

Appendix I - Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) Template

SECTION 1 - Defining the activity subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

1A. Name of Public Authority.

The Department of Justice (DoJ)

1B. Please provide a short title which describes the activity being undertaken by the Public Authority that is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.

Review of the list of qualifying offences as specified under Article 53A of the Police and Criminal Evidence (NI) Order 1989 (PACE NI)

1C. Please indicate which category the activity specified in Section 1B above relates to.

Developing a Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adopting a Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implementing a Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Revising a Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Designing a Public Service	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Delivering a Public Service	<input type="checkbox"/>				

1D. Please provide the official title (if any) of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service document or initiative relating to the category indicated in Section 1C above.

Review of the list of qualifying offences as specified under Article 53A of the Police and Criminal Evidence (NI) Order 1989

1E. Please provide details of the aims and/or objectives of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service.

The DoJ is seeking to amend PACE NI in order to implement a new DNA and fingerprint retention framework which will comply with the Marper and Gaughran European Court of Human Rights judgments. The new framework is based on a 75/50/25 retention model for DNA and fingerprints taken in Northern Ireland with the longest retention period applying if an individual receives a conviction for a 'qualifying offence'. Qualifying offences are considered to be the most serious offences, with the existing list of qualifying offences contained in Article 53A of PACE NI. The subject of this assessment is the addition of offences to Article 53A of PACE NI following a review of the current list of qualifying offences, which was carried out to ensure the list is as complete as possible, given its importance in ensuring a graduated response to the retention of biometric material as part of the Department's new fingerprint and DNA retention model. The current list in NI contains offences such as murder, rape, grievous bodily harm, robbery and burglary, sexual offences and firearms offences. The DoJ proposals involve the updating of Article 53A to include historic repealed offences, offences broadly similar to offences already contained in Article 53A, offences deemed to be serious because of their impact on society or because they may lead to or be associated with the most serious offences.

1F. What definition of 'rural' is the Public Authority using in respect of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?

Population Settlements of less than 5,000 (Default definition).

Other Definition (Provide details and the rationale below).

A definition of 'rural' is not applicable.

Details of alternative definition of 'rural' used.

N/A

Rationale for using alternative definition of 'rural'.

N/A

Reasons why a definition of 'rural' is not applicable.

N/A

SECTION 2 - Understanding the impact of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

2A. Is the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service likely to impact on people in rural areas?

Yes No If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **2E**.

2B. Please explain how the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas.

The policy proposals will impact equally on all sections of the population in Northern Ireland including those living in rural areas. Whether an individual lives in an urban or rural area will be irrelevant in terms of the effect of these proposals.

2C. If the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas, please explain how it is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently.

N/A

2D. Please indicate which of the following rural policy areas the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to primarily impact on. None

Rural Businesses

Rural Tourism

Rural Housing

Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas

Education or Training in Rural Areas

Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas

Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas

Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas

Poverty in Rural Areas

Deprivation in Rural Areas

Rural Crime or Community Safety

Rural Development

Agri-Environment

Other (Please state)

If the response to Section 2A was YES GO TO Section 3A.

2E. Please explain why the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is NOT likely to impact on people in rural areas.

N/A

SECTION 3 - Identifying the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

3A. Has the Public Authority taken steps to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas that are relevant to the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?

Yes No If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **3E**.

3B. Please indicate which of the following methods or information sources were used by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

Consultation with Rural Stakeholders	<input type="checkbox"/>	Published Statistics	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consultation with Other Organisations	<input type="checkbox"/>	Research Papers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surveys or Questionnaires	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Methods or Information Sources (include details in Question 3C below).			<input type="checkbox"/>

3C. Please provide details of the methods and information sources used to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas including relevant dates, names of organisations, titles of publications, website references, details of surveys or consultations undertaken etc.

N/A

3D. Please provide details of the social and economic needs of people in rural areas which have been identified by the Public Authority?

N/A

If the response to Section 3A was YES GO TO Section 4A.

3E. Please explain why no steps were taken by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas?

The DoJ considers that the implementation of the proposals would not have any significant adverse or differential impact on people living in rural areas compared with those in urban areas. The proposals will apply equally to anyone who has their biometric material taken in connection with the investigation of a criminal offence, irrespective of where they live in Northern Ireland.

SECTION 4 - Considering the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

4A. Please provide details of the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

N/A

SECTION 5 - Influencing the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

5A. Has the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, been influenced by the rural needs identified?

Yes

No

If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **5C**.

5B. Please explain how the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, has been influenced by the rural needs identified.

N/A

If the response to Section **5A** was **YES** GO TO Section **6A**.

5C. Please explain why the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or the delivery of the Public Service, has NOT been influenced by the rural needs identified.

There are no specific rural needs identified in relation to the review of the list of qualifying offences, as the proposals will apply equally to anyone who has their biometric material taken in connection with the investigation of a criminal offence, irrespective of where they live in Northern Ireland.

SECTION 6 - Documenting and Recording

6A. Please tick below to confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained by the Public Authority and relevant information on the Section 1 activity compiled in accordance with paragraph 6.7 of the guidance.

I confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained and relevant information compiled.

Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:	Lisa Boal
Position/Grade:	Grade 7
Division/Branch	Police Policy and Legislation team
Signature:	<i>Lisa Boal</i>
Date:	22/10/2024
Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:	Lynne Curran
Position/Grade:	Deputy Director Grade 5
Division/Branch:	Policing Policy and Strategy Division
Signature:	<i>Lynne Curran</i>
Date:	29/10/24