



DOJ

REGULATORY IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCREENING FORM

Legal Aid Consultation - Amendments to Financial Eligibility and Contributions

Regulatory Impact Assessment Screening

Screening Options	Response to Screening Questions		Full Impact Assessment Required?	Justifications/Key issues and groups to focus on
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Is the policy or amendment to the policy likely to have a direct or indirect impact on businesses?		x		x
Is the Policy or amendment to the policy likely to have a direct or indirect impact on the voluntary/community sector?		x		x
A full Regulatory Impact Assessment is not considered necessary as the proposals relate to the administration of legal aid financial eligibility, contributions and application processes, rather than the regulation of businesses. The reforms do not introduce new compliance requirements, regulatory obligations or costs for businesses, charities or voluntary organisations. Instead, they are intended to simplify eligibility assessments, improve access to justice, reduce administrative burdens and ensure legal aid resources are targeted effectively. Any impacts on legal practitioners would be indirect and arise from changes to legal aid policy rather than from the imposition of regulatory requirements. It is therefore considered that the proposals can reasonably be screened out of the requirement for a full Regulatory Impact Assessment. This is not a regulatory change.			Conclusion: Northern Ireland Regulatory Impact Assessment Guidance instructs, “Screen Out if policy will not result in regulation”, and: As noted opposite, this is an administrative change that makes no change to existing legal aid provision. The proposals do not have any direct or indirect impact on businesses or the voluntary sector and they are therefore outside the scope of the Better Regulation Strategy.	

When Is a Regulatory Impact Assessment Required?

If the answer to any of the above questions is yes, consideration should be given to undertaking a Regulatory Impact Assessment. However, the level of appraisal should be proportionate to the costs involved.

A Regulatory Impact Assessment is not required for:

- i. Proposals which impose **no costs or no savings**, or negligible costs or savings on business, charities, social economy enterprises or the voluntary sector;
- ii. Increases in statutory fees by a predetermined formula such as the rate of inflation; or Road closure orders.