

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:

**Lawfulness Pilot Projects
NI National Citizen Service (NI NCS) – Lawfulness amongst Young People;
ROC Conversations; and Small Steps**

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

Existing	Revised	New
X		

Notes:

- 1) The Lawfulness Pilot Programme is derived from one out of the 43 Fresh Start Agreement recommendations. It is an Executive policy to tackle paramilitary activity, criminality and organised crime.
- 2) The Pilots will build upon DFC's Lawfulness taster sessions undertaken in 2017/18.

Brief Description

DfC's Voluntary & Community Division plans to pilot 3 projects to promote a culture of lawfulness. The pilots will run at differing stages starting from July 2018 through to March 2019 and will gather evidence to help inform the development of a wider lawfulness programme..

The pilots with an estimated combined cost of £52k, will test initiatives and contribute to the implementation of work to address Recommendation A3 (Lawfulness) of the Executive Action Plan (*Tackling Paramilitary Activity, Criminality, and Organised Crime*) which sets out that "The Executive should work with leading figures and organisations throughout all sectors of society to take a stand against criminality in Northern Ireland and promote responsible cooperation with the authorities as part of a culture of lawfulness.....DfC will bring forward proposals for engagement on this issue via community, voluntary and sports forums".

The pilots have been developed following engagement with DfC's community, voluntary and sports forums and are focused on young people and those who are disengaged from their communities in the targeted areas and those who want to be involved in a community transformative process. They are as follows;

- **NI NCS Lawfulness Pilot:** this will involve incorporating an additional workshop on lawfulness within DfC's existing NI National Citizen Service Programme which took place in July/August 2018 and involving the participation of 255 young people. The pilot will also work with approximately 20 young people who have graduated from the programme to explore the theme of lawfulness further. Phase 2 of this will take place during September/October 2018.
- **ROC (Redeeming our Communities) Conversations** will take place on 2 occasions in November in 2 Catholic/Nationalist areas of west Belfast. These are structured community engagement events delivered by a national charity, Redeeming Our Communities (ROC). The Pilot will also support the setting up of Action Groups within the 2 locations to progress issues identified at the Conversation event. The aim of the Conversations is to promote lawfulness and active citizenship; and to support communities to work together to resolve community issues.
- **Small Steps:** This Pilot will be delivered by Volunteer Now, Sport NI and Ulster University, with 450 Primary 7 children from 15 schools in areas across NI? where paramilitary style attacks are prevalent. The Pilot will be delivered in schools from January to March 2019 and will increase an understanding among the young people of our laws and social media and introduce the young people to the concept of volunteering.

These pilots will develop the learning from the 17/18 taster sessions and the outcome of these and the 18/19 pilots will pave the way for future work and help inform the design of a larger Lawfulness Programme.

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

Overall in broad terms these pilot projects seek to:

- be supportive of the Tackling Paramilitarism Executive Action Plan which sets out a wide range of proposals for addressing some of the most challenging and intractable issues that impact upon communities, including commitments to tackle paramilitarism and organised crime
- engage and encourage participants to remain part of the relevant programme/project
- increase participants practical & positive understanding of:
 - The law and the criminal justice system
 - Policing with the community
 - Other public institutions & support services
- increase participants self-awareness and confidence
- increase participants knowledge and understanding to make positive choices regarding their personal responsibility
- increase participants range of citizenship skills
- encourage Community groups to engage and act to support the development of participant's self-efficacy and participation in the community
- encourage participants to actively engage in the community
- encourage participants to build effective relationships within their community
- encourage participants to develop positive links with a range of legal and public institutions
- encourage participants to develop connections with communities other than their own.

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.

The three lawfulness pilots will impact on those communities and target groups participating in the sample areas.

The NI NCS and Small Steps pilots will target children and young people to increase their understanding and awareness of the topic of lawfulness and its impact on them and their communities. It is generally accepted that participation and communication can help build the foundations for a culture of lawfulness. It is also recognised that by including the rule of law curriculum as part of school education for children, a strong culture of lawfulness message is sent not only to students but to the families and the community. School education programmes should help young people understand how the rule of law

improves quality of life and why they should follow the law, as well as develop knowledge of the justice system and skills for preventing crime.

The ROC Conversations is an approach delivered by a faith based organisation which is being piloted in 2 Catholic/Nationalist/Republican (CNR) areas of west Belfast (Lower Falls and St James). These locations align with 8 areas that have already been identified for wider Tackling Paramilitarism Programme interventions. The areas have been selected by the Programme following academic research that assessed the number of paramilitary attacks, levels of intimidation and other factors.

Young people (Age) will benefit from participation on the NI NCS and Small Steps Pilots however all Section 75 groups, representative of the targeted communities, will benefit from the ROC Conversations.

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

The Fresh Start Agreement was agreed by the Executive and the British and Irish Governments.

The Lawfulness Pilots which arises from the Fresh Start Agreement, have been developed by DfC's Voluntary & Community Division following engagement and dialogue with voluntary, community and sports forums.

Who owns and who implements each element of the policy?

Whilst the policy for the overall Tackling Paramilitarism Programme is owned by the NI Executive, individual Executive Departments own and are responsible for implementing individual measures contained within the Executive Action Plan. The Lawfulness Pilot Projects fall under the remit of DfC Voluntary & Community Division and will be delivered on behalf of DfC by

- Co-operation Ireland
- Redeeming Our Communities NI (ROC NI)
- Volunteer Now / Sport NI / Ulster University.

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: No (If YES, please detail)

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

None identified

Other, please specify:

None identified

Main stakeholders affected

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

Staff:

DfC Voluntary & Community Division (VCD) staff have overall responsibility for the programme, monitoring spend against budget and carrying out post programme evaluations (PPE).

Service Users:

These pilots seek to involve the participation of just over 700 young people and approximately 150 participants from the targeted communities who are expected to attend the ROC Conversations on the night.

Other Public Sector Organisations:

The Department of Justice is co-ordinating delivery of the Executive Action Plan commitments but other public sector organisations who have a stake in each of the communities will be invited to participate.

Voluntary/Community/Trade Unions:

The following organisations will be grant funded to deliver these initiatives on behalf of DfC:

- Co-operation Ireland
- Redeeming Our Communities NI (ROC NI)
- Volunteer Now / Sport NI / Ulster University

Other, please specify:

None identified

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

What are they and who owns them?

The wider Tackling Paramilitarism Programme is the over-riding policy intention. This Programme is co-ordinated by DoJ with input from Executive Departments.

The Women Involved in Community Transformation Programme (WICT) being delivered on behalf of DfC, by a consortium made up of Training for Women Network (TWN), Co-operation Ireland, Intercomm and Foyle Women's Information Network (FWIN), as part of the Department's response to recommendation B5 of the Tackling Paramilitarism Executive Action Plan has cross-overs and synergies with the Department's commitments to promoting lawfulness.

There are potential opportunities to link to related programmes on Good Relations; TBUC and Interfaces.

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
Age Disability Dependents	<p>The need / evidence for the DfC pilots is based on:</p> <p>Draft Programme for Government 2016-21 Outcome 7 – We have a safe community where we respect the law and each other.</p> <p>The Fresh Start /Stormont Agreement & Implementation Plan – 17/11/2015: Para 3.21 Lack of confidence in the rule of law states that “although not necessarily reflective of society as a whole, we have been struck by the lack of confidence in the criminal justice system in some communities who regard it as being ineffective in tackling criminality linked to members of groups and in responding to local concerns, such as anti-social behavior.”</p> <p>Para 3.27 Culture, “there was recognition of a need for a cultural change in our society with regard to the fear and stigma associated with being labelled a ‘tout’. Although there is much anecdotal evidence about the extent of racketeering and extortion, these criminal activities are insufficiently reported to the police. Even more serious crimes often go unreported. Without information and evidence, the police and the wider justice system are not able to deliver successful outcomes or build a safer community. Respect for the rule of law implies an individual responsibility to report criminality and to support the justice system to tackle it. It will take time to change that prevailing culture but strong political and community leadership can begin this process by promoting a culture of lawfulness.”</p> <p>The Lawfulness Pilots have primarily been focused within the 8 primary geographical areas being targeted by The Executive Office’s Tackling Paramilitarism commitment to align with existing activity. The 8 areas (4 inside Belfast and 4 outside) were identified through academic research commissioned by DoJ, which assessed the number of paramilitary attacks, levels of intimidation and other factors. However there is recognition that the promotion</p>

Section 75 Category	Details of Evidence/Information
<p>Racial / Ethnic group</p> <p>Men and women generally</p>	<p>of lawfulness is a concept that needs to be applied across all sectors of society as directed by The Fresh Start Panel Report on the Disbandment of Paramilitary Groups in Northern Ireland (May 2016) which led to the Executive Action Plan.</p> <p>The Panel Report also recognised that some young people especially those in areas with a strong paramilitary presence, can be at risk of becoming involved in paramilitary activity or the victims of paramilitary style assaults.</p>
	<p>2011 Census reports that within the Super Output Area (SOA) of Falls 3 and Falls Park 1 (which are the locations for the Lower Falls and St James' ROC Conversation events), the population statistics identify that in Falls 2 92% of the residents are from a white ethnic group with a 97% in Falls Park 1.</p>
	<p>Women are identified as having the potential to play a significant role in bringing about change in local communities. This is recognised in the Fresh Start Panel Report (para 3.20) and at the policy level this is formally recognised by UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, which affirms the particular and important role of women in peace building and in post-conflict reconstruction. It stresses the importance of the equal participation and full involvement of women in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security.</p>
	<p>Stakeholder Engagement with the VCS and ALBs VCD staff met with Engaged Community Group Heads of Branches, voluntary and community sector organisations such as NICVA and Community Faiths Forum and the Department's Arms Length Bodies such as the Arts Council and Sport NI to discuss the concept of lawfulness and identify potential opportunities to develop pilot initiatives. These pilots were developed as a direct result of the discussions from this engagement exercise and from research into best practice examples in other countries.</p> <p>PSNI Statistics from October 2017 to September 2018 highlight those policing areas/districts where casualties of paramilitary style attacks (PSAs) have been reported. During this time there were 54 casualties of PSAs during the last 12 months compared to 75 during the previous 12 months. The number of assaults fell significantly in Belfast (from 31 to 18) and Mid and East Antrim (from 17 to 5) while Antrim and Newtownabbey saw the largest increase (from 2 to 10). The 3 lawfulness pilots all align with all</p>

Section 75 Category	Details of Evidence/Information
	the areas identified within this report where PSAs have been recorded.

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
Age	<p>These pilots will 'test and learn' an approach and concept with regard to promoting lawfulness and active citizenship and will enable delivery partners to gather further evidence on the differing needs for each of the target groups.</p> <p>VCD is grant funding 3 lead organisations with a track record of working with target groups and delivering successful projects. These organisations have the specialist knowledge and skills to deliver these projects successfully. Part of this will be to address the project and participant needs and as they are pilots to gather evidence which will help inform the development of a larger Lawfulness Programme.</p> <p>The pilots specifically seek to target 2 categories i.e. young people for NI NCS and Small Steps and the ROC Conversations will target all sections of the community (and from all Section 75 categories) who will have needs and issues specific to them.</p> <p>The NI NCS lawfulness pilot will take place in surroundings familiar to young people which specifically meets their needs and which is attractive to encourage their participation. It is recognised that young people are more vulnerable and particularly in areas with a strong paramilitary presence, some young people can be at risk of becoming involved in paramilitary activity or the victims of paramilitary style assaults.</p> <p>The ROC conversations will take place in local venues and using the churches to offer a welcoming space to ensure maximum participation.</p> <p>The Small Steps pilot will mainly be delivered to the young people in their school setting. Schools and class rooms will be familiar surroundings for the young people taking part and they are catered to meet their needs.</p>
People with a	<p>People with mental health issues, such as addiction or trauma, may have additional vulnerabilities but if these issues are</p>

<p>disability</p>	<p>identified and drawn out at implementation stage then the pilot projects will be reactive and support the participants.</p>
<p>People with dependents</p>	<p>The interventions aimed at children and young people may have indirect positive impacts on their parents/guardians (e.g. provide learning and support).</p>
<p>Men and women generally</p>	<p>The 3 pilots are specifically designed to promote a culture of lawfulness and active citizenship, to encourage men and women to become active in their communities and to embed lawfulness and citizenship from an early age.</p> <p>Women are identified as having the potential to play a significant role in bringing about change in local communities as identified by the Fresh Start Panel.</p>

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	None identified. The ROC Conversations will operate within 2 CNR areas of West Belfast and all stakeholders from these areas will have an opportunity to participate in the conversation and the action groups. The community will benefit from the activities that come out of this project. Loyalist communities may also benefit from the remaining 2 pilots. The Small Steps project delivery will be rolled out in schools located in the following council areas where PSAs is recorded; Derry City & Strabane, Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon, Mid & East Antrim and Ards and North Down. The NI NCS pilot has been incorporated into the main NI NCS programme which is running in 16 geographic areas of NI and which incorporate a varied range of urban and rural areas to provide a sufficient social mix.	None
Political opinion	As above.	None
Racial / ethnic group	None identified	None
Age	No adverse impact identified – Some young people especially those in areas with a strong paramilitary presence, can be at risk of becoming involved in paramilitary activity or the victims of paramilitary style assaults. This policy seeks to give young people an opportunity to participate in the lawfulness pilots as evidence suggests that promotion of lawfulness best succeeds if it is conveyed through children to their siblings, parents and the wider community. Young people will benefit from participation on the NI NCS and Small Steps pilots.	None
Marital status	None identified	None

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
Sexual orientation	None identified	None
Men and women generally	No adverse impacts identified - The ROC Conversation pilot has been developed to positively impact the roles of men and women in society through active citizenship – particularly focusing on lawfulness in areas of paramilitary activity and/or organised crime. These areas align in many cases with the worst areas SOAs of multiple deprivations / disadvantage. Women are identified as having the potential to play a significant role in bringing about change in local communities.	None
Disability	None identified.	None
Dependants	None identified. The interventions aimed at children and young people may have indirect positive impacts on their parents/guardians (e.g. provide learning and support).	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
Religious Belief		The 3 pilot programmes are have been developed following engagement with DfC's community, voluntary and sports forums and are focused on young people and those who are disengaged from their communities in the targeted areas and those who want to be involved in a community transformative process. The outcome of these pilots will pave the way for future work and help inform the design of a larger Lawfulness Programme.
Political Opinion		As Above
Racial / Ethnic Group		As Above
Age		As Above
Marital Status		As Above
Sexual Orientation		As Above
Men and women generally		As Above
Disability		As Above
Dependents		As Above

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 NI NCS and Small Steps participants will have the opportunity to meet with others of a different religious background. NI NCS is about bringing together young people from different backgrounds to mix and learn together.	None
Political opinion	Measures to promote a culture of lawfulness and active citizenship may help to promote improved cross community relations.	None
Racial group	Participants will have the opportunity to meet with others of a different 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 Political opinion Racial group	As detailed in the previous section - participants will have the opportunity to meet, and engage, with others from these groups. This involves sharing issues of concern and identifying areas of common community interest. The pilot initiatives seek to promote lawfulness and citizenship as opposed to paramilitarism and organised crime. Lawfulness includes the promotion of tolerance and rejection of, for example, hate crimes.	

	<p>There are potential opportunities to link to related programmes on Good Relations; TBUC and Interfaces.</p>	
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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).

Age, in particular younger people/men and women generally

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

Impacts of the pilots on the above mentioned multi identity groups are, at this stage, expected to be positive. The pilots are very much a test and learn exercise, during which evidence and information will be gathered to inform any future policy going forward.

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 3 pilots are specifically designed to promote a culture of lawfulness and active citizenship, to encourage men and women to become active in their communities and to embed lawfulness and citizenship from an early age. It is expected that any impacts at this stage will be positive.

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:

n/a

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:

n/a

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:

An Outcomes Based Accountability framework and score card has been designed by Community Evaluation NI to evaluate the impact of the project.

The PPE will take account of the Section 75 balance that participants represented – and the feedback provided by participants – to enable lessons learned and improvements to be incorporated into a larger Lawfulness Programme.

Part 5: Approval and Authorisation

Screened by:	Position/Job Title	Date
Donna Marie Hancock <i>DM Hancock</i>	VCD Fresh Start Programme Manager	5/11/18
Approved by:		
Alastair Hughes <i>Alastair Hughes</i>	Head of VCD Fresh Start Team	5/11/18

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.