

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.

Department of Justice

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.

The Department is consulting on plans for the development of an Adult Restorative Justice Strategy for Northern Ireland. Views are being sought on the potential introduction of restorative approaches across the full continuum of the criminal justice system.

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

Developing a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input checked="" 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 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.

Development of an Adult Restorative Justice Strategy for Northern Ireland

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

The aim of the Strategy would be to build an adult restorative practices culture throughout the Northern Ireland criminal justice system, in partnership with victims and communities. This culture would be one which recognises restorative approaches, delivered by trained and accredited individuals, as an effective and efficient response to repairing relationships where harm has been caused by offending behaviour.

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.

Crime and anti-social behaviour can affect all individuals and communities, both urban and rural. The objectives of the Strategy will be to reduce the level of harm experienced by victims through a restorative process, to hold offenders accountable and seek them to make acceptable and appropriate reparation. It is therefore intended to impact positively on rural (and urban) areas. We do not believe, however, that implementation of this Strategy will impact in a different way in rural areas compared to urban areas.

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.

We do not believe that implementation of this Strategy will impact in a different way in rural areas compared to urban areas.

2D. Please indicate which of the following rural policy areas the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to primarily impact on.

Rural Businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Tourism	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education or Training in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deprivation in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Crime or Community Safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rural Development	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agri-Environment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please state)	<input type="text"/>

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 checked="" 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.

The main source of published statistics for the purpose of this assessment is the PSNI's publication "Agriculture and Rural Crime in Northern Ireland" updated to 30 September 2019.

It is anticipated that consultation with stakeholders, including those in rural areas, will take place as part of the public consultation due to begin in early 2020.

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

The PSNI publication on Agriculture and Rural Crime in Northern Ireland shows that for offences of burglary, robbery and theft, based on geographical location, the total for rural areas is less than one fifth (18%) of these total crimes for the last two twelve month periods (1 Oct'17 - 30 Sept'18 and 1 Oct'18 - 30 Sept'19)

Whilst this publication only covers these specific offences, it is anticipated that the proportion of offences generally would show a similar split between urban and rural crime. Therefore in terms of the impact that any new adult Restorative Justice Strategy is likely to have, the significant impact will be on victims and offenders in urban, rather than rural, areas as this is where there is a greater concentration of crime.

That said, we will take account of any views received from rural stakeholders as part of the forthcoming consultation process.

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?

N/A

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.

As recorded in 3D above

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.

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.

Any new restorative justice Strategy would apply to individuals (both victims and offenders) in contact with the criminal justice system. As recorded crime in rural areas is significantly lower than that in urban areas, the Strategy is likely to have less application in terms of outright numbers. In those cases where offences do occur, the application of any work arising as a result of the Strategy will not operate any differently in rural areas compared to urban areas,

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 Higgins
Position/Grade:	SO
Division/Branch	Reducing Offending Policy Unit
Signature:	
Date:	23 December 2019
Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:	Steven McCourt
Position/Grade:	Head of Rehabilitation, Resettlement & Reducing Reoffending
Division/Branch:	Reducing Offending Directorate
Signature:	
Date:	