

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

The Social Fund (Child Funeral Fund) (No. 2) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026

Is this an existing, revised or a new policy?

Revised

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

The Child Funeral Fund is delivered as part of the Social Fund and was introduced in Northern Ireland on 1 June 2022. Annually, in Northern Ireland there are approximately 144 deaths of children from birth up to and including age 17 and post-24 week still-births.

The Child Funeral Fund was established by the Social Fund (Child Funeral Fund) (No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2022 (“the 2022 Regulations”) to provide a one-off lump sum payment to cover the cost of a basic funeral in Northern

Ireland. This one-off payment of £3,441 is to cover the cost of a basic funeral in the event of the death of a child up to the age of 18, and stillborn babies born after 24 weeks. Families have the choice to receive the payment or have it paid directly to the funeral director.

The purpose of these regulations (the Social Fund (Child Funeral Fund) (No. 2) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026) is to amend the 2022 Regulations in order to prevent double payments by allowing a Child Funeral Fund payment to be refused where a payment has been made in respect of funeral expenses arising from the death of the same person from a Health and Social Care Trust, unless the amount paid by the Health and Social Care Trust is less than a Child Funeral Fund Payment, in which case a payment may be made for an amount not exceeding the remainder of the value Child Funeral Fund payment.

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

No

If Yes, explain how.

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

The Department for Communities (DfC).

Similar policies are also in place in GB.

Who owns and who implements the policy?

The Department for Communities (“the Department”) owns and implements the policy. Social Security Policy, Legislation and Decision-Making Services Directorate owns and delivers the policy and legislation, and the Working Age Group in the Department implements and delivers it.

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 Child Funeral Fund is similar to the Social Fund Funeral Expenses Payment Scheme, which the Department for Communities also has policy responsibility for. The same operational team in the Department administers both schemes.

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
Religious belief	The Department has identified 3 cases in the last 2 years where a Health and Social Care Trust contributed towards funeral expenses. However, this data cannot be linked to religious belief. The amendment applies equally to all applicants, and religious belief has no impact on eligibility to the Fund.
Political opinion	The Department has identified 3 cases in the last 2 years where a Health and Social Care Trust contributed towards funeral expenses. However, this data cannot be linked to political opinion. The amendment applies equally to all applicants, and political opinion has no impact on eligibility to the Fund.
Racial group	The Department has identified 3 cases in the last 2 years where a Health and Social Care Trust contributed towards funeral expenses. However, this data cannot be linked to a racial group. The amendment applies equally to all applicants, and racial group has no impact on eligibility to the Fund.
Age	The Department has identified 3 cases in the last 2 years where a Health and Social Care Trust contributed towards funeral expenses. However, this data cannot be linked to age. The amendment applies equally to all

Section 75 category	Details of evidence/information
	applicants, and age has no impact on eligibility to the Fund.
Marital status	The Department has identified 3 cases in the last 2 years where a Health and Social Care Trust contributed towards funeral expenses. However, this data cannot be linked to marital status. The amendment applies equally to all applicants, and marital status has no impact on eligibility to the Fund.
Sexual orientation	The Department has identified 3 cases in the last 2 years where a Health and Social Care Trust contributed towards funeral expenses. However, this data cannot be linked to sexual orientation. The amendment applies equally to all applicants, and sexual orientation has no impact on eligibility to the Fund.
Men and women generally	The Department has identified 3 cases in the last 2 years where a Health and Social Care Trust contributed towards funeral expenses. However, this data cannot be linked to men and women generally. The amendment applies equally to all applicants, and a claimant's gender will have no impact on eligibility to the Fund.
Disability	The Department has identified 3 cases in the last 2 years where a Health and Social Care Trust contributed towards funeral expenses. However, this data cannot be linked to disability. The amendment applies equally to all applicants, and disability has no impact on eligibility to the Fund.
Dependants	The Department has identified 3 cases in the last 2 years where a Health and Social Care Trust contributed towards funeral expenses. However, this data cannot be linked to dependants. The amendment applies equally to

Section 75 category	Details of evidence/information
	all applicants and dependants have no impact on eligibility to the Fund.

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:

The Department for Communities
Social Security Policy, Legislation and Decision-Making Services
Causeway Exchange
Level 3
1-7 Bedford Street
Belfast
BT2 7EG
E-mail: SSPLD@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 to suggest that people of different religious belief have different needs, experiences and priorities in relation to these amending regulations.
Political opinion	There is no evidence to suggest that people of different political opinion have different needs, experiences and priorities in relation to these amending regulations.
Racial group	There is no evidence to suggest that people of different racial groups have different needs, experiences and priorities in relation to these amending regulations.
Age	There is no evidence to suggest that people of different age groups have different needs, experiences and priorities in relation to these amending regulations.
Marital status	There is no evidence to suggest that people of different marital status have different needs, experiences and priorities in relation to these amending regulations.
Sexual orientation	There is no evidence to suggest that people of different sexual orientation have different needs, experiences and priorities in relation to these amending regulations.

Section 75 category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
Men and women generally	There is no evidence to suggest that men and women generally have different needs, experiences and priorities in relation to these amending regulations.
Disability	There is no evidence to suggest that people with disabilities have different needs, experiences and priorities in relation to these amending regulations.
Dependants	There is no evidence to suggest that people with dependants have different needs, experiences and priorities in relation to these amending regulations.

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 Social Fund (Child Funeral Fund) (No. 2) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 will prevent a Child Funeral Fund payment where a Health and Social Care Trust payment has been made in respect of the same funeral, unless the amount paid by the Health and Social Care Trust is less than a Child Funeral Fund payment, in which case a payment may be made for an amount not exceeding the remainder of the value of the Child Funeral Fund payment. The Department considers that the amendment is broadly neutral in relation to people of different religious beliefs and does not create adverse impacts. The amendment may result in a positive outcome for all eligible claimants by allowing for part payment from the Fund. Furthermore, the regulations will have no bearing in terms of likely impact on the equality of opportunity or good relations for people within	None

Section 75 category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact? minor/major/none
	the equality and good relations categories.	
Political opinion	The Social Fund (Child Funeral Fund) (No. 2) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 will prevent a Child Funeral Fund payment where a Health and Social Care Trust payment has been made in respect of the same funeral, unless the amount paid by the Health and Social Care Trust is less than a Child Funeral Fund payment, in which case a payment may be made for an amount not exceeding the remainder of the value of the Child Funeral Fund payment. The Department considers that the amendment is broadly neutral in relation to people of different political opinion and does not create adverse impacts. The amendment may result in a positive outcome for all eligible claimants by allowing for part payment from the Fund. Furthermore, the regulations will have no bearing in terms of likely impact on the equality of opportunity or good relations for people within the equality and good relations categories.	None

Section 75 category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact? minor/major/none
Racial group	The Social Fund (Child Funeral Fund) (No. 2) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 will prevent a Child Funeral Fund payment where a Health and Social Care Trust payment has been made in respect of the same funeral, unless the amount paid by the Health and Social Care Trust is less than a Child Funeral Fund payment, in which case a payment may be made for an amount not exceeding the remainder of the value of the Child Funeral Fund payment. The Department considers that the amendment is broadly neutral in relation to people from different racial groups and does not create adverse impacts. The amendment may result in a positive outcome for all eligible claimants by allowing for part payment from the Fund. Furthermore, the regulations will have no bearing in terms of likely impact on the equality of opportunity or good relations for people within the equality and good relations categories.	None
Age	The Social Fund (Child Funeral Fund) (No. 2) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026	None

Section 75 category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact? minor/major/none
	will prevent a Child Funeral Fund payment where a Health and Social Care Trust payment has been made in respect of the same funeral, unless the amount paid by the Health and Social Care Trust is less than a Child Funeral Fund payment, in which case a payment may be made for an amount not exceeding the remainder of the value of the Child Funeral Fund payment. The Department considers that the amendment is broadly neutral in relation to people from different age groups and does not create adverse impacts. The amendment may result in a positive outcome for all eligible claimants by allowing for part payment from the Fund. Furthermore, the regulations will have no bearing in terms of likely impact on the equality of opportunity or good relations for people within the equality and good relations categories.	
Marital status	The Social Fund (Child Funeral Fund) (No. 2) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 will prevent a Child Funeral Fund payment where a Health and Social Care Trust payment has been made in respect of the same funeral,	None

Section 75 category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact? minor/major/none
	unless the amount paid by the Health and Social Care Trust is less than a Child Funeral Fund payment, in which case a payment may be made for an amount not exceeding the remainder of the value of the Child Funeral Fund payment. The Department considers that the amendment is broadly neutral in relation to people of different marital status and does not create adverse impacts. The amendment may result in a positive outcome for all eligible claimants by allowing for part payment from the Fund. Furthermore, the regulations will have no bearing in terms of likely impact on the equality of opportunity or good relations for people within the equality and good relations categories.	
Sexual orientation	The Social Fund (Child Funeral Fund) (No. 2) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 will prevent a Child Funeral Fund payment where a Health and Social Care Trust payment has been made in respect of the same funeral, unless the amount paid by the Health and Social Care Trust is less than a Child Funeral Fund payment, in which case a payment may be made	None

Section 75 category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact? minor/major/none
	for an amount not exceeding the remainder of the value of the Child Funeral Fund payment. The Department considers that the amendment is broadly neutral in relation to people of different sexual orientation and does not create adverse impacts. The amendment may result in a positive outcome for all eligible claimants by allowing for part payment from the Fund. Furthermore, the regulations will have no bearing in terms of likely impact on the equality of opportunity or good relations for people within the equality and good relations categories.	
Men and women generally	The Social Fund (Child Funeral Fund) (No. 2) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 will prevent a Child Funeral Fund payment where a Health and Social Care Trust payment has been made in respect of the same funeral, unless the amount paid by the Health and Social Care Trust is less than a Child Funeral Fund payment, in which case a payment may be made for an amount not exceeding the remainder of the value of the Child Funeral Fund payment.	None

Section 75 category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact? minor/major/none
	The Department considers that the amendment is broadly neutral in relation to men and women generally and does not create adverse impacts. The amendment may result in a positive outcome for all eligible claimants by allowing for part payment from the Fund. Furthermore, the regulations will have no bearing in terms of likely impact on the equality of opportunity or good relations for people within the equality and good relations categories.	
Disability	The Social Fund (Child Funeral Fund) (No. 2) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 will prevent a Child Funeral Fund payment where a Health and Social Care Trust payment has been made in respect of the same funeral, unless the amount paid by the Health and Social Care Trust is less than a Child Funeral Fund payment, in which case a payment may be made for an amount not exceeding the remainder of the value of the Child Funeral Fund payment. The Department considers that the amendment is broadly neutral in relation to people who have a	None

Section 75 category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact? minor/major/none
	disability and does not create adverse impacts. The amendment may result in a positive outcome for all eligible claimants by allowing for part payment from the Fund. Furthermore, the regulations will have no bearing in terms of likely impact on the equality of opportunity or good relations for people within the equality and good relations categories.	
Dependants	The Social Fund (Child Funeral Fund) (No. 2) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 will prevent a Child Funeral Fund payment where a Health and Social Care Trust payment has been made in respect of the same funeral, unless the amount paid by the Health and Social Care Trust is less than a Child Funeral Fund payment, in which case a payment may be made for an amount not exceeding the remainder of the value of the Child Funeral Fund payment. The Department considers that the amendment is broadly neutral in relation to people with dependants and does not create adverse impacts.	None

Section 75 category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact? minor/major/none
	The amendment may result in a positive outcome for all eligible claimants by allowing for part payment from the Fund. Furthermore, the regulations will have no bearing in terms of likely impact on the equality of opportunity or good relations for people within the equality and good relations categories.	

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 – there is no opportunity to better promote good relations between these groups.
Political opinion		No – there is no opportunity to better promote good relations between these groups.
Racial group		No – there is no opportunity to better promote good relations between these groups.

Section 75 category	If Yes , provide details	If No , provide reasons
Age		No – there is no opportunity to better promote good relations between these groups.
Marital status		No – there is no opportunity to better promote good relations between these groups.
Sexual orientation		No – there is no opportunity to better promote good relations between these groups.
Men and women generally		No – there is no opportunity to better promote good relations between these groups.
Disability		No – there is no opportunity to better promote good relations between these groups.
Dependants		No – there is no opportunity to better promote good relations between these groups.

**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	The proposals outlined in this screening exercise are not expected to have any impact on good relations between people of different religious belief.	None
Political opinion	The proposals outlined in this screening exercise are not expected to have any impact on good relations between people of different political opinion.	None
Racial group	The proposals outlined in this screening exercise are not expected to have any impact on good relations between people from different racial groups.	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		No – there is no opportunity to better promote good relations between these groups.

Good relations category	If Yes , provide details	If No , provide reasons
Political opinion		No – there is no opportunity to better promote good relations between these groups.
Racial group		No – there is no opportunity to better promote good relations between these groups.

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).

No potential adverse equality impacts are anticipated.

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

No potential adverse equality impacts are anticipated.

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:

The Social Fund (Child Funeral Fund) (No. 2) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 will prevent payment of a Child Funeral Fund payment where payment has already been made in respect of funeral expenses arising from the death of the same person from a Health and Social Care Trust, unless the amount paid by the Health and Social Care Trust is less than a Child Funeral Fund Payment, in which case a payment may be made for an amount not exceeding the remainder of the value Child Funeral Fund payment.

The Child Funeral Fund eligibility criteria and payment amount are unchanged. The changes will apply equally to all applicants therefore the Department does not expect there to be any adverse impact on people in any of the Section 75 categories.

The regulations will have no bearing in terms of any likely impact on equality of opportunity or good relations for people within the equality and good relations categories.

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

N/A

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?

No

If so, **give the reasons** to support your decision, together with the proposed changes/amendments or alternative policy.

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:

Operational colleagues will monitor the ongoing effectiveness of the policy to ensure there are no adverse equality impacts.

Part 5 - Approval and authorisation

Screened by:	Position/Job Title	Date
Nicola Boyle	DP	10/8/2026
Approved by:		
David Tarr	Grade 5	01.10.26

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.