

Section 75 Policy Screening Form

Part 1: Policy Scoping

The first stage of the screening process involves scoping the policy or policy area. 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.

You 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

Name of the policy or policy area:

The Housing Benefit (Executive Determinations) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018

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

Existing	Revised	New
X		

Brief Description

Local Housing Allowance (LHA) was introduced in 2008 and is a rent assessment scheme for tenants who are claiming housing benefit for a property which is rented privately. The LHA rate is based on the area in which a claimant lives, the size of the accommodation, and the size of the claimant's household. These Regulations enable the Northern Ireland Housing Executive to identify which LHA rates should be increased. The new LHA rates apply from 5 April 2018.

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

Local Housing Allowance (LHA) allows tenants claiming housing benefit to have a better choice of where to live as they know in advance the maximum amount of benefit they can receive. A clear and transparent set of LHA rates help tenants (and landlords) know how much financial help is available from the Government, and enables claimants to compare how much support is available towards their housing costs in different areas and for different property sizes.

In the Summer Budget Statement of 2015, the GB Government announced that Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates would be frozen for four years from 2016/17. Some of the savings from this measure would then be used to mitigate adverse effects of the freeze on rates by way of a Targeted Affordability Fund. These Regulations will allow some size categories of dwelling within some Broad Rental Market Areas to be uprated by 3 per cent and are therefore beneficial in nature, as the 3% uplift is applied to those areas experiencing the greatest rent increases.

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

YES	NO	N/A
	X	

If YES, explain how.

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

The Department for Work and Pensions

Who owns and who implements each element of the policy?

The Department for Work and Pensions in Great Britain
The Department for Communities in Northern Ireland

Implementation factors

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

YES	NO	N/A
	X	

If YES, are they

Financial: YES (If YES, please detail)

Legislative: Y / N (If YES, please detail)

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?

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 relevant Section 75 categories.

Section 75 Category	Details of Evidence/Information																																																																																																																														
General information on evidence gathering	<p>The Northern Ireland Housing Executive does not collect data relating to Religious Belief, Political Opinion, Racial Group and Sexual Orientation as it has no bearing on the eligibility for claiming housing benefit and as such this information is not stored within the administrative systems.</p> <p>Therefore, the following Table details only the age, gender and dependents status of claimants within each rental area of Northern Ireland.</p> <p>As of 14 February 2018, there are some 54,061 claims subject to Local Housing Allowance Rules, 61% of whom are female (32,746), and 39% of whom are male (21,275). Some 45% of claims have dependants forming part of the household (24,454), whilst some 55% of claims have no dependants.</p> <p>The average household size in Northern Ireland has fallen from 2.6 to 2.5 people (https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/bulletins/populationandhouseholdestimatesfortheunitedkingdom/2011-03-21#average-household-size).</p> <p>The table below sets out....</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="379 1406 1575 1877"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>BMRA 1 South</th> <th>BRMA 2 North</th> <th>BRMA 3 Lough Neagh Lower</th> <th>BRMA 4 North West</th> <th>BRMA 5 South East</th> <th>BRMA 6 South East</th> <th>BRMA 7 Lough Neagh Upper</th> <th>BRMA 8 Belfast</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>AGE</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>16-17</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>0</td> <td>4</td> <td>6</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18-34</td> <td>1989</td> <td>1150</td> <td>2053</td> <td>3417</td> <td>1453</td> <td>3103</td> <td>3568</td> <td>4449</td> </tr> <tr> <td>35-61</td> <td>2703</td> <td>1687</td> <td>2859</td> <td>4078</td> <td>2333</td> <td>3956</td> <td>4922</td> <td>5466</td> </tr> <tr> <td>62+</td> <td>695</td> <td>490</td> <td>711</td> <td>803</td> <td>582</td> <td>1089</td> <td>1251</td> <td>951</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All</td> <td>5389</td> <td>3328</td> <td>5624</td> <td>8301</td> <td>4368</td> <td>8152</td> <td>9747</td> <td>10868</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gender</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Female</td> <td>3361</td> <td>2105</td> <td>3638</td> <td>4513</td> <td>2520</td> <td>5041</td> <td>6408</td> <td>5885</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Male</td> <td>2028</td> <td>1220</td> <td>1985</td> <td>3764</td> <td>1844</td> <td>3109</td> <td>3333</td> <td>4977</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Undisclosed</td> <td>0</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>24</td> <td>4</td> <td>2</td> <td>6</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>5389</td> <td>3328</td> <td>5624</td> <td>8301</td> <td>4368</td> <td>8152</td> <td>9747</td> <td>10868</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Claims with Dependants</td> <td>2682</td> <td>1596</td> <td>2896</td> <td>3314</td> <td>1875</td> <td>3917</td> <td>4891</td> <td>4555</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Claims without Dependants</td> <td>2707</td> <td>1732</td> <td>2728</td> <td>4987</td> <td>2493</td> <td>4235</td> <td>4856</td> <td>6313</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Source: Northern Ireland Housing Executive, February 2017.</p>		BMRA 1 South	BRMA 2 North	BRMA 3 Lough Neagh Lower	BRMA 4 North West	BRMA 5 South East	BRMA 6 South East	BRMA 7 Lough Neagh Upper	BRMA 8 Belfast	AGE									16-17	2	1	1	3	0	4	6	2	18-34	1989	1150	2053	3417	1453	3103	3568	4449	35-61	2703	1687	2859	4078	2333	3956	4922	5466	62+	695	490	711	803	582	1089	1251	951	All	5389	3328	5624	8301	4368	8152	9747	10868	Gender									Female	3361	2105	3638	4513	2520	5041	6408	5885	Male	2028	1220	1985	3764	1844	3109	3333	4977	Undisclosed	0	3	1	24	4	2	6	6	TOTAL	5389	3328	5624	8301	4368	8152	9747	10868	Claims with Dependants	2682	1596	2896	3314	1875	3917	4891	4555	Claims without Dependants	2707	1732	2728	4987	2493	4235	4856	6313
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Section 75 Category	Details of Evidence/Information
	<p>The Housing Benefit (Executive Determinations) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018 establish those Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates which should be increased by 3 per cent, and which are based on the category of accommodation and the Broad Rental Market Area (BRMA) in which the claimant resides.</p> <p>In Northern Ireland there are a total of eight Broad Rental Market Areas (BRMAs) each of which have 5 different LHA rates which cover shared accommodation up to four bedroom properties.</p> <p>A BRMA is an area comprising of two or more distinct areas of residential accommodation wherein at least one distinct area adjoins another. They are areas within which a person could reasonably be expected to live having regard to facilities and services for the purposes of health, education, recreation, personal banking and shopping, taking account of the distance of travel, by public and private transport</p> <p>The Housing Executive has identified the BRMAs and accommodation sizes within those areas in which market rents have diverged most from restrictions on LHA rates. These are:</p> <p>BRMA1 South – one bedroom, exclusive use, two bedrooms, three bedrooms and four bedrooms.</p> <p>BRMA2 North – three bedrooms and four bedrooms.</p> <p>BRMA3 Lough Neagh Lower – one bedroom, shared accommodation, two bedrooms, three bedrooms and four bedrooms.</p> <p>BRMA4 North West – one bedroom shared accommodation, one bedroom exclusive use, two bedrooms.</p> <p>BRMA6 South East –three bedrooms and four bedrooms.</p> <p>BRMA8 Belfast –one bedroom, exclusive use, two bedroom and three bedrooms.</p> <p>Whilst not all tenants renting in the private rental sector will be eligible for a 3% increase in their LHA rate, all tenants renting from a private landlord can apply for a Discretionary Housing Payment, where they are experiencing a shortfall between the rent set by their landlord and the amount of rent paid for by the Government.</p> <p>Discretionary Housing Payments, which are for the purpose of providing additional financial assistance with housing costs, are administered by the Northern</p>

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	<p>Ireland Housing Executive. The Discretionary Housing Payments budget for 2017-18 is £7.226 million.</p> <p>The latest Summary Research Report, January – June 2017</p> <p>The Performance of the Private Rental Market in Northern Ireland, January to July 2017(https://www.nihe.gov.uk/private_rental_market_january_june_2017.pdf) , undertaken by the University of Ulster in association with NIHE and propertynews.com, shows growth in average rent in the Private Rental Sector (PRS).</p> <p>Whilst rents have continued to grow over the six-month period, there is some variation across Northern Ireland.</p> <p>For the first six months of 2017, the average rent here was £595, which represents a 2.8 per cent increase compared with the previous 6 month in 2016 (£579).</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="368 1016 1575 1397"> <thead> <tr> <th>Six-Month Period</th> <th>Average Rent</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Jan – Jun 2013</td> <td>£543</td> </tr> <tr> <td>July – Dec 2013</td> <td>£534</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jan – Jun 2014</td> <td>£548</td> </tr> <tr> <td>July – Dec 2014</td> <td>£549</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jan – Jun 2015</td> <td>£553</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jul – Dec 2015</td> <td>£568</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jan – Jun 2016</td> <td>£565</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jul – Dec 2016</td> <td>£579</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jan – Jun 2017</td> <td>£595</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Two and three bedroom properties remain the most common property size, accounting for over three quarters (77%) of properties rented during the first six months of 2017.</p> <p>Decreases in rental transactions were most pronounced in the two (17.1%) and three bedroom (13.9%) categories, with one bedroom properties also showing sizable decline over the year (11.9%). This broadly aligns with the average family size of 2.5.</p>	Six-Month Period	Average Rent	Jan – Jun 2013	£543	July – Dec 2013	£534	Jan – Jun 2014	£548	July – Dec 2014	£549	Jan – Jun 2015	£553	Jul – Dec 2015	£568	Jan – Jun 2016	£565	Jul – Dec 2016	£579	Jan – Jun 2017	£595
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<p><i>Note: H1 refers to the first half (6 months) of a given year, and H2 the second half.</i></p>																																										
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<p>Northern Ireland Average rent by property type – See table below. Rents continued to grow across Northern Ireland over the year 2017 against 2016 (except in detached properties), the average rent increased by £16 per calendar month, £192 over the year 2017.</p>																																										
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	<p>Northern Ireland Average rent by number of bedrooms- see table below. All bedroom categories have seen slight increases in the average rent, except one bedroom properties. Four or more bedroom properties showing the greatest increase.</p>					
	Number of bedrooms	H1 2016	H2 2016	H1 2017	Half yearly Change (%)	Annual Change (%)
	1 Bedroom	£429	£442	£441	-0.2%	2.8%
	2 Bedrooms	£519	£528	£536	1.5%	3.3%
	3 Bedrooms	£562	£573	£581	1.4%	3.4%
	4/4+Bedrooms	£789	£840	£857	2.0%	8.6%
	ALL	£565	£579	£595	2.8%	5.3%
	<p>Properties let in Belfast City Council Area by number of bedrooms, shown in table below. 2 bedroom properties are the most common property type of all properties let in Belfast followed by 3 bedroom @ 27%.</p>					
	Number of bedrooms	H1 2016	H2 2016	H1 2017	Half yearly Change (%)	Annual Change (%)
	1 Bedroom	438 (9%)	460 (11%)	337 (9%)	-26.7%	-23.1%
2 Bedrooms	2,363 (48%)	1,921 (48%)	1,693 (45%)	-11.9%	-28.4%	
3 Bedrooms	1,522 (31%)	1,115 (28%)	1,005 (27%)	-9.9%	-34.0%	
4/4+Bedrooms	637 (13%)	549 (14%)	706 (19%)	28.6%	10.8%	
TOTAL	4,960	4,045	3,741	-7.5%	-24.6%	

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	<p>Average Rent in Belfast City Council Area-as below. Average rent £662 for the first half of 2017, £39 higher than the average rent across Northern Ireland. South Belfast the most expensive @ £777 and North Belfast the lowest @ £494.</p>						
	Location	H2 2015	H1 2016	H2 2016	H1 2017	Half yearly change (%)	Annual Change (%)
	Belfast City Council Area	£612	£608	£623	£662	6.3%	8.9%
	Belfast City Centre	£741	£751	£727	£773	6.3%	2.9%
	North Belfast	£476	£464	£468	£494	5.6%	6.5%
	South Belfast	£718	£712	£741	£777	4.9%	9.1%
	East Belfast	£556	£556	£565	£584	3.4%	5.0%
	West Belfast	£538	£538	£544	£542	-0.4%	0.7%
	<p>Average rent by property type, local Government Districts</p>						
	Council District	Average Rent by Property Type (£)					
		Apartment	Terrace/ Townhouse	Semi Detached	Detached	All	
	Antrim & Newtownabbey	£486	£484	£541	£760	£537	
	Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon	£417	£446	£513	£616	£489	
Causeway Coast & Glens	£403	£419	£411	£536	£434		
Derry & Strabane	£451	£504	£560	£650	£506		
Fermanagh & Omagh	£392	£425	£453	£482	£434		
Lisburn & Castlereagh	£527	£539	£595	£761	£588		
Mid & East Antrim	£460	£462	£524	£617	£490		
Mid-Ulster	£414	£496	£511	£560	£503		
Newry Mourne & Down	£462	£481	£513	£610	£512		
North Down & Ards	£533	£546	£598	£850	£602		

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	<p data-bbox="368 981 1573 1160">Although, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive has attempted to encourage voluntary data gathering for section 75 analysis, claimants are unwilling to provide such information particularly in relation to religion and political opinion. We have attempted to use a number of data sources to estimate the impacts on these section 75 categories.</p> <p data-bbox="368 1200 1573 1272">Each of the former 26 District Councils prepared section 75 statistics in January 2011, as part of research work for the development of revised equality schemes.</p> <p data-bbox="368 1312 1573 1384">Although there is no strict overlap between these council areas on the Broad Rental Market Areas (BRMA), we have broadly matched them to each of the BRMAs.</p> <p data-bbox="368 1424 1573 1496">Furthermore, the 26 district councils were replaced with 11 new councils in April 2015. However, there has been no revision of section 75 statistics.</p> <p data-bbox="368 1568 1573 1639">Broadly, using the section 75 statistics from the 26 district councils the BRMAs comprise:</p> <ul data-bbox="464 1680 1573 2007" style="list-style-type: none"> BRMA1 South– Armagh, Banbridge, Dungannon, and Newry BRMA2 North – Coleraine, Ballymoney, and Moyle BRMA3 Lough Neagh Lower–Craigavon BRMA4 – Strabane, Limavady, and Derry BRMA5 – Fermanagh and Omagh BRMA6 – Down, North Down, Newtownards, Castlereagh and Lisburn BRMA7 – Magherafelt, Cookstown, Ballymena, Antrim, Larne, Carrick, and Newtownabbey BRMA8 – Belfast 																																																																								

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Men and Women Generally Religious Belief / Political Opinion Age Dependants	<p><i>Note: the following figures may not add correctly due to rounding</i></p> <p>BRMA1 SOUTH <i>Armagh</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Persons with community background</th> <th>All Persons Northern Ireland</th> <th>%</th> <th>All Persons Armagh</th> <th>%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1,685,267</td> <td>100</td> <td>54,263</td> <td>100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Catholic¹</td> <td>737,412</td> <td>43.75</td> <td>26,427</td> <td>48.70</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)</td> <td>895,377</td> <td>53.12</td> <td>27,156</td> <td>50.04</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Religions and philosophies</td> <td>6,569</td> <td>0.38</td> <td>83</td> <td>0.15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>None</td> <td>45,909</td> <td>2.72</td> <td>597</td> <td>1.10</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>¹ The term Catholic includes those respondents who gave their religion as Catholic or Roman Catholic.</p>	Persons with community background	All Persons Northern Ireland	%	All Persons Armagh	%		1,685,267	100	54,263	100	Catholic ¹	737,412	43.75	26,427	48.70	Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)	895,377	53.12	27,156	50.04	Other Religions and philosophies	6,569	0.38	83	0.15	None	45,909	2.72	597	1.10	
	Persons with community background		All Persons Northern Ireland	%	All Persons Armagh	%																										
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Section 75 Category	Details of Evidence/Information																																	
	Persons with community background	All Persons Northern Ireland	%	All Persons Dungannon	%																													
		1,685,267	100	47,735	100																													
	Catholic ¹	737,412	43.75	29,022	60.79																													
	Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)	895,377	53.12	18,237	38.20																													
	Other Religions and philosophies	6,569	0.38	80	0.16																													
	None	45,909	2.72	396	0.82																													
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<i>Newry and Mourne</i>																																		
	Persons with community background	All Persons Northern Ireland	%	All Persons Newry and Mourne	%																													
		1,685,267	100	87,058	100																													
	Catholic ¹	737,412	43.75	70,203	80.63																													
	Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)	895,377	53.12	16,077	18.46																													
	Other Religions and philosophies	6,569	0.38	116	0.13																													
	None	45,909	2.72	662	0.76																													
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Section 75 Category	Details of Evidence/Information			
		BMRA 1 South	Catholic	Protestant
	AGE		60.18%	38.54%
	16-17	1	0.60	0.23
	18-34	1856	1117	430
	35-61	2693	1621	625
	62+	720	433	167
	All	5270	3171	1222
	Gender			
	Female	3344	2012	1289
	Male	1926	1159	742
	Undisclosed	0		
	TOTAL	5270	3171	2031
	Claims with Dependants	2565	1544	989
	Claims without Dependants	2705	1628	1043
		5270	3171	2031
	BRMA2 – NORTH			
	<i>Ballymoney</i>			
	Persons with community background	All Persons Northern Ireland	%	All Persons Ballymoney
		1,685,267	100	26,894
	Catholic ¹	737,412	43.75	8,578
	Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)	895,377	53.12	17,814
	Other Religions and philosophies	6,569	0.38	29
	None	45,909	2.72	473
	¹ The term Catholic includes those respondents who gave their religion as Catholic or Roman Catholic.			

Section 75 Category	Details of Evidence/Information				
	Coleraine				
	Persons with community background	All Persons Northern Ireland	%	All Persons Coleraine	%
		1,685,267	100	56,315	100
	Catholic ¹	737,412	43.75	15,321	27.20
	Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)	895,377	53.12	39,082	69.39
	Other Religions and philosophies	6,569	0.38	256	0.45
	None	45,909	2.72	1,656	2.94
¹ The term Catholic includes those respondents who gave their religion as Catholic or Roman Catholic.					

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	<p data-bbox="400 383 491 416">Moyle</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="416 450 1565 869"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="416 450 647 555">Persons with community background</th> <th data-bbox="647 450 879 517">All Persons Northern Ireland</th> <th data-bbox="879 450 1110 517">%</th> <th data-bbox="1110 450 1342 517">All Persons Moyle</th> <th data-bbox="1342 450 1565 517">%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="416 517 647 555"></td> <td data-bbox="647 517 879 555">1,685,267</td> <td data-bbox="879 517 1110 555">100</td> <td data-bbox="1110 517 1342 555">15,933</td> <td data-bbox="1342 517 1565 555">100</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="416 555 647 589">Catholic¹</td> <td data-bbox="647 555 879 589">737,412</td> <td data-bbox="879 555 1110 589">43.75</td> <td data-bbox="1110 555 1342 589">9,606</td> <td data-bbox="1342 555 1565 589">60.28</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="416 589 647 763">Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)</td> <td data-bbox="647 589 879 622">895,377</td> <td data-bbox="879 589 1110 622">53.12</td> <td data-bbox="1110 589 1342 622">6,101</td> <td data-bbox="1342 589 1565 622">38.29</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="416 763 647 831">Other Religions and philosophies</td> <td data-bbox="647 763 879 797">6,569</td> <td data-bbox="879 763 1110 797">0.38</td> <td data-bbox="1110 763 1342 797">20</td> <td data-bbox="1342 763 1565 797">0.12</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="416 831 647 864">None</td> <td data-bbox="647 831 879 864">45,909</td> <td data-bbox="879 831 1110 864">2.72</td> <td data-bbox="1110 831 1342 864">206</td> <td data-bbox="1342 831 1565 864">1.29</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p data-bbox="427 875 1549 936">¹ The term Catholic includes those respondents who gave their religion as Catholic or Roman Catholic.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="395 983 1509 1182"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="395 983 555 1055">BRMA2</th> <th data-bbox="555 983 727 1055">Ballymoney</th> <th data-bbox="727 983 911 1055">Coleraine</th> <th data-bbox="911 983 1070 1055">Moyle</th> <th data-bbox="1070 983 1326 1055">Totals</th> <th data-bbox="1326 983 1509 1055">% Breakdown</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="395 1055 555 1088">All People</td> <td data-bbox="555 1055 727 1088">26894</td> <td data-bbox="727 1055 911 1088">56315</td> <td data-bbox="911 1055 1070 1088">15933</td> <td data-bbox="1070 1055 1326 1088">99142</td> <td data-bbox="1326 1055 1509 1088"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="395 1088 555 1122">Catholic</td> <td data-bbox="555 1088 727 1122">8578</td> <td data-bbox="727 1088 911 1122">15321</td> <td data-bbox="911 1088 1070 1122">9606</td> <td data-bbox="1070 1088 1326 1122">33505</td> <td data-bbox="1326 1088 1509 1122">33.79</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="395 1122 555 1182">Protestant</td> <td data-bbox="555 1122 727 1182">17814</td> <td data-bbox="727 1122 911 1182">39082</td> <td data-bbox="911 1122 1070 1182">6101</td> <td data-bbox="1070 1122 1326 1182">62997</td> <td data-bbox="1326 1122 1509 1182">63.54</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Persons with community background	All Persons Northern Ireland	%	All Persons Moyle	%		1,685,267	100	15,933	100	Catholic ¹	737,412	43.75	9,606	60.28	Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)	895,377	53.12	6,101	38.29	Other Religions and philosophies	6,569	0.38	20	0.12	None	45,909	2.72	206	1.29	BRMA2	Ballymoney	Coleraine	Moyle	Totals	% Breakdown	All People	26894	56315	15933	99142		Catholic	8578	15321	9606	33505	33.79	Protestant	17814	39082	6101	62997	63.54
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Section 75 Category	Details of Evidence/Information			
		BRMA 2 North	Catholic	Protestant
	AGE		33.79%	63.54%
	16-17	0	0.00	0.00
	18-34	1067	361	229
	35-61	1589	537	341
	62+	488	165	105
	All	3144	1062	675
	Gender			
	Female	2014	681	1280
	Male	1127	381	716
	Undisclosed	3		
	TOTAL	3144	1062	1998
	Claims with Dependants	1474	498	937
	Claims without Dependants	1670	564	1061
		3144	1062	1998

Section 75 Category	Details of Evidence/Information				
	BRMA3 LOUGH NEAGH LOWER				
	<i>Craigavon</i>				
	Persons with community background	All Persons Northern Ireland	%	All Persons Craigavon	%
		1,685,267	100	80,671	100
	Catholic ¹	737,412	43.75	36,042	44.67
	Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)	895,377	53.12	42,656	52.87
	Other Religions and philosophies	6,569	0.38	373	0.46
	None	45,909	2.72	1,600	1.98
	¹ The term Catholic includes those respondents who gave their religion as Catholic or Roman Catholic.				
		BRMA 3 Lough Neagh Lower	Catholic	Protestant	
	AGE		44.67%	52.87%	
	16-17	1	0.45	0.24	
	18-34	1841	822	973	
	35-61	2819	1259	1490	
	62+	750	335	397	
All	5411	2417	2861		
Gender					
Female	3541	1582	1872		
Male	1869	835	988		
Undisclosed	1	0	1		
TOTAL	5411	2417	2861		
Claims with Dependants	2732	1220	1444		
Claims without Dependants	2679	1197	1416		
	5411				

Section 75 Category	Details of Evidence/Information				
	BRMA4 North West				
	<i>Derry</i>				
	Persons with community background	All Persons Northern Ireland	%	All Persons Derry	%
		1,685,267	100	105,066	100
	Catholic ¹	737,412	43.75	79,183	75.36
	Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)	895,377	53.12	24,373	23.19
	Other Religions and philosophies	6,569	0.38	370	0.35
	None	45,909	2.72	1,140	1.08
	¹ The term Catholic includes those respondents who gave their religion as Catholic or Roman Catholic.				
	<i>Limavady</i>				
	Persons with community background	All Persons Northern Ireland	%	All Persons Limavady	%
		1,685,267	100	32,422	100
Catholic ¹	737,412	43.75	18,345	56.58	
Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)	895,377	53.12	13,477	41.56	
Other Religions and philosophies	6,569	0.38	45	0.13	
None	45,909	2.72	555	1.71	
¹ The term Catholic includes those respondents who gave their religion as Catholic or Roman Catholic.					

Section 75 Category	Details of Evidence/Information					
	Strabane					
	Persons with community background	All Persons Northern Ireland	%	All Persons Strabane	%	
		1,685,267	100	38,248	100	
	Catholic ¹	737,412	43.75	25,315	66.18	
	Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)	895,377	53.12	12,721	33.25	
	Other Religions and philosophies	6,569	0.38	55	0.14	
	None	45,909	2.72	157	0.41	
	¹ The term Catholic includes those respondents who gave their religion as Catholic or Roman Catholic.					
	BRMA4	Derry	Limavady	Strabane	Totals	% Breakdown
	All People	105066	32422	38248	175736	
	Catholic	79183	18345	25315	122843	69.90
	Protestant	24373	13477	12721	50571	28.78
		BRMA 4 North West	Catholic	Protestant		
	AGE		69.90%	28.78%		
	16-17	2	1.40	0.40		
18-34	3173	2218	638			
35-61	4021	2811	809			
62+	842	589	169			
All	8038	5619	1617			
Gender						
Female	4399	3075	1266			
Male	3618	2529	1041			
Undisclosed	21					
TOTAL	8038	5619	2313			
Claims with Dependants	3192	2231	919			
Claims without Dependants	4846	3387	1395			
	8038	5619	2313			

Section 75 Category	Details of Evidence/Information				
	BRMA5 SOUTH WEST				
	Fermanagh				
	Persons with community background	All Persons Northern Ireland	%	All Persons Fermanagh	%
		1,685,267	100	57,527	100
	Catholic ¹	737,412	43.75	33,784	58.72
	Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)	895,377	53.12	22,905	39.81
	Other Religions and philosophies	6,569	0.38	162	0.28
	None	45,909	2.72	676	1.17
	¹ The term Catholic includes those respondents who gave their religion as Catholic or Roman Catholic.				
	Omagh				
	Persons with community background	All Persons Northern Ireland	%	All Persons Omagh	%
		1,685,267	100	47,952	100
	Catholic ¹	737,412	43.75	33,122	69.07
	Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)	895,377	53.12	14,223	29.66
	Other Religions and philosophies	6,569	0.38	112	0.23
None	45,909	2.72	495	1.03	
¹ The term Catholic includes those respondents who gave their religion as Catholic or Roman Catholic.					
BRMA5	Fermanagh	Omagh	Totals	% Breakdown	
All People	57527	47952	105479		
Catholic	33784	33122	66906	63.43	
Protestant	22905	14223	37128	36.57	

Section 75 Category	Details of Evidence/Information			
		BRMA 5 South West	Catholic	Protestant
	AGE		63.43%	36.57%
	16-17	2	1.27	0.46
	18-34	3173	2013	736
	35-61	4021	2551	933
	62+	842	534	195
	All	8038	5099	1865
	Gender			
	Female	4399	2790	1609
	Male	3618	2295	1323
	Undisclosed	21		
	TOTAL	8038	5099	2939
	Claims with Dependants	3192	2025	1167
	Claims without Dependants	4846	3074	1772
		8038	5099	2939
	BRMA6 SOUTH EAST			
	Ards			
	Persons with community background	All Persons Northern Ireland	%	All Persons Ards
		1,685,267	100	73,244
	Catholic ¹	737,412	43.75	9,228
	Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)	895,377	53.12	60,440
	Other Religions and philosophies	6,569	0.38	273
	None	45,909	2.72	3,303
	¹ The term Catholic includes those respondents who gave their religion as Catholic or Roman Catholic.			

Section 75 Category	Details of Evidence/Information				
	Castlereagh				
	Persons with community background	All Persons Northern Ireland	%	All Persons Castlereagh	%
		1,685,267	100	66,488	100
	Catholic ¹	737,412	43.75	12,141	18.26
	Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)	895,377	53.12	51,161	76.94
	Other Religions and philosophies	6,569	0.38	389	0.58
	None	45,909	2.72	2,797	4.20
	¹ The term Catholic includes those respondents who gave their religion as Catholic or Roman Catholic.				
	Down				
	Persons with community background	All Persons Northern Ireland	%	All Persons Down	%
		1,685,267	100	63,828	100
	Catholic ¹	737,412	43.75	39,541	61.94
	Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)	895,377	53.12	22,651	35.48
	Other Religions and philosophies	6,569	0.38	103	0.16
None	45,909	2.72	1,533	2.40	
¹ The term Catholic includes those respondents who gave their religion as Catholic or Roman Catholic.					

Section 75 Category	Details of Evidence/Information				
	Lisburn				
	Persons with community background	All Persons Northern Ireland	%	All Persons Lisburn	%
		1,685,267	100	108,694	100
	Catholic ¹	737,412	43.75	36,251	33.35
	Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)	895,377	53.12	68,233	62.77
	Other Religions and philosophies	6,569	0.38	387	0.35
	None	45,909	2.72	3,823	3.51
	¹ The term Catholic includes those respondents who gave their religion as Catholic or Roman Catholic.				
	Newtownabbey				
	Persons with community background	All Persons Northern Ireland	%	All Persons Newtownabbey	%
		1,685,267	100	79,995	100
	Catholic ¹	737,412	43.75	15,489	19.36
	Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)	895,377	53.12	60,962	76.20
	Other Religions and philosophies	6,569	0.38	358	0.44
	None	45,909	2.72	3,186	3.98
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Section 75 Category	Details of Evidence/Information																																																																			
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Persons with community background	All Persons Northern Ireland	%	All Persons Antrim	%																														
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Section 75 Category	Details of Evidence/Information				
	Ballymena				
	Persons with community background	All Persons Northern Ireland 1,685,267	% 100	All Persons Ballymena 58,610	% 100
	Catholic ¹	737,412	43.75	12,288	20.96
	Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)	895,377	53.12	44,723	76.30
	Other Religions and philosophies	6,569	0.38	189	0.32
	None	45,909	2.72	1,410	2.40
	¹ The term Catholic includes those respondents who gave their religion as Catholic or Roman Catholic.				
	Carrickfergus				
	Persons with community background	All Persons Northern Ireland 1,685,267	% 100	All Persons Carrickfergus 37,659	% 100
	Catholic ¹	737,412	43.75	3,260	8.65
	Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)	895,377	53.12	32,042	85.08
	Other Religions and philosophies	6,569	0.38	135	0.35
	None	45,909	2.72	2,222	5.90
	¹ The term Catholic includes those respondents who gave their religion as Catholic or Roman Catholic.				

Section 75 Category	Details of Evidence/Information				
	Cookstown				
	Persons with community background	All Persons Northern Ireland	%	All Persons Cookstown	%
		1,685,267	100	32,581	100
	Catholic ¹	737,412	43.75	18,779	57.63
	Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)	895,377	53.12	13,400	41.12
	Other Religions and philosophies	6,569	0.38	31	0.09
	None	45,909	2.72	371	1.13
	¹ The term Catholic includes those respondents who gave their religion as Catholic or Roman Catholic.				
	Larne				
	Persons with community background	All Persons Northern Ireland	%	All Persons Larne	%
		1,685,267	100	30,832	100
	Catholic ¹	737,412	43.75	7,765	25.18
	Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)	895,377	53.12	22,119	71.74
	Other Religions and philosophies	6,569	0.38	38	0.12
None	45,909	2.72	910	2.95	
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Male	3241	1129	2112																																																																	
Undisclosed	3																																																																			
TOTAL	9603	3344	6259																																																																	
Claims with Dependants	4712	1641	3071																																																																	
Claims without Dependants	4891	1703	3188																																																																	
	9603	3344	6259																																																																	

Section 75 Category	Details of Evidence/Information				
	BRMA8 BELFAST				
	Persons with community background	All Persons Northern Ireland	%	All Persons Belfast	%
		1,685,267	100	277,391	100
	Catholic ¹	737,412	43.75	130,894	47.18
	Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)	895,377	53.12	134,797	48.59
	Other Religions and philosophies	6,569	0.38	2,159	0.77
	None	45,909	2.72	9,541	3.43
	¹ The term Catholic includes those respondents who gave their religion as Catholic or Roman Catholic.				
		BRMA 8 Belfast	Catholic	Protestant	
	AGE		47.18%	48.59%	
	16-17	1	0.47	0.23	
	18-34	4029	1901	1958	
	35-61	5381	2539	2615	
	62+	974	460	473	
	All	10385	4900	5046	
	Gender				
	Female	5650	2666	2745	
	Male	4730	2232	2298	
	Undisclosed	5	2	2	
	TOTAL	10385	4900	5046	
	Claims with Dependants	4261	2010	2070	
	Claims without Dependants	6124	2889	2976	
		10385			

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, experience and priorities in relation to the policy as the policy is based entirely on the BRMAs and accommodation sizes within those areas that show the greatest differential between LHA payable and rent charged.
Political opinion	There is no evidence to suggest that people of different political opinion have different needs, experience and priorities in relation to the policy as the policy is based entirely on the BRMAs and accommodation sizes within those areas that show the greatest differential between LHA payable and rent charged.
Racial / ethnic group	There is no evidence to suggest that people of different racial or ethnic group have different needs, experience and priorities in relation to the policy as the policy is based entirely on the BRMAs and accommodation sizes within those areas that show the greatest differential between LHA payable and rent charged.
Age	There is no evidence to suggest that people of different ages have different needs, experience and priorities in relation to the policy as the policy is based entirely on the BRMAs and accommodation sizes within those areas that show the greatest differential between LHA payable and rent charged.
Marital status	There is no evidence to suggest that people of different marital status have different needs, experience and priorities in relation to the policy as the policy is based entirely on the BRMAs and accommodation sizes within those areas that show the greatest differential between LHA payable and rent charged.
Sexual orientation	There is no evidence to suggest that people of different sexual orientation have different needs, experience and priorities in relation to the policy as the policy is based entirely on the BRMAs and accommodation sizes within those areas that show the greatest differential between LHA payable and rent charged.

Section 75 Category	Details of Needs/Experiences/Priorities
Men and women generally	There is no evidence to suggest that men and women have different needs, experience and priorities in relation to the policy as the policy is based entirely on the BRMAs and accommodation sizes within those areas that show the greatest differential between LHA payable and rent charged.
Disability	There is no evidence to suggest that people with disabilities have different needs, experience and priorities in relation to the policy as the policy is based entirely on the BRMAs and accommodation sizes within those areas that show the greatest differential between LHA payable and rent charged.
Dependants	There is no evidence to suggest that people with dependants have different needs, experience and priorities in relation to the policy as the policy is based entirely on the BRMAs and accommodation sizes within those areas that show the greatest differential between LHA payable and rent charged.

Part 2: Screening Questions

Introduction

1. If the conclusion is **none** in respect of all of the Section 75 categories, then you may decide to screen the policy **out**. If a policy is 'screened out', you should give details of the reasons for the decision taken.
2. If the conclusion is **major** in respect of one or more of the Section 75 categories, then consideration should be given to subjecting the policy to an EQIA.
3. If the conclusion is **minor** in respect of one or more of the Section 75 categories, then consideration should still be given to proceeding with an EQIA, or to measures to mitigate the adverse impact; or an alternative policy.

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 hence it would be appropriate to conduct an EQIA;
- 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 among 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 earlier evidence, consider and comment on the likely impact on equality of opportunity / good relations for those affected by this policy, by applying the following screening questions and the 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 grounds? Minor/Major/None		
Section 75 Category	Details of Policy Impact	Level of Impact? Minor/Major/None
Religious belief	We do not expect there to be any adverse impact on people of different religious belief.	None
Political opinion	We do not expect there to be any adverse impact on people of different political opinion.	None
Racial / ethnic group	We do not expect there to be any adverse impact on people of different racial groups.	None
Age	We do not expect there to be any adverse impact on people of different ages.	None
Marital status	We do not expect there to be any adverse impact on people with different marital status.	None
Sexual orientation	We do not expect there to be any adverse impact on people of different sexual orientation.	None
Men and women generally	We do not expect there to be any adverse impact on men and women generally.	None
Disability	We do not expect there to be any adverse impact on people with disabilities.	None
Dependants	We do not expect there to be any adverse impact on people with dependants.	None

2 Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within any of the Section 75 categories?		
Section 75 Category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide reasons
No		This policy does not offer any opportunity to better promote equality of opportunity for people within any of the Section 75 categories

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 proposed legislation is likely to have no impact on good relations between people of different religious belief.	None
Political opinion	The proposed legislation is likely to have no impact on good relations between people of different political opinion.	None
Racial group	The proposed legislation is likely to have no impact on good relations between people of 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
No		This policy does not offer any opportunity to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

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

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

N/A

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 (with no mitigating measures required)**
- 2. Not be subject to an EQIA (with mitigating measures /alternative policies)**
- 3. Not be subject to an EQIA at this time**
- 4. 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 Government committed to making provision for higher rent areas, based on 30% of the overall savings on the freeze on Local Housing Allowance Rates. The Autumn budget 2017 increased this level of funding to 50% in 2018/19 and 2019/20.

The LHA rates which will be targeted for the 3% increase will be those that have diverged the most from market rents. The increase in LHA rate is therefore dictated solely by market forces, and there is no empirical evidence to suggest a differential impact on any of the section 75 groups. The Northern Ireland Housing Executive applies this 3% uplift automatically, and claimants are not required to apply. Approximately 48% of LHA rates for dwelling types across the Broad Rental Market Areas will increase by 3%, with the exception of BRMAs 5 and 7 neither of which attract a 3% uplift. BRMA5, in particular, has not seen a high level of rental increases.

The basis for increasing some LHA rates by 3 per cent is the need to balance the objective of supporting the areas where rents are rising fastest with the limited funding available. Setting a higher percentage increase would see relatively few rates increase, whereas setting a lower percentage increase would spread the funding too thinly and not provide enough support where it is really needed.

Those claimants who are not eligible for up to a 3% increase in their Local Housing Allowance rate are still able to apply for a Discretionary Housing Payment to help with housing costs. Discretionary Housing Payments provide further financial assistance to tenants to help pay the difference between the rent charged by the landlord and the amount of Housing Benefit payable.

Discretionary Housing Payments are administered by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, and the budget for 2017-18 is £7.226 million.

Derry and Strabane and Belfast are consistently the most deprived areas in Northern Ireland. 60% of the LHA rates have been uplifted across Derry and Strabane, and 80% across Belfast.

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/NIMDM17-%20with%20ns.pdf>

If 2. (i.e. not be subject to an EQIA), in what ways can identified adverse impacts attaching to the policy be mitigated or an alternative policy be introduced?

In light of these revisions, is there a need to re-screen the revised/alternative policy at a future date? Yes/NO

If YES, when & why?

If 3. or 4. (i.e. to conduct an EQIA), please provide details of the reasons:

Timetabling and Prioritising EQIA

If 3. or 4., is the policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities? ~~YES~~ / NO

If YES, please provide details:

Please answer the following questions to determine priority for timetabling the EQIA. 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 EQIA.

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 EQIA. This list of priorities will assist you in timetabling the EQIA. Details of your EQIA timetable should be included in the quarterly Section 75 report.

Proposed date for commencing EQIA: _____

Any further comments on the screening process and any subsequent actions?

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:

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) will examine the scope and extent of the funding in line with the restriction on Local Housing Allowance rates over the term of this Parliament.

The Department for Communities will continue to monitor LHA arrangements using periodic statistical feedback from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, alongside any studies undertaken by DWP in GB.

Part 5: Approval and Authorisation

Screened by:	Position/Job Title	Date
	SO	21 Feb 18
Approved by:	Grade 5	16 March 2018

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 your website as soon as possible following completion and made available on request.