

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

Sport NI is introducing a new capital investment programme (Pathways), which will consist of a one strand investment process that seeks to integrate the facility needs of community participants and high performance athletes (where practicable) within the same multi-sport environment.

It is proposed that the new programme will be developed within the context of government strategies and will prioritise organisations with the greatest potential to impact upon government priorities, such as: equality of opportunity and good relations, poverty, and social exclusion.

The programme will be funded by a Lottery budget of £17.5million (and will have the potential to optimise any additional exchequer opportunities) over a five year period (subject to business case analysis and approval).

Name of the policy:

Sport Northern Ireland's (Sport NI) New Capital Investment Programme

Is this an existing, revised or a new policy?

New policy

What is it trying to achieve? (Intended aims/outcomes)

The new capital programme aim to:

- Partially address the under-provision in high performance training facilities, particularly for those sports that have appropriate systems and processes in place to deliver success at the highest level.
- Partially address the sports facility deficits identified in the 2009 Active Places Research Report and the anticipated Sub Regional Sports Facilities Strategies.
- Partially address the perceived under-performance of Northern Ireland athletes in high performance sport.
- Increase community participation in sport and physical recreation, particularly amongst under-represented groups.

The proposed objectives of the new capital programme are:

1. To build capacity amongst a diversity of potential applicant groups including governing bodies of sport, district councils and community/voluntary organisations through a supportive outreach function that will include workshops, individual guidance, and support.
2. To invest in applicants that have the potential to positively impact on government priorities, which include: equality of opportunity and good relations, poverty, and social exclusion.
3. To apply a competitive or methodology based application process to determine the distribution of capital funding. In particular, Sport NI will ensure that all investments are based on strategic need.
4. To ensure that large capital investments can be supported by further revenue investment thereby increasing the sustainability of and the strategic outcomes from supported projects.

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

It is anticipated that all nine of the Section 75 categories could potentially benefit from the new capital programme by the provision of local accessible facilities that will enhance sporting opportunities for both elite athletes and the wider community.

If so, explain how.

Sports facilities or equipment funded through Sport NI's new capital programme will be accessible to all users from the nine Section 75 categories, in particular potential users from areas of social deprivation. .

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

Sport Northern Ireland.

Who owns and who implements the policy?

Sport NI owns the policy and is responsible for its implementation.

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

Financial: Yes

Legislative: Yes

Other, please specify: N/A

Main stakeholders affected

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

Staff: Sport NI Staff

Service users: Governing Bodies of Sport; sportspeople, local communities .

Other public sector organisations: District Councils, Education Authorities, Schools, Other Public Bodies.

Voluntary/community/trade unions: Community Associations, Sports Clubs, Voluntary Organisations

Other, please specify N/A

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

- What are they? And Who owns them?
- 1. Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister: Programme for Government 2011-15 (OFMDFM owns this policy)
- 2. Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister: Together: Building a United Community Strategy, 2013 (OFMDFM owns this policy)
- 3. Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister: Lifetime Opportunities: Government's Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion Strategy for Northern Ireland (OFMDFM owns this policy)
- 4. Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure: Corporate Plan and Balanced Scorecard 2011-15 (DCAL owns this policy)
- 5. Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure: Sport Matters: The Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation 2009-19 (DCAL owns this policy)
- 6. Sport NI Corporate Plan 2012-15 (SNI owns this policy)
- 7. Sport NI Business Plans 2013/14 and 2014/15 (Draft) (SNI owns these policies)
- 8. Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (OFMDFM owns this policy)
- 9. Other SNI programmes/policies that the new Capital programmes will complement include Active Communities, Clubmark, Club Leaders, PerformanceFocus.

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 relevant Section 75 categories.

Section 75 category	Details of evidence/information
	<p><u>Pre Consultation</u></p> <p>To date, Sport NI has consulted both the governing bodies of sport and a number of sports clubs that had been involved in earlier rounds of funding including the Sports Matters Community Capital Programme.</p> <p>Sport NI consulted individually with Governing Bodies of Sport to ascertain their preferred high performance training facility, a development location, and a potential delivery partner (s). Where possible, Sport NI has completed an indicative cost analysis of each proposal. To date, the consultation exercise would suggest an overwhelming need for high performance training facilities in Northern Ireland, the total cost of which is unlikely to be affordable through current indicative budgets.</p> <p>Sport NI began its preparation for consultation by contacting a number of applicants (successful and unsuccessful) to the Sport Matters Community Capital Programme. Applicants were asked for their views on a number of issues, including their experience of the previous programme and their thoughts on any new capital programmes. In addition, Sport NI has conducted a high level consultation with the District Councils through the Chief Leisure Officer Association (CLOA); initial feedback to the proposed process is positive.</p> <p>Whilst no Section 75 group will be specifically excluded from availing of the benefits of the programme it should be noted that the programme will involve an applications process whereby projects that demonstrate high quality in relation to engaging with under-represented groups will be afforded higher priority. These priority areas are consistent with key strategies and research as discussed in the Business Case.</p>

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

Section 75 category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
Religious belief & Political Opinion	Sport NI acknowledges that community background is often reflected in sporting activities and interests. The different needs of every community will continue to be recognised and reflected in the distribution of resources.
Racial group	Minority ethnic groups may have particular needs with regard to sporting provision that may not always have been addressed directly in the past.
Age	The age profile of participation in sport is often determined by the nature of the activity itself and the set-up of the organisation responsible for governing the sport
Sexual Orientation	Sports participation among those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transsexual is currently unknown; however, Sport NI is actively endeavouring to gain further understanding of this community and its sporting needs.
Men & Women Generally, Disability, Marital Status & Dependents	Sport NI acknowledges that gender, marital status, disability and dependency are often reflected in the profile of sporting activities and interests. The different needs of the each S75 category will continue to be recognised and reflected in the distribution of resources.

Part 2: Screening Questions

Introduction

1. If the public authority's 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 public authority's 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 public authority's 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 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.

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 following screening questions and the 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 grounds? Minor/Major/None		
Section 75 category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact? Minor/Major/None
Religious belief	<p>The introduction of a new funding programme is likely to encourage a more equitable distribution of resources according to need and potential to deliver on social outcomes, including: equality of opportunity, poverty, and social deprivation.</p> <p>Those communities and sports that are perceived to be under-represented will find increased opportunities for capacity building and obtaining funding. The Multiple Deprivation Measure may feature in the scoring criteria for both programmes, and although deprivation is not specified under S75, the beneficiaries of this criterion are likely to be S75 groups.</p> <p>It is hoped that the the new programme will promote equality of opportunity among marginalised groups across all S75 grounds.</p>	Minor
Political opinion		
Racial group		
Age		
Marital status		
Sexual orientation		
Men and women generally		
Disability		
Dependants		
2 Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within any of the Section 75 categories?		
Section 75	If Yes , provide details	If No , provide reasons

category		
All	<p>See above.</p> <p>The introduction of a new capital programme represents an opportunity to redress inequalities through targeted investment aimed at those who can demonstrate the greatest potential to deliver on social outcomes, including: equality of opportunity, poverty, and social deprivation. While these outcomes do not specify S75 groups, it is highly likely that many disadvantaged communities, which include members of the S75 Groups, will benefit from the programmes.</p> <p>All successful applicants to Sport NI's capital programme will be required to sign up to an equality and good relations clause within the Standard Terms & Conditions of Award.</p>	

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
Religious belief	<p>Sport NI's new capital programme will help to promote good relations through the development of selection criteria and 'conditions of contract' that will ensure that all funded facilities are inclusive and thereby promote a culture that fosters cross community engagement.</p> <p>All successful applicants to Sport NI's capital programme will be required to sign up to an equality and good relations clause within the Standard Terms & Conditions of Award.</p>	Minor
Political opinion		
Racial group		

4 Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?		
Good relations category	If Yes , provide details	If No , provide reasons
ALL	Sport NI's new capital programme will help to promote good relations through development of selection criteria and 'conditions of contract' that will ensure that all funded facilities are inclusive and thereby promote a culture that fosters cross community engagement.	

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).

N/A

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

N/A

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:

Sport NI does not anticipate that the new capital programme will negatively discriminate against any Section 75 group, but instead, through selective funding and contractual obligations will promote equality of opportunity and good relations by embedding sport within the 'heart of the community' through multi-sport/multi-use sporting hubs.

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?

In light of these revisions, is there a need to re-screen the revised/alternative policy? Yes / No. If No, please explain why

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

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:

Please answer the following questions to determine priority for timetabling the EQIA. 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 EQIA.

Priority criterion	Rating (1-3)
Effect on equality of opportunity and good relations	2
Social need	2
Effect on people's daily lives	2
Relevance to a public authority's functions	1

Note: The Total Rating Score should be used to prioritise the policy in rank order with other policies screened in for EQIA. This list of priorities will assist you in timetabling the EQIA. Details of your EQIA timetable should be included in the quarterly Section 75 report.

Proposed date for commencing EQIA: _____

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:

1. Sport NI will ensure that the appropriate provision of data, targets and indicators are set and collated.
2. Sport NI will provide information to enable the analysis of the direct and indirect impact of the policy.
3. Sport NI will monitor, evaluate and review on a regular basis to ensure that progress is made.
4. Implementation of this policy position will ensure that the investment and activities in relation to the new capital programmes are monitored and evaluated effectively at all levels.

Part 5: Approval and Authorisation

Screened by:	Position/Job Title	Date
Approved by:		

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, made easily accessible on your website as soon as possible following completion and made available on request.