Proposal to seek to amend the human trafficking and exploitation (Criminal justice and Support for Victims) Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 to include Slavery and Trafficking Risk Orders, to commence section 13 ‘Duty to Notify’ and to amend the Act to allow officers powers to search a person following public consultation.

The purpose of the proposal is to provide enforcing authorities with an additional tool as a deterrent in the fight against modern slavery and human trafficking and to protect a person or persons from the potential of physical or physiological harm, to raise awareness of modern slavery and build a more comprehensive picture of the nature and scale of modern slavery and to provide officers with additional powers to gather evidence on a person that may assist in an investigation

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Appendix 1 - Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA)

Template

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

**Public consultation on proposed amendments to the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Act (Northern Ireland) 2015**

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.

Developing a Policy Strategy Plan

Adopting a Policy Strategy Plan

Implementing a Policy Strategy Plan

Revising a Policy Strategy Plan Designing a Public Service

Delivering a Public Service

**x**

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

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.

Department of Justice – Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Branch

1A. Name of Public Authority.

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

Human trafficking and slavery practices take place across Northern Ireland and not limited to urban or rural areas.

Forced labour and human trafficking for forced labour may take place in rural areas. For example, there have been incidents of forced labour within the agricultural sector. However, the agricultural sector is not the only sector where forced labour can take place: there have also been instances of forced labour within factories (including food processing factories) and the maritime sector. Modern slavery can take place in any setting.

Public and private sector businesses are at risk of modern slavery occurring in their supply chains. Modern slavery can occur in any country, including locally, not least in rural areas where farming, fruit and vegetable picking and commercial factories are prevalent. Introduction of the proposed amendments to the Act would have a positive impact as it would help raise awareness and provide a more comprehensive picture of the nature and scale of human trafficking and modern slavery across Northern Ireland.

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*Reasons why a definition of ‘rural’ is not applicable.*

N/A

*Rationale for using alternative definition of ‘rural’.*

N/A The proposal seeks the views of stakeholders through a public consultation to consider additional tools to strengthen the task in dealing with all types of slavery across the whole of Northern Ireland and does not differentiate between urban and rural areas

*Details of alternative definition of ‘rural’ used.*

Population Settlements of less than 5,000 (Default definition). Other Definition (Provide details and the rationale below).

A definition of ‘rural’ is not applicable.

**X**

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

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N/A

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.

.Rural and urban areas are equally susceptible to human trafficking/modern slavery. Traffickers and enslavers are targeting vulnerable people across Northern Ireland and globally. Their crimes can take place in inner city housing estates, in large factories, in rural border areas or, due to immigration controls avoidance, in areas accessible by small boats such as the Glens of Antrim. Therefore, the public consultation documents on proposed amendments to the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 do not seek to differentiate between rural and urban areas but will impact on all areas of Northern Ireland.

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

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

x

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

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

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

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

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)

X

X

X



X

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

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The Department of Justice has engaged directly with the NGO Engagement Group and the OCTF MSHT Sub Group on the proposed amendments to the Act. A number of these civic society groups have a reach across Northern Ireland, in both urban and rural areas including faith groups which reach into churches across Northern Ireland.

The Gangmasters Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA) can report the mistreatment of workers, labour providers operating without a licence or a business using an unlicensed gangmaster to the GLAA. In recent months the GLAA has provided assistance in collaboration with the PSNI to combat exploitation across both rural and urban areas, more specifically in working to publish an awareness raising article in the Farming Life magazine.

Civic society groups also reflect the views of other NGO partners with whom they work, providing the Department with a wide range of input from across the whole of Northern Ireland. Similarly, statutory partners such as the PSNI, Home Office Visas and Immigration and Immigration Enforcement, HMRC, the Health and Social Care Board etc all have reach into all areas of Northern Ireland. An Garda Síochána also work as a partner on cross-border aspects, with issues affecting rural areas on both sides of the border. Through public consultation all of these groups will have the opportunity to provide comment on the proposals.

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.

Consultation with Rural Stakeholders Published Statistics Consultation with Other Organisations Research Papers Surveys or Questionnaires Other Publications

Other Methods or Information Sources (include details in Question 3C below).

X

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.

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

X

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?

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

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

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

N/A Rural and urban areas are equally susceptible to human trafficking/modern slavery. Traffickers and enslavers are targeting vulnerable people across Northern Ireland and globally. Their crimes can take place in inner city housing estates, in large factories, in rural border areas or, due to immigration controls avoidance, in areas accessible by small boats such as the Glens of Antrim. Therefore, the consultation paper on proposed amendments to the Act does not seek to differentiate between rural and urban areas but will impact on all areas of Northern Ireland

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

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No specific rural needs have been identified and the evaluation process will cover Northern Ireland-wide measures

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

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

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

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.

Yes No If the response is NO GO TO Section 5C.

x

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?

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

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Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:

Richard Black

Position/Grade:

DP

Division/Branch

Department of Justice – MSHT Branch

Signature:

Richard Black

Date:

13 January 2022

Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:

Graham Walker

Position/Grade:

Head of International Criminal Justice Co-operation Unit

Division/Branch:

Protection and Organised Crime Division

Signature:



Date:

31 January 2022

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

x

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.

**SECTION 6 - Documenting and Recording**

Rural and urban areas are equally susceptible to human trafficking/modern slavery. Traffickers and enslavers are targeting vulnerable people across Northern Ireland and globally. Their crimes can take place in inner city housing estates, in large factories, in rural border areas or, due to immigration controls avoidance, in areas accessible by small boats such as the Glens of Antrim.

There are examples of human trafficking/modern slavery for forced labour occurring in rural areas. For example, a multi-agency investigation into potential human trafficking for labour exploitation in the rural South Armagh area resulted in the recovery of a number of potential victims at a business in the agricultural industry.

However, human trafficking/slavery for forced labour can also occur in urban areas, where the number of potential victims recovered in each case tends to be lower but cases can be more frequent

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.