearing on this policy**

What are they and who owns them?

N/A

**Available evidence**

Evidence to help inform the screening process may take many forms. Public authorities should ensure that their 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** Section 75 categories.

Section 75 Category	Details of Evidence/Information
All	<p>Major events such as The 148<sup>th</sup> Open Golf Championship at Royal Portrush Golf Club in July 2019 make a very significant contribution to the income of Northern Ireland.</p> <p>For example, more than 190,000 spectators are expected to attend the Event, 55% of which will be visitors from outside Northern Ireland (out of state visitors). This will equate to c.104,500 visitors and it is anticipated that with the high numbers of out of state visitors that the event will deliver total bed nights well in excess of 95,000. In addition, the 148<sup>th</sup> Open will be broadcast to 80 million homes across 150 countries of the world.</p> <p>The economic impact study estimates that £17.5 million will be spent off-course during the week of The Open in local hotels, shops, restaurants and bars in the Causeway Coast and Glens council area.</p> <p>Promoting a VIP service to invited guests through corporate hospitality is a major element of the event experience and the sale of promotional products, ‘Bespoke Open Whiskey’ in the case of The Open, forms part of that offering. The sale of such products may also be required under contractual arrangements between the organisers and their commercial event partners.</p>

Section 75 Category	Details of Evidence/Information
	<p>The current restrictions on the sale of alcoholic drinks are viewed by organisers of “special events” as a major risk to event viability and disincentive for the return of future events to Northern Ireland. If the expectations regarding the quality of the event experience in not met, the resultant loss of potential visitor numbers and associated expenditure at such events would be a major loss of potential income for NI.</p>

**Note to reader** - If you are aware of and would like the Department to take into account any further evidence or information relevant to this policy, please send this to

**Special Events Consultation  
 Department for Communities  
 Social Policy Unit  
 Level 8, Causeway Exchange  
 1-7 Bedford Street  
 Belfast  
 BT2 7EG**

**email: [social.policy@communities-ni.gov.uk](mailto:social.policy@communities-ni.gov.uk)**

**Needs, experiences and priorities**

Taking into account the information referred to above, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories, in relation to the particular policy/decision? Specify details for **each** of the Section 75 categories

<b>Section 75 Category</b>	<b>Details of Needs/Experiences/Priorities</b>
All	Not applicable

## **Part 2: Screening Questions**

Taking into account the earlier evidence, consider and comment on the likely impact on equality of opportunity / good relations for those affected by this policy, by applying the 4 screening questions and the impact on the group i.e. minor, major or none.

When answering the 4 screening questions:

1. If the conclusion is **none** in respect of all of the Section 75 categories, then you may decide to screen the policy **out**. If a policy is 'screened out', you should give details of the reasons for the decision taken.
2. If the conclusion is **major** in respect of one or more of the Section 75 categories, then consideration should be given to subjecting the policy to an EQIA.
3. If the conclusion is **minor** in respect of one or more of the Section 75 categories, then consideration should still be given to proceeding with an EQIA, or to measures to mitigate the adverse impact; or an alternative policy.

### **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 hence it would be appropriate to conduct an EQIA;
- 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 among 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 differing 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.



**Screening questions****Question 1**

<b>1 What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 grounds? <b>Minor/Major/None</b></b>		
<b>Section 75 Category</b>	<b>Details of Policy Impact</b>	<b>Level of Impact? Minor/Major/None</b>
<b>Religious belief</b>	It is not expected that changes to the restrictions on the sale of alcoholic drinks at special events will have an adverse impact on people of different religious beliefs	None
<b>Political opinion</b>	It is not expected that changes to the restrictions on the sale of alcoholic drinks at special events will have an adverse impact on people of different political opinions	None
<b>Racial / ethnic group</b>	It is not expected that changes to the restrictions on the sale of alcoholic drinks at special events will have an adverse impact on people of different racial/ethnic groups	None
<b>Age</b>	It is not expected that changes to the restrictions on the sale of alcoholic drinks at special events will have an adverse impact on people of different ages	None
<b>Marital status</b>	It is not expected that changes to the restrictions on the sale of alcoholic drinks at special events will have an adverse impact on people of different marital status	None
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	It is not expected that changes to the restrictions on the sale of alcoholic drinks at special events will have an adverse impact on people of different sexual orientation	None

1 What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 grounds? <b>Minor/Major/None</b>		
<b>Section 75 Category</b>	<b>Details of Policy Impact</b>	<b>Level of Impact? Minor/Major/None</b>
<b>Men and women generally</b>	It is not expected that changes to the restrictions on the sale of alcoholic drinks at special events will have an adverse impact on men and women generally	None
<b>Disability</b>	It is not expected that changes to the restrictions on the sale of alcoholic drinks at special events will have an adverse impact on people with a disability	None
<b>Dependants</b>	It is not expected that changes to the restrictions on the sale of alcoholic drinks at special events will have an adverse impact on those people with dependants	None

**2** Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within any of the Section 75 categories?  
 If not, then No should be selected and reasons as to why not should be included in the No column.

Section 75 Category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide reasons
		No. Generally speaking changes to the restrictions on the sale of alcoholic drinks at special events would apply to all categories (except for young people under 18 years of age who are not permitted to purchase or consume alcoholic drinks)

**3** To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group? **Minor/Major/None**

Good Relations Category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact Minor/Major/None
<b>Religious belief</b>	The policy will have no impact on people of different religious belief.	None
<b>Political opinion</b>	The policy will have no impact on people of different political opinion.	None
<b>Racial group</b>	The policy will have no impact on people of different racial groups.	None

<p><b>4</b> Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?</p>		
<p><b>Good relations category</b></p>	<p>If <b>Yes</b>, provide details</p>	<p>If <b>No</b>, provide reasons</p>
		<p>No. Generally speaking changes to the restrictions on the sale of alcoholic drinks at special events would apply to all categories (except for young people under 18 years of age who are not permitted to purchase or consume alcoholic drinks)</p>

**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).

No. Generally speaking changes to the restrictions on the sale of alcoholic drinks at special events would apply to all categories (except for young people under 18 years of age who are not permitted to purchase or consume alcoholic drinks)

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

**Not applicable**

## **Part 3: Screening Decision**

In light of your answers to the previous questions, do you feel that the policy should:  
(please underline one)

- 1. Not be subject to an EQIA (with no mitigating measures required)**
- 2. Not be subject to an EQIA (with mitigating measures /alternative policies)**
- 3. Not be subject to an EQIA at this time**
- 4. Be subject to an EQIA**

If 1 or 2 (i.e. not be subject to an EQIA), please provide details of the reasons why:

Having screened the proposal, it is considered that it does not have significant implications for equality of opportunity and that an equality impact assessment is not necessary.

If 2 (i.e. not be subject to an EQIA), in what ways can identified adverse impacts attaching to the policy be mitigated or an alternative policy be introduced?

Not applicable.

In light of these revisions, is there a need to re-screen the revised/alternative policy at a future date? YES / NO

NO

If 3. or 4. (i.e. to conduct an EQIA), please provide details of the reasons:

N/A

**Timetabling and Prioritising EQIA**

**If 3. or 4., is the policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities? YES / NO**

**If YES, please provide details:**

NO

Proposed date for commencing EQIA: \_\_\_\_\_

**Any further comments on the screening process and any subsequent actions?**

None

## Part 4: Monitoring

Effective monitoring will help identify any future adverse impacts arising from the policy which may lead you to conduct an EQIA, as well as help with future planning and policy development. You should consider the guidance contained in the Commission's Monitoring Guidance for Use by Public Authorities (July 2007). The Commission recommends that where the policy has been amended or an alternative policy introduced, then you should monitor more broadly than for adverse impact (See Benefits, P.9-10, paras 2.13 – 2.20 of the Monitoring Guidance).

Please detail proposed monitoring arrangements below:

The Department must consult with appropriate stakeholders before it can make an order under the proposed provisions. This will help identify any future adverse impacts.

## Part 5: Approval and Authorisation

<b>Screened by:</b>	<b>Position/Job Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Liam Quinn	Head of Social Policy Unit	22.3.2019
<b>Approved by:</b>		
Anthony Carleton	Director of Local Government Policy	22.3.2019