



DOJ section 75

EQUALITY SCREENING FORM

Title of policy: Options for legislation to protect victims of domestic abuse from being cross-examined by perpetrators in person in family proceedings

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The legal background

Under section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the Department is required to **have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between:**

- person of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
- men and women generally;
- persons with a disability and persons without; and
- persons with dependants and persons without¹.

Without prejudice to the obligations set out above, the Department is also required to:

- **have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group; and**
- **meet legislative obligations under the Disability Discrimination Order.**

Introduction

1. This form should be read in conjunction with the Equality Commission's revised Section 75 guidance, "Effective Section 75 Equality Assessments: Screening and Equality Assessments" which is available on the Equality Commission's website. <http://www.equalityni.org/ECNI/media/ECNI/Publications/Employers%20and%20Service%20Providers/Public%20Authorities/S75Advice-ScreeningEQIA.pdf>

Section 75 statutory duties apply to **internal policies** (relating to people who work for department), as well as **external policies** (relating to those who are, or could be, served by the department).

2. The purpose of screening is to identify those policies that are likely to have an impact on equality of opportunity and/or good relations and so determine whether an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) is necessary. Screening should be introduced at an early stage when developing or reviewing a policy.

¹A list of the main groups identified as being relevant to each of the section 75 categories is at **Annex B** of the document.

3. The lead role in the screening of a policy should be taken by the policy decision-maker who has the authority to make changes to that policy and should involve, in the screening process:

- other relevant team members;
- those who implement the policy;
- staff members from other relevant work areas; and
- key stakeholders.

A flowchart which outlines the screening process is provided at **Annex A**.

4. The first step in the screening exercise is to gather evidence to inform the screening decisions. Relevant data may be either quantitative or qualitative or both (this helps to indicate whether or not there are likely equality of opportunity and/or good relations impacts associated with a policy). Relevant information will help to clearly demonstrate the reasons for a policy being either 'screened in' for an equality impact assessment or 'screened out' from an equality impact assessment.

5. The absence of evidence does not indicate that there is no likely impact but if none is available, it may be appropriate to consider subjecting the policy to an EQIA.

6. Where data/evidence gaps exist consider engaging with the main representative groups directly, for example Disability Action, Rainbow, and NICCY to find out what you need to know. Bring stakeholders together to discuss policy or link up with other UK bodies who may have similar policies.

7. Screening provides an assessment of the likely impact, whether 'minor' or 'major', of its policy on equality of opportunity and/or good relations for the relevant categories. In some instances, screening may identify the likely impact is none.

8. Contact EqualityandStaffSupportServices@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk at any stage of the process for support or guidance.

Screening decisions

9. Completion of screening should lead to one of the following three outcomes. The policy has been:

- i. 'screened in' for equality impact assessment;
- ii. 'screened out' with mitigation or an alternative policy proposed to be adopted; or
- iii. 'screened out' without mitigation or an alternative policy proposed to be adopted.

Screening and good relations duty

10. The Commission recommends that a policy is 'screened in' for equality impact assessment if the likely impact on **good relations** is 'major'. While there is no legislative requirement to engage in an equality impact assessment in respect of good relations, this does not necessarily mean that equality impact assessments are inappropriate in this context.

Part 1

Definition of policy

There have been some difficulties in defining what constitutes a policy in the context of section 75. To be on the safe side it is recommended that you consider any new initiatives, proposals, schemes or programmes as policies or changes to those already in existence. It is important to remember that even if a full EQIA has been carried out in an “overarching” policy or strategy, it will still be necessary for the policy maker to consider if further screening or an EQIA needs to be carried out in respect of those policies cascading from the overarching strategy.

Overview of policy proposals

The aims and objectives of the policy must be clear and terms of reference well defined. You must take into account any available data that will enable you to come to a decision on whether or not a policy may or may not have a differential impact on any of the s75 categories.

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.

Policy scoping

11. Information about the policy

Name of the policy/decision to be screened

Options for legislation to protect victims of domestic abuse from being cross-examined by perpetrators in person in family proceedings.

Is this an existing, revised or a new policy/decision?

New policy in development.

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

At present, family courts in Northern Ireland have no specific statutory powers to prohibit perpetrators (or alleged perpetrators) of domestic abuse from personally cross-examining their victim (or alleged victim). Instead, family courts have to rely on their general case management powers. The courts have no power to appoint a legal representative to carry out cross-examination on behalf of an unrepresented party.

A fundamental Review of Family Justice in Northern Ireland was commissioned by the Lord Chief Justice in 2015 and led by Lord Justice Gillen. The final report of the Review was published in 2017 and specifically considered the issue of protection of witnesses from cross-examination by personal litigants. The report recommended that legislative powers, similar to those already available in criminal proceedings (Part III of the Criminal Evidence (NI) Order 1999 refers), are introduced in family proceedings in Northern Ireland to prevent a situation where perpetrators of abuse can continue to exercise control over their victims and cause them further distress by cross-examining them in person.

Since that report was published, there have been relevant developments in other jurisdictions. In England & Wales, measures in relation to the prohibition of cross-examination in person in family proceedings have been included in the draft Domestic Abuse Bill, which is expected to be introduced shortly. The Scottish Government recently consulted on banning personal cross-examination of victims of domestic abuse in contact and residence cases (consultation on review of Part 1 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 refers) and is currently considering its response. In the Republic of Ireland, the Domestic Violence Act 2018, which recently came into force, includes provisions to protect victims of domestic violence from being personally cross-examined by the perpetrator in proceedings for a domestic violence protective order.

The Department of Justice's priorities include supporting communities to be safe and resilient which in turn includes the objective of protecting individuals from the harm caused by domestic violence and abuse. Further to this and having regard also to the recommendation of the Gillen Review and recent developments in neighbouring jurisdictions, a commitment was given in the Department of Justice's (DoJ) 2019-20 business plan to consult on the issue of preventing perpetrators of domestic abuse from personally cross-examining their victims. The consultation seeks views on the following options for legislation:

1. An absolute prohibition on any person involved in proceedings who has a conviction or caution for, or who is charged with, a specified offence, such as sexual or violent offences, from cross-examining in person the victim of that offence. In

addition, the victim could not, in person, cross examine the perpetrator. The prohibition would also apply where an on-notice protective injunction, such as a non-molestation order, is in force.

2. A discretionary power is given to the courts to prevent cross-examination in person in circumstances where it would affect the quality of the witness's evidence and this would not be contrary to the interests of justice.

Are there any section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy? If so, explain how.

The potential legislative provisions discussed in the consultation paper would apply equally to all victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse, regardless of s75 category. Such legislation, if taken forward, would be a positive development for all victims of domestic abuse as it would enable them to give the best possible evidence and improve their experience of the justice system. However, it may be that women in particular would benefit as they are twice as likely to experience domestic abuse as men.

In the unlikely event of a particular disadvantage for a s75 category, it is considered to be justified as a proportionate means of meeting the legitimate aim of protecting victims of domestic abuse.

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

DoJ.

Who owns and who implements the policy?

DoJ is leading development of the policy but, if any of the options for legislation were to be taken forward, it would be implemented by the judiciary and the legal profession.

12. Implementation factors

Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision?

Yes

If yes, are they

Tick Box

- financial
- legislative
- other, please specify

13. Main stakeholders affected

Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the policy will impact upon?

Tick Box

- staff (including NICTS & OLCJ)
- service users (e.g. legal representatives)
- other public sector organisations
- voluntary/community/trade unions (e.g. Women's Aid and Men's Advisory Project)
- other, please specify – victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse

14. Other policies with a bearing on this policy

what are they?

Criminal justice policy in relation to domestic abuse

who owns them?

DOJ Community Safety Division, Safer Communities Directorate

15. Available evidence

Evidence to help inform the screening process may take many forms. Set out all evidence/data (both *qualitative and quantitative) below along with details of the different groups you have met and / or consulted with to help inform your screening assessment. Specify details for each of the section 75 categories.

Section 75 category	Details of evidence/data
Religious belief	<p>There is limited data available in Northern Ireland (NI) on domestic abuse in relation to religious belief. Evidence collated for the development of the Stopping Domestic & Sexual Violence & Abuse in NI Strategy, which was published in 2018, indicated that domestic abuse is not confined to any one religious belief.</p>
Political opinion	<p>There is limited data available in NI on domestic abuse in relation to political opinion. Evidence collated for the development of the Stopping Domestic & Sexual Violence & Abuse in NI Strategy indicated that domestic abuse is not confined to any one political opinion.</p>
Racial group	<p>PSNI statistics provide some data on domestic abuse in relation to racial group – see table at Annex C. The MARAC [Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference] Trends & Statistics 2016 management report (“the MARAC 2016 report”) shows that, of the 10,752 high risk cases discussed at MARACs since records began, 4.6% of cases involved victims from the Black & Ethnic Minorities communities.</p>
Age	<p>PSNI statistics provide some data on domestic abuse in relation to age – see table at Annex D. Young adults (those in their 20s and 30s) are more likely to be victims of domestic abuse than those in other age groups.</p>
Marital status	<p>There is limited data available in NI in relation to domestic abuse and marital status. For example, PSNI statistics group spouse, partner, girlfriend, boyfriend, etc. together in one relationship category (see table at Annex E). However, that table does suggest that there is no significant difference of experiencing domestic abuse whether in a marital/civil partnership or former marital/civil partnership. While the numbers in the table for 2017/18 show that 57% of victims were abused by a partner/former partner, it is important to note that domestic abuse is not confined to marital/civil partnership status; it can occur in a number of different familial relationships, e.g. parent/child (24%) and siblings (7%). The MARAC 2016 report shows that the highest relationship category for female victims was that of partner (190), followed by husband (154), boyfriend (106) and female partner (3). For male victims, the highest relationship category was that of partner (16), followed by wife (5) and male partner (3).</p>

Sexual orientation	There is limited data available in NI in relation to domestic abuse and sexual orientation. However, see MARAC statistics above. In addition, the MARAC 2016 report shows that, of the 10,752 high risk cases discussed since records began, 0.46% of victims were from the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities.
Men and women generally	<p>PSNI statistics provide data on domestic abuse in relation to gender – see table at Annex F. Generally speaking, 70% of victims of domestic abuse are women.</p> <p>The options for legislation discussed in the consultation paper impact those persons who do not have legal representation (known as “litigants in person” (LIPS)) in family proceedings hearings. The UJJ Study, “Litigants in person in NI: barriers to legal participation, 2018”, found that there were more male LIP participants whose cases were disposed of than female LIPs between 2012 -16. The proportion of male LIPs was around three-fifths of all LIPs across both family and civil business areas - see third table at Annex F.</p>
Disability	<p>There is limited data available in NI in relation to domestic abuse and disability.</p> <p>The MARAC 2016 report shows that, of the 10,752 high risk cases discussed since records began, 1.5% of victims had a disability.</p>
Dependants	<p>There is limited data available in NI in relation to domestic abuse and dependants.</p> <p>MARAC statistics for December 2017 show that, from January 2010, of the 12,181 cases discussed and the 2771 repeat cases, there were 15,709 children in the households.</p>

***Qualitative data** – refers to the experience of individuals related in their own terms, and based on their own experience and attitudes. Qualitative data is often used to complement quantitative data to determine why policies are successful or unsuccessful and the reasons for this.

***Quantitative data** – refers to numbers (that is quantities), typically derived from either a population in general or samples of that population. This information is often analysed either using descriptive statistics (which summarise patterns), or inferential statistics (which are used to infer from a sample about a wider population).

16. 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.

Section 75 Category	Details of evidence/information
Religious belief	It is not considered that any of the options for legislation discussed in the consultation paper would have a significant effect on the needs, experiences and priorities of this category.
Political opinion	It is not considered that any of the options for legislation discussed in the consultation paper have an effect on the needs, experiences and priorities of this category.
Racial group	It is not considered that any of the options for legislation discussed in the consultation paper would have a significant effect on the needs, experiences and priorities of this category.
Age	As young adults are more likely to be victims of domestic abuse, they are, therefore, more likely to benefit from any new legislative provisions for the protection of victims of domestic abuse giving evidence in family proceedings.
Marital status	Those in a marital/civil partnership are more likely to be victims of domestic abuse and they are, therefore, more likely to benefit from any new legislative provisions for the protection of victims of domestic abuse giving evidence in family proceedings.
Sexual orientation	It is not considered that any of the options for legislation discussed in the consultation paper would have a significant effect on the needs, experiences and priorities of this category.
Men and women generally	Statistical information indicates that women are more likely than men to be victims of domestic abuse. It is, therefore, anticipated that any new legislative provision to protect victims of domestic abuse from being cross-examined by the perpetrator would benefit a higher proportion of women than men. Conversely, men are more likely than women to be perpetrators of domestic abuse so a higher proportion of men than women are likely to be prevented from carrying out cross-examination in person if legislation is taken forward.
Disability	It is not considered that any of the options for legislation discussed in the consultation paper would have a significant effect on the needs, experiences and priorities of this category.
Dependants	Children affected by domestic violence may be expected to benefit from any new legislative provision to protect victims of domestic abuse from being cross-examined by the perpetrator.

Part 2

Screening decisions

17. Decision - in favour of none

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

➤ **Considerations –**

- The policy has no relevance to equality of opportunity or good relations.
- 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.

18. Decision - in favour of a 'major' impact

If the 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 (EQIA).

➤ **Considerations -**

- Is the policy significant in terms of its strategic importance?
- The 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.
- The 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.
- 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.
- The policy is likely to be challenged by way of judicial review.
- The policy is significant in terms of expenditure.

19. Decision - in favour of 'minor' impact

If the 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.

➤ **Considerations –**

- The policy is not unlawfully discriminatory and any residual potential impacts on people are judged to be negligible.
- 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.

- 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.
- By amending the policy there are better opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

Screening questions

2.1 What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the section 75 equality categories?		
Section 75 category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact? Minor/Major/None
Religious belief	As any new legislative provision would apply equally to all s75 categories, it is not considered that there would be any adverse impact on equality of opportunity for this category.	None
Political opinion	As any new legislative provision would apply equally to all s75 categories, it is not considered that there would be any adverse impact on equality of opportunity for this category.	None
Racial group	As any new legislative provision would apply equally to all s75 categories, it is not considered that there would be any adverse impact on equality of opportunity for this category.	None
Age	While any new legislative provision is more likely to benefit young adults, overall it is not anticipated that there would be any adverse impact on equality of opportunity for any particular age group.	Minor
Marital status	While any new legislative provision is more likely to impact on those in marital/civil relationships or former marital/civil relationships, overall it is not anticipated that there would be any adverse impact on equality of opportunity for any particular marital status.	Minor
Sexual orientation	As any new legislative provision would apply equally to all s75 categories, it is not considered that there would be any adverse impact on equality of opportunity for this category.	None
Men and women generally	Statistical information indicates that women are more likely than men to be victims of domestic abuse. It is, therefore, anticipated that any new legislative provision to protect victims of domestic abuse from being cross-examined by the perpetrator would benefit a higher proportion of women than men. Conversely, men are more likely than women to be perpetrators of domestic abuse so a higher proportion of men than women are likely to be prevented from carrying out cross-examination in person if legislation is taken forward. This would be mitigated by the court being able to appoint a legal representative to carry out	Minor

	the cross-examination instead and accordingly, it is anticipated that any impact would be minimal and is unlikely to be negative.	
Disability	As any new legislative provision would apply equally to all s75 categories, it is not considered that there would be any adverse impact on equality of opportunity for this category.	None
Dependants	As it is rare for children to give evidence as a witness of fact in family proceedings, the benefit for them from any new legislative provision is likely to be achieved indirectly through better outcomes as a result of adult witnesses being supported to give the best quality of evidence.	None

2.2 Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the section 75 equalities categories?

Section 75 category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide reasons
Religious belief		No, as any new legislative provision would apply equally to all s75 categories.
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.

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

Good relations category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact Minor/Major/None
Religious belief	Any new legislative provision is likely to have little impact on good relations as it would apply equally to all s75 categories.	None.
Political opinion	As above.	As above.
Racial group	As above.	As above.

2.4. Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

Good relations category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide reasons
Religious belief		There are no significant opportunities for promoting good relations between specific categories as any new legislative provision would apply equally to all s75 categories.
Political opinion		As above.
Racial group		As above.

Additional considerations - multiple identity

20. 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.)

Multiple s75 identities may make an individual more likely to be a victim of domestic abuse. However, any new legislative provision would apply equally to all s75 categories and any combination of these categories.

21. Provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant section 75 categories concerned.

No data is available.

Part 3

Screening decision

3.1. Screened in –

If the decision is to conduct an equality impact assessment, please provide details of the rationale and relevant evidence to support this decision.

3.2. Screened out – no EQAI necessary (no impact)

If the decision is not to conduct an equality impact assessment, please provide details of the rationale and relevant evidence to support this decision.

3.3. Screened out – mitigating actions (minor impacts)

When the decision is that the likely impact is 'minor' and an equality impact assessment is not to be conducted, you 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. Explain how these actions will address the inequalities.

An EQIA is not necessary as we do not anticipate any adverse equality-related impacts on any s75 category.

Although minor impact was identified in respect of age, marital status and gender, it is unlikely that this will be a negative impact. However, any negative impact relating to men can be monitored.

It is considered (subject to the outcome of the consultation) that any new legislative provision to protect victims of domestic abuse giving evidence in family proceedings would be a positive change for all victims affected by domestic abuse, regardless of s75 category, by helping to improve their experience of the justice system.

Timetabling and prioritising

22. Factors to be considered in timetabling and prioritising policies for equality impact assessment.

23. 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.

24. 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 in timetabling. Details of the Equality Impact Assessment Timetable should be included in the quarterly Screening Report.

25. Is the policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities?

➤ If yes, please provide details.

Part 4

Monitoring

26. Section 75 places a requirement on the Department to have equality monitoring arrangements in place in order to assess the impact of policies and services, etc., and to help identify barriers to fair participation and to better promote equal opportunity.

27. Effective monitoring will help 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.

28. Outline what data you will collect in the future in order to monitor the impact of this policy/ decision on equality, good relation and disability duties.

Equality	Any new legislative provision would be subject to a post-legislative review, three to five years after commencement.
Good relations	N/A.
Disability duties	N/A.

Part 5

Formal record of screening decision

Title of proposed policy/decision being screened

Options for legislation to protect victims of domestic abuse from being cross-examined by perpetrators in person in family proceedings.

I can confirm that the proposed policy/decision has been screened for –

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Equality of opportunity
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Good relations
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Disability duties

On the basis of the answer to the screening questions, I recommend that this policy/decision is –

<input type="checkbox"/>	Screened in – necessary to conduct a full EQIA
<input type="checkbox"/>	Screened out – no EQIA necessary (no impacts)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Screened out – mitigating actions (minor impacts)

Part 6

Approval and authorisation

(Have you sent this document to the Equality Unit prior to obtaining signature?)

Screened/completed by:	Grade	Date
Name: Norma Dempster	DP	09/07/19
Approved by (Grade 7 or above):		
Name: Jane Maguire	G6	24/07/19

Quality Assurance

Prior to final approval the Screening Form should be forwarded to EqualityandStaffSupportServices@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk for comment/quality assurance. Contact the branch should you require advice or have any queries prior to this stage.

When you receive a response and there are no further considerations required, the form should be 'signed off' and approved by a senior manager responsible for the policy, this would normally be at least Grade 7.

The completed Screening Form should be placed on the DoJ Website where it will be made easily accessible to the public and be available on request. In addition, it will be included in a quarterly listing of all screenings completed during each 3 month period and issued to consultees.

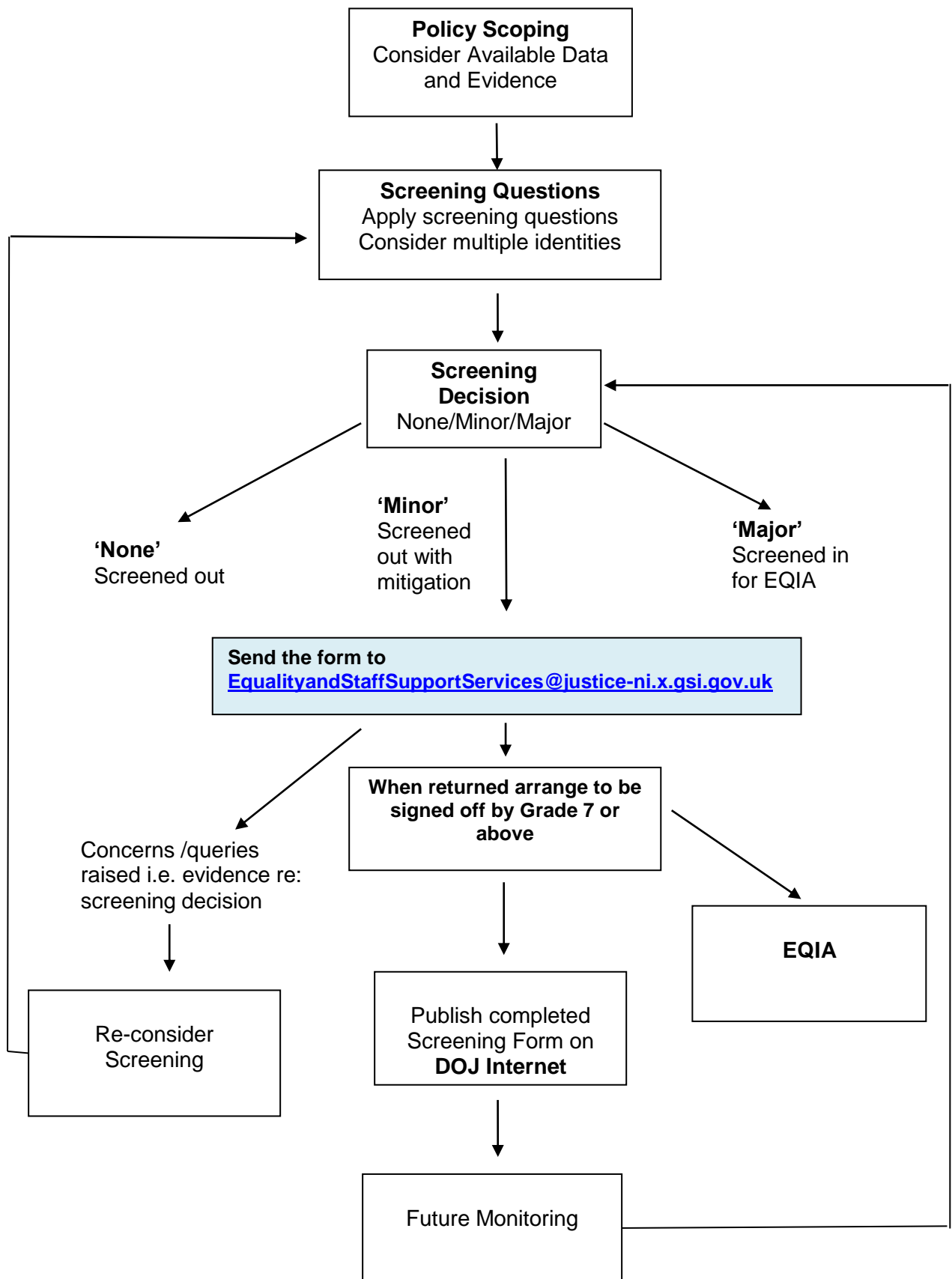
The screening exercise is now complete.

Please retain a record in your branch and send a copy for information to:-

Equality and Staff Support Services (ESSS)
Room 3.4, Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
BELFAST
BT4 3SG
Tel: 02890 522611

or e-mail to EqualityandStaffSupportServices@justice-ni.x.gsi.gov.uk

SCREENING FLOWCHART



MAIN GROUPS IDENTIFIED AS RELEVANT TO THE SECTION 75 CATEGORIES

Category	Main Groups
Religious Belief	Protestants; Catholics; people of other religious belief; people of no religious belief
Political Opinion	Unionists generally; Nationalists generally; members/supporters of any political party
Racial Group	White people; Chinese; Irish Travellers; Indians; Pakistanis; Bangladeshis; Black Africans; Afro Caribbean people; people of mixed ethnic group, other groups
Age	For most purposes, the main categories are: children under 18; people aged between 18 and 65. However the definition of age groups will need to be sensitive to the policy under consideration. For example, for some employment policies, children under 16 could be distinguished from people of working age
Marital/Civil Partnership Status	Married people; unmarried people; divorced or separated people; widowed people; civil partnerships
Sexual Orientation	Heterosexuals; bisexual people; gay men; lesbians
Men and Women generally	Men (including boys); women (including girls); trans-gender and trans-sexual people
Persons with a disability and persons without	Persons with a physical, sensory or learning disability as defined in Schedules 1 and 2 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.
Persons with dependants and persons without	Persons with primary responsibility for the care of a child; persons with personal responsibility for the care of a person with a disability; persons with primary responsibility for a dependent elderly person.

Racial Group

Source: Police Service of Northern Ireland - Trends in Domestic Abuse Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland 2004/05 to 2017/18

Table 3.8 Domestic abuse crimes recorded by ethnicity and nationality of victim, 2013/14 to 2017/18

Ethnicity (Nationality)	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Asian: of which	57	84	81	82	80
<i>UK and Ireland</i>	14	17	22	19	19
<i>All other nationalities</i>	40	62	49	52	46
<i>Nationality missing</i>	3	5	10	11	15
Black: of which	76	71	80	89	75
<i>UK and Ireland</i>	24	24	28	17	24
<i>All other nationalities</i>	47	41	43	63	35
<i>Nationality missing</i>	5	6	9	9	16
Mixed/Other: of which	48	63	77	73	101
<i>UK and Ireland</i>	17	27	36	19	36
<i>All other nationalities</i>	30	28	30	43	49
<i>Nationality missing</i>	1	8	11	11	16
White: of which	10,687	11,385	11,887	11,652	11,960
<i>UK and Ireland</i>	9,711	10,204	10,570	10,341	10,405
<i>Poland</i>	182	218	233	207	250
<i>Lithuania</i>	93	127	114	100	117
<i>Latvia</i>	29	37	43	32	39
<i>Portugal</i>	25	24	21	24	17
<i>All other nationalities</i>	113	121	120	134	160
<i>Nationality missing</i>	534	654	786	814	972
Ethnicity Missing/ Unknown Person: of which	738	703	923	1,195	1,473
<i>UK and Ireland</i>	480	429	428	423	458
<i>All other nationalities</i>	45	46	47	64	69
<i>Nationality missing</i>	213	228	448	708	946
Total (person victims)	11,606	12,306	13,048	13,091	13,689

**Table 4.4 Ethnicity/Nationality of offender (domestic abuse detected crimes),
2013/14 to 2017/18**

Ethnicity (Nationality)	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Asian: of which	16	22	28	18	22
<i>UK and Ireland</i>	3	6	10	6	8
<i>All other nationalities</i>	13	16	18	11	13
<i>Nationality missing</i>	0	0	0	1	1
Black: of which	36	22	28	36	39
<i>UK and Ireland</i>	7	8	5	8	10
<i>All other nationalities</i>	29	13	22	28	29
<i>Nationality missing</i>	0	1	1	0	0
Mixed/Other: of which	26	19	20	22	34
<i>UK and Ireland</i>	6	1	6	4	9
<i>All other nationalities</i>	20	17	14	18	24
<i>Nationality missing</i>	0	1	0	0	1
White: of which	3,519	3,431	3,803	3,537	3,590
<i>UK and Ireland</i>	3,286	3,190	3,543	3,278	3,341
<i>Poland</i>	83	92	75	85	85
<i>Lithuania</i>	41	39	51	40	42
<i>Latvia</i>	9	12	18	13	15
<i>Portugal</i>	18	10	8	13	4
<i>All other nationalities</i>	34	32	55	56	41
<i>Nationality missing</i>	48	56	53	52	62
Ethnicity Missing/Unknown Person: of which	484	728	566	466	422
<i>UK and Ireland</i>	371	595	415	328	289
<i>All other nationalities</i>	45	58	50	56	59
<i>Nationality missing</i>	68	75	101	82	74
Total (offenders)	4,081	4,222	4,445	4,079	4,107

Age

Source: Police Service of Northern Ireland - Trends in Domestic Abuse Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland 2004/05 to 2017/18

Table 3.2 Domestic abuse crimes recorded by age of victim, 2013/14 to 2017/18

Age	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
0-4	243	218	336	363	381
5-9	349	365	603	663	721
10-14	464	472	693	780	791
15-19	1,010	1,008	1,031	1,060	1,093
20-24	1,566	1,664	1,566	1,509	1,478
25-29	1,470	1,476	1,591	1,577	1,596
30-34	1,293	1,407	1,399	1,454	1,586
35-39	1,136	1,234	1,294	1,316	1,351
40-44	1,219	1,302	1,285	1,203	1,159
45-49	1,126	1,217	1,172	1,043	1,171
50-54	753	807	889	846	956
55-59	412	491	512	537	608
60-64	248	306	279	336	321
65-69	118	137	171	166	204
70-74	98	101	105	114	124
75-79	43	57	57	68	67
80+	44	38	61	51	77
Unknown/Missing	14	6	4	5	5
Total (person victims)	11,606	12,306	13,048	13,091	13,689

**Table 4.3 Age of offender (domestic abuse detected crimes),
2013/14 to 2017/18**

Age	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Under 18	216	193	235	169	209
18 and over	3,804	3,963	4,131	3,849	3,840
Unknown/Missing	61	66	79	61	58
Total (offenders)	4,081	4,222	4,445	4,079	4,107

Relationship

Source: Police Service of Northern Ireland - Trends in Domestic Abuse Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland 2004/05 to 2017/18

Table 4.5 Victim / offender relationship (domestic abuse detected crimes), 2013/14 to 2017/18

Victim/Offender Relationship¹	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Current spouse, partner, girlfriend, boyfriend, etc.	1,096	1,077	1,163	1,084	1,108
Ex-spouse, partner, girlfriend, boyfriend, etc.	924	1,085	1,122	1,047	1,223
Parent and child	857	942	962	941	994
Grandparent and grandchild	21	36	54	45	55
Sibling	275	275	346	312	286
Other family relationship	123	115	105	88	94
Unknown/Missing	785	692	693	562	347
Total (all offenders)	4,081	4,222	4,445	4,079	4,107

Gender

Source: Police Service of Northern Ireland - Trends in Domestic Abuse Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland 2004/05 to 2017/18

Table 3.3 Domestic abuse crimes recorded by gender of victim, 2013/14 to 2017/18

Gender	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Female	8,121	8,567	8,982	9,039	9,330
Male	3,484	3,736	4,053	4,043	4,349
Unknown/Missing	1	3	13	9	10
Total (person victims)	11,606	12,306	13,048	13,091	13,689

Table 4.2 Gender of offender (domestic abuse detected crimes), 2013/14 to 2017/18

Gender	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Male	3,539	3,605	3,813	3,464	3,549
Female	484	552	551	554	497
Unknown/Missing	58	65	81	61	61
Total (offenders)	4,081	4,222	4,445	4,079	4,107

Source: UJ Study - Litigants in person in NI: barriers to legal participation, 2018

Figure 3: LIPs only – the number of male and female LIPs in years 2012-2016

Year	Female	Male	Total
2012	1,741	3,062	4,803
2013	1,778	2,674	4,452
2014	1,775	2,612	4,387
2015	1,685	2,425	4,110
2016	1,752	2,450	4,202