

Section 75 Policy Screening Form

Part 1. Policy scoping

The first stage of the screening process involves scoping the policy under consideration. 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.

Public authorities 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:

Taking Digital Further... the growth strategy for the Digital Media Sector in Northern Ireland, 2013-2015

Is this an existing, revised or a new policy?

New

What is it trying to achieve?

This is a forward looking sector strategy which aims to help Northern Ireland companies compete in global markets through developing a programme of work across the following six themes:-

- Active collaboration
- Value through innovation
- Internationalisation
- World class talent
- Enabling infrastructure
- Smart investment.

The programme aims to :-

Targets: By 2015

- To increase the number of digital media businesses accessing Invest NI support programmes for the first time by 90 (30 per annum)
- Tier 3 businesses: To increase the number of new digital media business start-ups by 180 (60 per annum)

Implementation factors

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

If yes, are they



financial



legislative



other, please specify

New HM Treasury policies relating to Digital Media, such as Creative Industry tax credits, may impact on the strategy; this will be considered in any future review.

Main stakeholders affected

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



staff



service users



other public sector organisations



voluntary/community/trade unions



other, please specify – Momentum; Digital Circle; Digital Derry;

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

• what are they?

Digital NI 2020 2010-2013

Digital Content Strategy “Building the Foundations” 2008-2011

Northern Ireland Screen “Driving Global Growth” Strategy 2010-2014

Age	<p>Previous related programmes, specifically the Collaborative Networks Programme, have informed this policy. As had the interim evaluation of NI Screen. There is no evidence of adverse impact on this S75 Category.</p>
Marital status	<p>Previous related programmes, specifically the Collaborative Networks Programme, have informed this policy. As had the interim evaluation of NI Screen. There is no evidence of adverse impact on this S75 Category.</p>
Sexual orientation	<p>Previous related programmes, specifically the Collaborative Networks Programme, have informed this policy. As had the interim evaluation of NI Screen. There is no evidence of adverse impact on this S75 Category.</p>
Men and women generally	<p>Previous related programmes, specifically the Collaborative Networks Programme, have informed this policy. As had the interim evaluation of NI Screen. There is no evidence of adverse impact on this S75 Category.</p>
Disability	<p>Previous related programmes, specifically the Collaborative Networks Programme, have informed this policy. As has the interim evaluation of NI Screen. There is no evidence of adverse impact on this S75 Category.</p> <p>However, all corporate literature will be available in alternative formats. Reasonable adjustments will be made on request.</p>
Dependants	<p>Previous related programmes, specifically the Collaborative Networks Programme, have informed this policy. As had the interim evaluation of NI Screen. There is no evidence of adverse impact on this S75 Category.</p>

- the introduction of 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.

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
ALL	None anticipated at this time	None
2 Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories?		
Section 75 category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide reasons
ALL		No this strategy does not lend itself to particular promotion in this area and is applicable across the entire digital industry within N Ireland
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
ALL	None anticipated at this time	None
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		No this strategy does not lend itself to particular promotion in this area and is applicable across the entire digital industry within N Ireland

All public authorities' equality schemes must state the authority's 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 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 a separate Commission publication: Practical Guidance on Equality Impact Assessment.

Mitigation

When the public authority concludes that the likely impact is 'minor' and an equality impact assessment is not to be conducted, the public authority 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?

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

None necessary

Timetabling and prioritising

Factors to be considered in timetabling and prioritising policies for equality impact assessment

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	
Social need	

Part 4. Monitoring

Public authorities 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, the public authority should monitor more broadly than for adverse impact (See Benefits, P.9-10, paras 2.13 – 2.20 of the Monitoring Guidance).

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

Part 5 - Approval and authorisation

Screened by:	Position/Job Title	Date
Pamela Marron <i>Pamela Marron.</i>	<i>Equality Manager.</i>	<i>13/06/13.</i>
Approved by: <i>Tracey Walsh</i>	<i>GRADE 7</i>	<i>13/06/13</i>
Tracey Walsh		

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 the public authority's website as soon as possible following completion and made available on request.