

Section 75 Screening Form

Part 1. 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.

Public authorities should remember that the Section 75 statutory duties apply to internal policies (relating to people who work for the authority), as well as external policies (relating to those who are, or could be, served by the authority).

Information about the policy

Review of the Tenant Participation Strategy (TPS)

Is this an existing, revised or a new policy?

Existing

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

The Department for Communities (DfC) implemented the Tenant Participation Strategy (TPS) in January 2016, and it has not been updated since then. The TPS sets out what social landlords should do in order to give tenants the opportunity and choice to participate in the decisions that affect them and also outlines how the government can help. It aims to challenge all social housing landlords to be consistent and to increase the extent and effectiveness of their tenant participation services in Northern Ireland.

Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy?

Yes

If Yes, explain how.

The primary aim of the TPS is to increase tenant involvement in the delivery of social housing services and the decisions that are made about these services. The Strategy is a framework for Registered Housing Associations to have their own engagement and is up to them to ensure that they take it forward. It sets out what social landlords should do to give tenants the opportunity and choice to participate in the decisions that affect them. The TPS also encourages and supports tenants to become involved in one or more of the participation options available to them and provides them with the opportunity to develop their skills so that they could progress to a higher level of participation if this is something that they wanted to do.

The proposed changes that the Department are considering are intended as a refresh of the existing TPS rather than a significant strategy change, and it is anticipated that there will be a slight positive impact across the full population and therefore all of the section 75 groups.

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

Department for Communities, Housing division.

Who owns and who implements the policy?

Department for Communities, Housing division.

Implementation factors

Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision? No

If yes, are they

- ☐ financial
- ☐ legislative
- ☐ other, please specify _____

Main stakeholders affected

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

- ☐ staff
- ☒ service users
- ☒ other public sector organisations
- ☐ voluntary/community/trade unions
- ☐ other, please specify _____

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

What are they and who owns them?

The policy aim is to encourage social housing providers including the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Registered Housing Associations to set up or renew tenant participation/engagement forums. As these organisations are also public bodies, they will need to ensure that their individual participation strategies meet the needs of Section 75 groups, including compliance with Section 49A of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995

Available evidence

Evidence to help inform the screening process may take many forms. Public authorities should ensure that their screening decision is informed by relevant data.

What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy? Specify details for **each** of the Section 75 categories.

Section 75 category	Details of evidence/information
All	The Department initially engaged with the registered social housing sector and tenant representatives through the Housing Policy Panel and the Tenant Participation Practitioners Network. A subsequent questionnaire was issued for further feedback. Information regarding Section 75 categories is not routinely reported for those taking part in events, etc under the TPS. Any engagement is voluntary and it is up to each social landlord on how they carry it out. <u>Data</u> Census 2021 data indicates that the social rented sector is the third largest housing sector in Northern Ireland, with 12.8% of the population living in registered social housing. Figures from the 2021 census show the breakdown of individuals living in the social housing sector: • 59,911 households with children under 15. • 72,440 households aged 16 - 31. • 73,985 households with persons aged 40 - 64. • 37,575 households with persons aged 65+. • 103,962 households with persons who are sick/disabled and have limited day to day activity. The Family Resources Survey report 2023-24 reports almost 93% of households in registered social housing receive some sort of state benefit.

Section 75 category	Details of evidence/information
Religious belief	The NIHE House Condition Survey 2016 provides information on the sample of social housing tenants (House Condition Survey Main Report 2016 (nihe.gov.uk)). There were 37% Catholic, 47% Protestants and 15% other living in social housing. The 2021 census has seen a shift, with almost 45% Catholic, 34% Protestant and 21% other living in social housing. Revisions to the TPS will enhance opportunities for participation and engagement in decision making for all those in social housing irrespective of religious belief.
Political opinion	The 2021 census did not ask about political opinion therefore there is no current data available on this for those who live in social housing. Revisions to the TPS will enhance opportunities for participation and engagement in decision making for all those in social housing irrespective of political opinion
Racial group	The 2021 census provides information on ethnicity in relation to social housing. With 96% white and the remaining 4% (Asian/black/mixed/other). Revisions to the TPS will enhance opportunities for participation and engagement in decision making for all those in social housing irrespective of racial group.
Age	The NIHE House Condition Survey 2016 provides information on the sample of social housing tenants (House Condition Survey Main Report 2016 (nihe.gov.uk)). More than half (58%) of household reference persons (HRP) were aged between 25 and 59, 27% of household reference persons were 60 or older and 14% were 75 or older. A small proportion (2%) of household reference persons were aged between 17 and 24. The 2021 census gives a similar breakdown, with 85% of social housing tenants being in the 0-64 years category and 15% being in the 65+years.

Section 75 category	Details of evidence/information
	Revisions to the TPS will enhance opportunities for participation and engagement in decision making for all those in social housing irrespective of age.
Marital status	The NIHE House Condition Survey 2016 provides information on the sample of social tenants (House Condition Survey Main Report 2016 (nihe.gov.uk)). The number of lone adult households of both men and women (under pension age) in the 2016 house condition survey is 98,360. Of this 30,700 live in the social housing sector. There is a slight increase in the 2021 Census, with figures showing that of 111,091 lone parents, 34,691 (31%) are living in the social rented sector. This compares to the 12.8% of the population generally who live in the social rented sector. Revisions to the TPS will enhance opportunities for participation and engagement in decision making for all those in social housing irrespective of marital status.
Sexual orientation	The NIHE House Condition Survey 2016 provides information on the sample of social housing tenants (House Condition Survey Main Report 2016 (nihe.gov.uk)). The 2021 Census figures show that of 184,001 persons over the age of 16 living in the social rented sector, almost 87% are heterosexual, 2% are gay, lesbian, bisexual or other sexual orientation and 11% prefer not to say/or did not state. Revisions to the TPS will enhance opportunities for participation and engagement in decision making for all those in social housing irrespective of sexual orientation.
Men and women generally	The NIHE House Condition Survey 2016 provides information on the sample of social tenants (House Condition Survey Main Report 2016 (nihe.gov.uk)).

Section 75 category	Details of evidence/information
	The 2021 Census figures show that of 243,911 persons living social rented accommodation, 46.7% are male and 53.3% are female. Revisions to the TPS will enhance opportunities for participation and engagement in decision making for all those in social housing irrespective of gender.
Disability	The NIHE House Condition Survey 2016 provides information on the sample of social tenants (House Condition Survey Main Report 2016 (nihe.gov.uk)). The 2021 Census figures also show that from the 243,911 persons living in registered social housing, 103,962 have a disability. This means that 43% have a disability which limits day to day activities and 57% do not. Considering the full population of Northern Ireland (1,903,175), 463,018 persons (24%) have a disability which limits day to day activity. Revisions to the TPS will enhance opportunities for participation and engagement in decision making for all those in social housing irrespective of disability.
Dependants	The NIHE House Condition Survey 2016 provides information on the sample of social housing tenants (House Condition Survey Main Report 2016 (nihe.gov.uk)) The 2021 Census figures also show that from the general population figures, 532,978 households (69%) have no dependent children, and 235,833 households (31%) have dependent children. In comparison, of the 117,462 households living in the social rented sector, 30% (35,247) have dependent children and 70% (82,215) do not have dependent children. Revisions to the TPS will enhance opportunities for participation and engagement in decision making for all those in social housing irrespective of whether or not they have dependents.

Note to reader - If you are aware of and would like the Department to take into account any further evidence or information relevant to this policy, please send this to **socialhousingsustainability@communities-ni.gov.uk**

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 needs/experiences/priorities
Religious belief	There is no evidence of any different needs, experiences or priorities for this Section 75 group in relation to this policy.
Political opinion	There is no evidence of any different needs, experiences or priorities for this Section 75 group in relation to this policy.
Racial group	Tenants from different racial groups may require information in different languages to ensure that is accessible to them and may also have different experiences and priorities to others.
Age	Different age groups may have different requirements when it comes to the accessibility of information, for example not everyone will have access to the internet or feel confident using apps, etc. therefore different ways of providing information is essential. The ability to attend meetings, forums, etc can also be limited by age so it is important to consider accessibility for those of working age as well as older people when planning engagement. Different age groups will also have different experiences and priorities, so it is necessary for all to have the opportunity to have a voice and input in the decision-making process.
Marital status	There is no evidence of any different needs, experiences or priorities for this Section 75 group in relation to this policy.

Section 75 category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
Sexual orientation	There is no evidence of any different needs, experiences or priorities for this Section 75 group in relation to this policy.
Men and women generally	There is no evidence of any different needs, experiences or priorities for this Section 75 group in relation to this policy.
Disability	Tenants who have a disability may require information in different formats, or may require adjustments to enable them to attend meetings/forums, etc. They also may have different experiences and priorities than others. It is therefore important that this is taken into consideration.
Dependants	Tenants who have dependants can be limited in when and how they attend meetings/forums, particularly in person, due to childcare or other caring responsibilities. They can also have different needs and priorities than others. It is therefore important that this is taken into consideration.

Part 2. Screening questions

Introduction

In making a decision as to whether or not there is a need to carry out an equality impact assessment, the public authority should consider its answers to the questions 1-4 which are given on pages 66-68 of this Guide.

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

If the public authority's 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.

If the public authority's 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.

In favour of a 'major' impact

- a) The policy is significant in terms of its strategic importance;
- b) 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;
- c) 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;
- d) 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;

- e) The policy is likely to be challenged by way of judicial review;
- f) The policy is significant in terms of expenditure.

In favour of 'minor' impact

- a) The policy is not unlawfully discriminatory and any residual potential impacts on people are judged to be negligible;
- b) 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;
- c) 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;
- d) By amending the policy there are better opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

In favour of none

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

Taking into account the evidence presented above, consider and comment on the likely impact on equality of opportunity and good relations for those affected by this policy, in any way, for each of the equality and good relations categories, by applying the screening questions given overleaf and indicate the level of impact on the group i.e. minor, major or none.

Screening questions

1. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories? minor/major/none

Section 75 category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact? minor/major/none
Religious belief	The proposed changes that the Department are considering are intended as a refresh of the existing TPS rather than a significant strategy change. Therefore, we do not expect there to be any adverse impacts, or significant positive impacts, on the equality of opportunity across all Section 75 groups.	None
Political opinion	The proposed changes that the Department are considering are intended as a refresh of the existing TPS rather than a significant strategy change. Therefore, we do not expect there to be any adverse impacts, or significant positive impacts, on the equality of opportunity across all Section 75 groups.	None
Racial group	The proposed changes that the Department are considering are intended as a refresh of the existing TPS rather than a significant strategy change. Therefore, we do not expect there to be any adverse impacts, or significant positive impacts, on the equality of opportunity across all Section 75 groups.	None
Age	The proposed changes that the Department are considering are intended as a refresh of the existing TPS rather than a significant strategy change. Therefore, we do not expect there to be any adverse impacts, or significant positive impacts, on the equality of opportunity across all Section 75 groups.	None

Section 75 category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact? minor/major/none
Marital status	The proposed changes that the Department are considering are intended as a refresh of the existing TPS rather than a significant strategy change. Therefore, we do not expect there to be any adverse impacts, or significant positive impacts, on the equality of opportunity across all Section 75 groups.	None
Sexual orientation	The proposed changes that the Department are considering are intended as a refresh of the existing TPS rather than a significant strategy change. Therefore, we do not expect there to be any adverse impacts, or significant positive impacts, on the equality of opportunity across all Section 75 groups.	None
Men and women generally	The proposed changes that the Department are considering are intended as a refresh of the existing TPS rather than a significant strategy change. Therefore, we do not expect there to be any adverse impacts, or significant positive impacts, on the equality of opportunity across all Section 75 groups.	None
Disability	The proposed changes that the Department are considering are intended as a refresh of the existing TPS rather than a significant strategy change. Therefore, we do not expect there to be any adverse impacts, or significant positive impacts, on the equality of opportunity across all Section 75 groups.	None
Dependants	The proposed changes that the Department are considering are intended as a refresh of the existing TPS rather than a significant strategy change. Therefore, we do not expect there to be any adverse impacts, or	None

Section 75 category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact? minor/major/none
	significant positive impacts, on the equality of opportunity across all Section 75 groups.	

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	Yes – the TPS encourages and promotes equality of opportunity for people across the Section 75 categories. By adopting inclusive, flexible and targeted participation approaches, removing barriers to engagement, and ensuring that tenant voices meaningfully influence decision-making, the strategy can help address under-representation and support fair and equitable access to participation for all tenants.	
Political opinion	Yes – the TPS encourages and promotes equality of opportunity for people across the Section 75 categories. By adopting inclusive, flexible and targeted participation approaches, removing barriers to engagement, and ensuring that tenant voices meaningfully influence decision-making, the strategy can help address under-representation and support fair and equitable access to participation for all tenants.	

Section 75 category	If Yes , provide details	If No , provide reasons
Racial group	Yes – the TPS encourages and promotes equality of opportunity for people across the Section 75 categories. By adopting inclusive, flexible and targeted participation approaches, removing barriers to engagement, and ensuring that tenant voices meaningfully influence decision-making, the strategy can help address under-representation and support fair and equitable access to participation for all tenants.	
Age	Yes – the TPS encourages and promotes equality of opportunity for people across the Section 75 categories. By adopting inclusive, flexible and targeted participation approaches, removing barriers to engagement, and ensuring that tenant voices meaningfully influence decision-making, the strategy can help address under-representation and support fair and equitable access to participation for all tenants.	
Marital status	Yes – the TPS encourages and promotes equality of opportunity for people across the Section 75 categories. By adopting inclusive, flexible and targeted participation approaches, removing barriers to engagement, and ensuring that tenant voices meaningfully influence decision-making, the strategy can help address under-representation and support fair and equitable access to participation for all tenants.	

Section 75 category	If Yes , provide details	If No , provide reasons
Sexual orientation	Yes – the TPS encourages and promotes equality of opportunity for people across the Section 75 categories. By adopting inclusive, flexible and targeted participation approaches, removing barriers to engagement, and ensuring that tenant voices meaningfully influence decision-making, the strategy can help address under-representation and support fair and equitable access to participation for all tenants.	
Men and women generally	Yes – the TPS encourages and promotes equality of opportunity for people across the Section 75 categories. By adopting inclusive, flexible and targeted participation approaches, removing barriers to engagement, and ensuring that tenant voices meaningfully influence decision-making, the strategy can help address under-representation and support fair and equitable access to participation for all tenants.	
Disability	Yes – the TPS encourages and promotes equality of opportunity for people across the Section 75 categories. By adopting inclusive, flexible and targeted participation approaches, removing barriers to engagement, and ensuring that tenant voices meaningfully influence decision-making, the strategy can help address under-representation and support fair and equitable access to participation for all tenants.	

Section 75 category	If Yes , provide details	If No , provide reasons
Dependants	Yes – the TPS encourages and promotes equality of opportunity for people across the Section 75 categories. By adopting inclusive, flexible and targeted participation approaches, removing barriers to engagement, and ensuring that tenant voices meaningfully influence decision-making, the strategy can help address under-representation and support fair and equitable access to participation for all tenants.	

**3. To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?
minor/major/none**

Good relations category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact minor/major/none
Religious belief		None
Political opinion		None
Racial group		None

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	Yes – the TPS can encourage cross-community dialogue between tenants of different religious beliefs and ensure that housing services are delivered in a neutral and inclusive way.	
Political opinion	Yes – the TPS can encourage cross-community dialogue between tenants of different political opinion and ensure that housing services are delivered in a neutral and inclusive way.	
Racial group	Yes – the TPS can encourage cross-community dialogue between tenants of different racial groups and ensure that housing services are delivered in a neutral and inclusive way. It can also help in addressing barriers such as language and cultural inclusion.	

Additional considerations

Multiple identity

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).

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

The intention of the TPS is to empower tenants and include them in decision-making in issues that affect them. This involves providing guidance to ensure that tenant engagement is accessible to everyone, across all Section 75 categories.

Part 3. Screening decision

In light of your answers to the previous questions, do you feel that the policy should: (please underline one)

- 1. Not be subject to an EQIA**
- 2. Not be subject to an EQIA (with mitigating measures /alternative policies)**
- 3. Be subject to an EQIA**

If 1 or 2 (i.e. not be subject to an EQIA), please provide details of the reasons why:

After having considered the policy, we are satisfied that there is no risk of adverse impact on Section 75 groups.
The Revised Tenant Engagement Strategy is designed to be inclusive and flexible.

If 3. (i.e. to conduct an EQIA), please provide details of the reasons:

Mitigation

When the public authority concludes that the likely impact is 'minor' and an equality impact assessment is not to be conducted, the public authority 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.

N/A

Part 4. Monitoring

Effective monitoring will help identify any future adverse impacts arising from the policy which may lead you to conduct an EQIA, as well as help with future planning and policy development.

You should consider the guidance contained in the Commission's Monitoring Guidance for Use by Public Authorities (July 2007).

The Commission recommends that where the policy has been amended or an alternative policy introduced, then you should monitor more broadly than for adverse impact (See Benefits, P.9-10, paras 2.13 – 2.20 of the Monitoring Guidance).

Please detail proposed monitoring arrangements below:

Once implemented we will continue to monitor and evaluate the policy and if results show greater adverse impact than predicted, or if opportunities arise which would allow for greater equality of opportunity to be promoted, we will ensure that the policy is reviewed to determine whether or not better outcomes for relevant equality groups can be achieved.

Part 5 - Approval and authorisation

Screened by:	Position/Job Title	Date
Emma O'Neill	Deputy Principal	11/05/2026
Approved by:		
Heloise Brown	Director	03/06/2026

Note: A copy of the Screening Template, for each policy screened should be 'signed off' and approved by a senior manager responsible for the policy, made easily accessible on the public authority's website as soon as possible following completion and made available on request.