

# DfE EQUALITY 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

Proposal relating to a revised Approved Code of Practice (ACOP) and guidance - "Prevention of fire and explosion, and emergency response on offshore installations", drafted by the Health and Safety Executive for Great Britain (HSE), which HSENI proposes to approve for use in Northern Ireland.

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Is this an existing, revised or a new policy?

Revised

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

The ACOP and guidance set out what duty holders have to do to comply with Offshore Installations (Prevention of Fire and Explosion, and Emergency Response) Regulations 1995. They deal specifically with the prevention of fire and explosions on offshore installations and how to protect people on them should such an incident occur, including emergency response arrangements for evacuation, escape, rescue, and recovery. The equivalent legislation in Northern Ireland is the Offshore Installations (Prevention of Fire and Explosion, and Emergency Response) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (PFEER).

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

If so, explain how.

The benefits from the ACOP and guidance will apply equally to all S75 categories and to others affected by the guidance.

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Who initiated or wrote the policy?

HSE

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Who owns and who implements the policy?

Subject to approval for use in Northern Ireland the policy is owned and implemented in Northern Ireland by the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland.

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### **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 \_\_\_\_\_
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### **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 - Duty holders in connection with offshore installations.

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

- what are they?

The Löfstedt review of health and safety legislation 'Reclaiming health and safety for all'. A UK Government independent review to make proposals for simplifying health and safety law.

- who owns them?

Department for Work & Pensions

## 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 of the Section 75 categories.

<b>Section 75 category</b>	<b>Details of evidence/information</b>
Religious belief	As there are currently no offshore installations in Northern Ireland territorial waters there is no available data. However, in the event of there being such installations in the future, the revisions to the ACOP and guidance would apply equally beneficially to all Section 75 categories and others.
Political opinion	As above.
Racial group	As above.
Age	As above.
Marital status	As above.
Sexual orientation	As above.
Men and women generally	As above.
Disability	As above.
Dependants	As above.

## 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>
Religious belief	As there are currently no offshore installations in Northern Ireland territorial waters there is no available data. However, in the event of there being such installations in the future, the revisions to the ACOP and guidance would apply equally beneficially to all Section 75 categories and others.
Political opinion	As above.
Racial group	As above.
Age	As above.
Marital status	As above.
Sexual orientation	As above.
Men and women generally	As above.
Disability	As above.
Dependants	As above.

## Part 2. Screening questions

### Introduction

In making a decision as to whether or not there is a need to carry out an equality impact assessment, the public authority should consider its answers to the questions 1-4 detailed below.

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

If the public authority's 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.

If the public authority's 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:

- measures to mitigate the adverse impact; or
- 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.
- 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 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 detailed below 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	Revisions to the ACOP and guidance on how to comply with the requirements of the Offshore Installations (Prevention of Fire and Explosion, and Emergency Response)) Regulations 1995. It is proposed that the ACOP should be approved for use in Northern Ireland.	None. The ACOP and guidance have been up-dated and simplified. There are currently no offshore installations in Northern Ireland territorial waters. As such the revisions have no bearing on equality of opportunity.
Political opinion	As above	As above
Racial group	As above	As above
Age	As above	As above
Marital status	As above	As above
Sexual orientation	As above	As above
Men and women generally	As above	As above
Disability	As above	As above
Dependants	As above	As above

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

Section 75 category	If <b>yes</b> , provide details	If <b>no</b> , provide reasons
Religious belief		There are currently no offshore installations in Northern Ireland territorial waters. However, in the event of there being such installations in the future, it is anticipated that the revisions to the ACOP and guidance would apply equally beneficially to all of the Section 75 Groups and to other groups and have no relevance to the promotion of equality of opportunity.
Political opinion		As above
Racial group		As above
Age		As above
Marital status		As above
Sexual orientation		As above
Men and women generally		As above
Disability		As above
Dependants		As above

**3 To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?**

Section 75 category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact minor/major/none
Religious belief	Revisions to the ACOP and guidance on how to comply with the requirements of the Offshore Installations (Prevention of Fire and Explosion, and Emergency Response) Regulations)1995. It is proposed that the ACOP and guidance should be approved for use in Northern Ireland.	None. The ACOP and guidance have been updated and simplified. There are currently no offshore installations in Northern Ireland territorial waters. As such the revisions have no bearing on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group
Political opinion	As above	As above
Racial group	As above	As above

4 Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion, or racial group?		
Good relations category	If <b>yes</b> , provide details	If <b>no</b> , provide reasons
Religious belief		There are currently no offshore installations in Northern Ireland territorial waters. However, in the event of such installations in the future, it is anticipated that the revisions to the ACOP and guidance would apply equally beneficially to all of the Section 75 Groups and to other groups and have no relevance to the promotion of good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.
Political opinion		As above
Racial group		As above

## **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.

Although there is no available data the revisions to guidance will apply equally to all of the Section 75 Groups and adverse impact on people with multiple identities is not anticipated.

### Part 3. Screening decision

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

The provisions of the revised ACOP and guidance would apply universally and be expected to benefit, rather than adversely impact, all of the Section 75 groups equally and to the same extent as other groups.

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

The provisions of the revised ACOP and guidance would apply universally and be expected to benefit, rather than adversely impact, all of the Section 75 groups equally. There are therefore no grounds for mitigation or alternative policies.

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

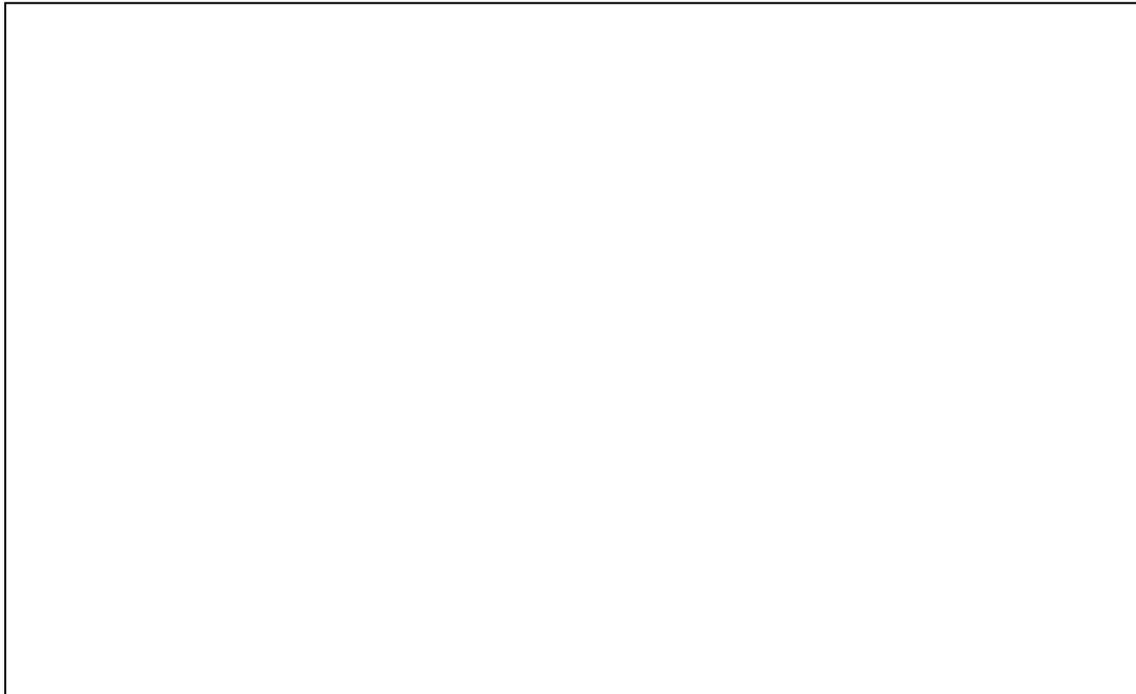
All public authorities' equality schemes must state the authority's arrangements for assessing and consulting on the likely impact of policies adopted or proposed to be adopted by the authority on the promotion of equality of opportunity. The Commission recommends screening and equality impact assessment 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.

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## 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	
Effect on people's daily lives	
Relevance to a public authority's functions	

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 the public authority in timetabling. Details of the Public Authority'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?

If yes, please provide details

## **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. Disability Duties**

Under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (as amended by the Disability Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 2006), public authorities, when exercising their functions, are required to have due regard to the need:

- **to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people; and**
- **to encourage participation by disabled people in public life.**

5. Does this policy/legislation have any potential to contribute towards promoting positive attitudes towards disabled people or towards encouraging participation by disabled people in public life? If yes, please give brief details.

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**Signed:** Pat Millen  
**Head of Group**

**Branch:** HSENI LEGISLATION UNIT

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