

NORTHERN IRELAND WATER LIMITED

SECTION 75 EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY SCREENING ANALYSIS 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

Name of the policy

Article 161 Sewer Bond Incentivisation and Surety Policy Consultation

Is this an existing, revised or a new policy?

New

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

The objective of this new policy is to introduce a risk-based, tiered bond incentivisation framework under Article 161 of the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006.

Article 161 of the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 is the statutory basis for “sewer adoption agreements” i.e. agreements under which developers construct sewers/lateral drains and Northern Ireland Water agrees to adopt them as public infrastructure, subject to conditions and standards being met.

NI Water has identified approximately 600 Article 161 development sites that have remained unadopted for more than five years across Northern Ireland.

These long-term unadopted developments create risks for homeowners, including difficulties in selling or remortgaging properties, uncertainty regarding infrastructure responsibility, and potential financial liabilities.

From an organisational perspective, NI Water currently manages significant bond exposure and has identified enforcement challenges where the existing framework does not sufficiently differentiate between high- and low-risk developers. The proposed policy has therefore been developed in response to a clear evidence base demonstrating the need to reduce unadopted developments, strengthen safeguards, and introduce a more proportionate, risk-based approach aligned to developer performance.

The proposed policy seeks to apply Northern Ireland Water Limited's statutory discretion to require reasonable security in a manner that is proportionate, evidence-based and consistent across developers, while promoting timely completion and adoption of sewer infrastructure.

The intended outcomes are to reduce the incidence of long-term unadopted developments where developers fail to meet conditions or standards, protect customers and public infrastructure, and ensure financial safeguards are appropriately aligned to developer risk and performance history, in accordance with NI Water's statutory duties.

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

There is a potentially minor positive impact on society as a whole arising from improved infrastructure delivery, reduced risk exposure for customers, and enhanced confidence in the housing system. However, the policy is purely technical nature and will not have any particular impact on Section 75 categories.

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

Northern Ireland Water Limited (**NI Water**)

Who owns and who implements the policy?

NI Water

Background

NI Water has identified a material number of developments that have remained unadopted for an extended period of time, including a significant cohort exceeding five years.

This presents risks to homeowners, infrastructure integrity, environmental protection and public confidence.

The existing bond framework does not sufficiently differentiate between developers based on compliance history or risk profile.

NI Water has identified approximately 600 Article 161 development sites that have remained unadopted for more than five years across Northern Ireland. These long-term unadopted developments create risks for homeowners, including difficulties in selling or remortgaging properties, uncertainty regarding infrastructure responsibility, and potential financial liabilities.

From an organisational perspective, NI Water currently manages significant bond exposure and has identified enforcement challenges where the existing framework does not sufficiently differentiate between high- and low-risk developers. The proposed policy has therefore been developed in response to a clear evidence base demonstrating the need to reduce unadopted developments, strengthen safeguards, and introduce a more proportionate, risk-based approach aligned to developer performance.

The proposed policy introduces a structured incentivisation framework, applying NI Water's statutory discretion to require security in a manner that is evidence-based, proportionate and aligned to developer performance, thereby strengthening governance and risk management arrangements.

By establishing clearer technical standards and facilitating the adoption of developments into long-term management arrangements, the policy seeks to reduce systemic risk, improve service reliability, and ensure better outcomes for communities as a whole.

Implementation factors

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

If yes, are they (please delete as appropriate)

Financial

The policy introduces differentiated bond requirements based on objective criteria linked to developer performance and risk.

Legislative

The policy operates within the existing legal framework under Article 161 of the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 and does not alter primary legislation. It reflects NI Water's lawful discretion to impose security requirements, subject to reasonableness and proportionality.

Other, please specify

Operational- Implementation will require robust governance arrangements, including auditability, consistent decision-making processes, and maintenance of developer performance records to support fair and transparent tier allocation.

Main stakeholders affected

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

The primary stakeholders impacted are developers, homeowners, NI Water, local councils and the wider public. The policy directly affects developer obligations while providing protection and benefits to customers and communities. The intended outcomes for NI Water, homeowners, local councils and the wider community is to reduce the incidence of unadopted developments, protect NI Water customers and public infrastructure.

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

The proposed policy aligns with and complements existing legislative and operational frameworks governing sewer adoption and infrastructure delivery, including the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 (notably Articles 159–162), NI Water's Sewer Adoption Agreements (Article 161 Agreements), and associated technical guidance. It also supports NI Water's wider Unadopted Developments Programme and proactive adoption model, which aims to reduce legacy risks and improve adoption outcomes. Furthermore, the policy is consistent with public law principles, NI Water

governance arrangements, and broader housing and infrastructure policy objectives led by the Department for Infrastructure.

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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. The Commission has produced this guide to [signpost to S75 data](#). Also refer to the [Equality Intranet page](#) for some evidence sources.

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

General Evidence

No evidence has been identified at this stage to indicate that the policy will have a differential or adverse impact on Section 75 categories.

The policy is technical in nature and applies uniformly, with impacts arising indirectly through improved infrastructure delivery and reduced long-term risk associated with unadopted developments.

The screening has been informed by a range of qualitative and quantitative evidence, including NI Water internal operational data relating to unadopted developments, developer performance records, enforcement activity, and bond shortfalls. This includes identification of approximately 600 sites unadopted for more than five years and analysis of developer compliance trends. In addition, publicly available datasets such as Northern Ireland Census (2021) statistics and relevant housing and infrastructure publications have been reviewed. Stakeholder engagement undertaken as part of the policy development and consultation process (including developers, councils, and housing bodies) has also informed this assessment. This combined evidence base supports the conclusion that the policy is technical in nature and does not give rise to differential impacts across Section 75 categories.

NI Water will consider any representations received during consultation and will reassess the screening determination if substantive equality impacts are identified.

Religious belief evidence / information:

In the 2021 Census out of a population of 1.9 million the following statistics were recorded for the main current religions in Northern Ireland: Catholic (42.3%); Presbyterian (16.6%); Church of Ireland (11.5%); Methodist (2.3%); Other Christian denominations (6.9%); and other religions (1.3%).

The policy is technical in its design and application, operating on a consistent and non-discriminatory basis across all sectors and communities. It does not engage with or differentiate between individuals or groups on the basis of religious belief, practice, or affiliation.

NI Water will consider any representations received during consultation and will reassess the screening determination if substantive equality impacts are identified.

Political Opinion evidence / information:

In the 2021 Census out of a population of 1.9 million the following statistics were recorded for national identities in Northern Ireland: identified solely or along with other national identities as 'British' (42.8%), identified solely or along with other national identities as 'Irish' (33.3%) and identified solely or along with other national identities as 'Northern Irish' (31.5%).

The policy is technical in nature and applies uniformly, operating on a consistent and non-discriminatory basis across all sectors and communities. It does not engage with or differentiate between individuals or groups on the basis of political opinion.

NI Water will consider any representations received during consultation and will reassess the screening determination if substantive equality impacts are identified.

Racial Group evidence / information:

In the 2021 Census out of a population of 1.9 million the following statistics were recorded for ethnic groups in Northern Ireland: White (96.5%), Irish Traveller (0.14%), Roma (0.08%), Indian (0.5%), Chinese (0.5%), Filipino (0.2%), Pakistani (0.08%), Arab (0.1%), Other Asian (0.28%), Black African (0.42%) Black Other (0.16%) Mixed (0.76%), Other Ethnicities (0.19%),

The policy is technical in nature and applies uniformly, operating on a consistent and non-discriminatory basis across all sectors and communities. It does not engage with or differentiate between individuals or groups on the basis of racial group.

NI Water will consider any representations received during consultation and will reassess the screening determination if substantive equality impacts are identified.

Age evidence / information:

In the 2021 Census out of a population of 1.9 million the following statistics were recorded for age groups in Northern Ireland: 0-4 years (5.6%), 5-9 years (6.5%), 10-14 years (6.7%), 15-19 years (6%), 20-24 years (5.8%), 25-29 years (6.12%), 30-34 years (6.6%), 35-39 years (6.7%), 40-44 years (6.4%), 45-49 (6.4%), 50- 54 years (6.9%), 55-59 years (6.8%), 60-64 years (6%), 65-69 years (5%), 70-74 years (4.5%), 75-79 years (3.7%), 80-84 years (2.6%), 85-90 years (1.6%) and 90+ years (0.9%).

The policy is technical in nature and applies uniformly, operating on a consistent and non-discriminatory basis across all sectors and communities. It does not engage with or differentiate between individuals or groups on the basis of age.

NI Water will consider any representations received during consultation and will reassess the screening determination if substantive equality impacts are identified.

Marital Status evidence / information:

In the 2021 Census out of a population of 1.9 million the following statistics were recorded for marital status in Northern Ireland: single (38.07%), married (45.59%), in a civil partnership (0.18%), Separated (3.78%), divorced / dissolved partnership (6.02%) and widowed (6.36%).

The policy is technical in nature and applies uniformly, operating on a consistent and non-discriminatory basis across all sectors and communities. It does not engage with or differentiate between individuals or groups on the basis of marital status.

NI Water will consider any representations received during consultation and will reassess the screening determination if substantive equality impacts are identified.

Sexual Orientation evidence / information:

In the 2021 Census out of a population of 1.9 million the following statistics were recorded for sexual orientation in Northern Ireland: straight or heterosexual (90%), gay or lesbian (1.17%), and bisexual (0.75%).

The policy is technical in nature and applies uniformly, operating on a consistent and non-discriminatory basis across all sectors and communities. It does not engage with or differentiate between individuals or groups on the basis of sexual orientation.

NI Water will consider any representations received during consultation and will reassess the screening determination if substantive equality impacts are identified.

Men & Women generally evidence / information:

In the 2021 Census out of a population of 1.9 million the following statistics were recorded for gender in Northern Ireland: females were 50.81% of the population and males were 49.19% of the population.

The policy is technical in nature and applies uniformly, operating on a consistent and non-discriminatory basis across all sectors and communities. It does not engage with or differentiate between individuals or groups on the basis of sex.

NI Water will consider any representations received during consultation and will reassess the screening determination if substantive equality impacts are identified.

Disability evidence / information:

In the 2021 Census out of a population of 1.9 million the following statistics were recorded for disabilities in Northern Ireland: 11.45 % of the population had their activities affected a lot by long term health problems or disability, 12.88% of the population had their day-to-day activities affected a little by long term health problems.

The policy is technical in nature and applies uniformly, operating on a consistent and non-discriminatory basis across all sectors and communities. It does not engage with or differentiate between individuals or groups on the basis of disability.

NI Water will consider any representations received during consultation and will reassess the screening determination if substantive equality impacts are identified.

Dependants evidence / information:

In the 2021 Census out of a population of 1.9 million the following statistics were recorded for dependents in Northern Ireland: 34% per cent of households in Northern Ireland contained dependent children and 40% contained at least person with a long-term health problem or disability; made up of those households with dependent children (9.2%) and those with no dependent children (31%).

The policy is technical in nature and applies uniformly, operating on a consistent and non-discriminatory basis across all sectors and communities. It does not engage with or differentiate between individuals or groups on the basis of dependents.

NI Water will consider any representations received during consultation and will reassess the screening determination if substantive equality impacts are identified.

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 of the needs, experiences and priorities for each of the Section 75 categories below).

Religious belief

The intended outcomes are to reduce the incidence of long-term unadopted developments, protect customers and public infrastructure, and ensure financial safeguards are appropriately aligned to developer risk and performance history, in accordance with NI Water's statutory duties.

This proposal is to enable improved infrastructure delivery, reduced risk exposure to customers, and enhanced confidence in the housing system for people of any religious belief.

NI Water has no evidence or information to suggest that individuals in this category have different needs, experience and priorities in relation to the policy proposals being consulted on. However, should the consultation present evidence of any impacts, this will be reviewed and updated.

Political Opinion

The intended outcomes are to reduce the incidence of long-term unadopted developments, protect customers and public infrastructure, and ensure financial safeguards are appropriately aligned to developer risk and performance history, in accordance with NI Water's statutory duties.

This proposal is to enable improved infrastructure delivery, reduced risk exposure to customers, and enhanced confidence in the housing system for people of any political opinion.

NI Water has no evidence or information to suggest that individuals in this category have different needs, experience and priorities in relation to the policy proposals being consulted on. However, should the consultation present evidence of any impacts, this will be reviewed and updated.

Racial Group

The intended outcomes are to reduce the incidence of long-term unadopted developments, protect customers and public infrastructure, and ensure financial safeguards are appropriately aligned to developer risk and performance history, in accordance with NI Water's statutory duties.

This proposal is to enable improved infrastructure delivery, reduced risk exposure to customers, and enhanced confidence in the housing system for people of any racial group.

NI Water has no evidence or information to suggest that individuals in this category have different needs, experience and priorities in relation to the policy proposals being consulted on. However, should the consultation present evidence of any impacts, this will be reviewed and updated.

Age

The intended outcomes are to reduce the incidence of long-term unadopted developments, protect customers and public infrastructure, and ensure financial safeguards are appropriately aligned to developer risk and performance history, in accordance with NI Water's statutory duties.

This proposal is to enable improved infrastructure delivery, reduced risk exposure to customers, and enhanced confidence in the housing system for people of any age.

NI Water has no evidence or information to suggest that individuals in this category have different needs, experience and priorities in relation to the policy proposals being consulted on. However, should the consultation present evidence of any impacts, this will be reviewed and updated.

Marital status

The intended outcomes are to reduce the incidence of long-term unadopted developments, protect customers and public infrastructure, and ensure financial safeguards are appropriately aligned to developer risk and performance history, in accordance with NI Water's statutory duties.

This proposal is to enable improved infrastructure delivery, reduced risk exposure to customers, and enhanced confidence in the housing system for people of any marital status.

NI Water has no evidence or information to suggest that individuals in this category have different needs, experience and priorities in relation to the policy proposals being consulted on. However, should the consultation present evidence of any impacts, this will be reviewed and updated.

Sexual orientation

The intended outcomes are to reduce the incidence of long-term unadopted developments, protect customers and public infrastructure, and ensure financial safeguards are appropriately aligned to developer risk and performance history, in accordance with NI Water's statutory duties.

This proposal is to enable improved infrastructure delivery, reduced risk exposure to customers, and enhanced confidence in the housing system for people of any sexual orientation.

NI Water has no evidence or information to suggest that individuals in this category have different needs, experience and priorities in relation to the policy proposals being consulted on. However, should the consultation present evidence of any impacts, this will be reviewed and updated.

Men and Women Generally

The intended outcomes are to reduce the incidence of long-term unadopted developments, protect customers and public infrastructure, and ensure financial safeguards are appropriately aligned to developer risk and performance history, in accordance with NI Water's statutory duties.

This proposal is to enable improved infrastructure delivery, reduced risk exposure to customers, and enhanced confidence in the housing system for men and woman generally.

NI Water has no evidence or information to suggest that individuals in this category have different needs, experience and priorities in relation to the policy proposals being consulted on. However, should the consultation present evidence of any impacts, this will be reviewed and updated.

Disability

The intended outcomes are to reduce the incidence of long-term unadopted developments, protect customers and public infrastructure, and ensure financial safeguards are appropriately aligned to developer risk and performance history, in accordance with NI Water's statutory duties.

This proposal is to enable improved infrastructure delivery, reduced risk exposure to customers, and enhanced confidence in the housing system for people with a disability.

NI Water has no evidence or information to suggest that individuals in this category have different needs, experience and priorities in relation to the policy proposals being consulted on. However, should the consultation present evidence of any impacts, this will be reviewed and updated.

Dependants

The intended outcomes are to reduce the incidence of long-term unadopted developments, protect customers and public infrastructure, and ensure financial safeguards are appropriately aligned to developer risk and performance history, in accordance with NI Water's statutory duties.

This proposal is to enable improved infrastructure delivery, reduced risk exposure to customers, and enhanced confidence in the housing system for people with a disability.

NI Water has no evidence or information to suggest that individuals in this category have different needs, experience and priorities in relation to the policy proposals being consulted on. However, should the consultation present evidence of any impacts, this will be reviewed and updated.

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?

(Please provide details of the likely policy impacts and determine the level of impact for each S75 categories below i.e. either minor, major or none).

Details of the likely policy impacts on Religious belief:

No impact on religious belief. 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. General positive impacts will be beneficial for all of Northern Ireland from improved infrastructure delivery, reduced risk exposure to customers, and enhanced confidence in the housing system. No adverse or disproportionate impacts have been identified at this stage.

What is the level of impact? None

Details of the likely policy impacts on Political Opinion:

No impact on political opinion. 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. General positive impacts will be beneficial for all of Northern Ireland from improved infrastructure delivery, reduced risk exposure to customers, and enhanced confidence in the housing system. No adverse or disproportionate impacts have been identified at this stage.

What is the level of impact? None

Details of the likely policy impacts on Racial Group:

No impact on racial group. 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. General positive impacts will be beneficial for all of Northern Ireland from improved infrastructure delivery, reduced risk exposure to customers, and enhanced confidence in the housing system. No adverse or disproportionate impacts have been identified at this stage.

What is the level of impact? None

Details of the likely policy impacts on Age:

No impact on age group. 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. General positive impacts will be beneficial for all of Northern Ireland from improved infrastructure delivery, reduced risk exposure to customers, and enhanced confidence in the housing system. No adverse or disproportionate impacts have been identified at this stage.

What is the level of impact? None

Details of the likely policy impacts on Marital Status:

No impact on marital status. 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. General positive impacts will be beneficial for all of Northern Ireland from improved infrastructure delivery, reduced risk exposure to customers, and enhanced confidence in the housing system. No adverse or disproportionate impacts have been identified at this stage.

What is the level of impact? None

Details of the likely policy impacts on Sexual Orientation:

No impact on sexual orientation. 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. General positive impacts will be beneficial for all of Northern Ireland from improved infrastructure delivery, reduced risk exposure to customers, and enhanced confidence in the housing system. No adverse or disproportionate impacts have been identified at this stage.

What is the level of impact? None

Details of the likely policy impacts on Men and Women:

No impact on men and women. 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. General positive impacts will be beneficial for all of Northern Ireland from improved infrastructure delivery, reduced risk exposure to customers, and enhanced confidence in the housing system. No adverse or disproportionate impacts have been identified at this stage.

What is the level of impact? None

Details of the likely policy impacts on Disability:

No impact on disability. 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. General positive impacts will be beneficial for all of Northern Ireland from improved infrastructure delivery, reduced risk exposure to customers, and enhanced confidence in the housing system. No adverse or disproportionate impacts have been identified at this stage.

What is the level of impact? None

Details of the likely policy impacts on Dependents:

No impact on Dependents. 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. General positive impacts will be beneficial for all of Northern Ireland from improved infrastructure delivery, reduced risk exposure to customers, and enhanced confidence in the housing system. No adverse or disproportionate impacts have been identified at this stage.

What is the level of impact? None

2. Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories?

(Detail opportunities of how this policy could promote equality of opportunity for people within each of the Section 75 Categories below).

Religious Belief - If Yes, provide details. If No, provide reasons:

No specific opportunities to further promote equality of opportunity have been identified at this stage. 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. General positive impacts will be beneficial for all of Northern Ireland from improved infrastructure delivery, reduced risk exposure to customers, and enhanced confidence in the housing system.

The policy is not targeted at specific groups and is applied consistently across all developers. However, the consultation process provides an opportunity to identify any unintended impacts, and the policy will be reviewed accordingly

Political Opinion - If Yes, provide details: If No, provide reasons

No specific opportunities to further promote equality of opportunity have been identified at this stage. 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. General positive impacts will be beneficial for all of Northern Ireland from improved infrastructure delivery, reduced risk exposure to customers, and enhanced confidence in the housing system.

The policy is not targeted at specific groups and is applied consistently across all developers. However, the consultation process provides an opportunity to identify any unintended impacts, and the policy will be reviewed accordingly

Racial Group - If Yes, provide details: If No, provide reasons

No specific opportunities to further promote equality of opportunity have been identified at this stage. 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. General positive impacts will be beneficial for all of Northern Ireland from improved infrastructure delivery, reduced risk exposure to customers, and enhanced confidence in the housing system.

The policy is not targeted at specific groups and is applied consistently across all developers. However, the consultation process provides an opportunity to identify any unintended impacts, and the policy will be reviewed accordingly

Age - If Yes, provide details: If No, provide reasons:

No specific opportunities to further promote equality of opportunity have been identified at this stage. 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. General positive impacts will be beneficial for all of Northern Ireland from improved infrastructure delivery, reduced risk exposure to customers, and enhanced confidence in the housing system.

The policy is not targeted at specific groups and is applied consistently across all developers. However, the consultation process provides an opportunity to identify any unintended impacts, and the policy will be reviewed accordingly

Marital Status - If Yes, provide details: If No, provide reasons

No specific opportunities to further promote equality of opportunity have been identified at this stage. 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. General positive impacts will be beneficial for all of Northern Ireland from improved infrastructure delivery, reduced risk exposure to customers, and enhanced confidence in the housing system.

The policy is not targeted at specific groups and is applied consistently across all developers. However, the consultation process provides an opportunity to identify any unintended impacts, and the policy will be reviewed accordingly

Sexual Orientation - If Yes, provide details: If No, provide reasons:

No specific opportunities to further promote equality of opportunity have been identified at this stage. 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. General positive impacts will be beneficial for all of Northern Ireland from improved infrastructure delivery, reduced risk exposure to customers, and enhanced confidence in the housing system.

The policy is not targeted at specific groups and is applied consistently across all developers. However, the consultation process provides an opportunity to identify any unintended impacts, and the policy will be reviewed accordingly

Men and Women generally - If Yes, provide details: If No, provide reasons:

No specific opportunities to further promote equality of opportunity have been identified at this stage. 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. General positive impacts will be beneficial for all of Northern Ireland from improved infrastructure delivery, reduced risk exposure to customers, and enhanced confidence in the housing system.

The policy is not targeted at specific groups and is applied consistently across all developers. However, the consultation process provides an opportunity to identify any unintended impacts, and the policy will be reviewed accordingly

Disability - If Yes, provide details: If No, provide reasons:

No specific opportunities to further promote equality of opportunity have been identified at this stage. 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. General positive impacts will be beneficial for all of Northern Ireland from improved infrastructure delivery, reduced risk exposure to customers, and enhanced confidence in the housing system.

The policy is not targeted at specific groups and is applied consistently across all developers. However, the consultation process provides an opportunity to identify any unintended impacts, and the policy will be reviewed accordingly

Dependants - If Yes, provide details: If No, provide reasons:

No specific opportunities to further promote equality of opportunity have been identified at this stage. 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. General positive impacts will be beneficial for all of Northern Ireland from improved infrastructure delivery, reduced risk exposure to customers, and enhanced confidence in the housing system.

The policy is not targeted at specific groups and is applied consistently across all developers. However, the consultation process provides an opportunity to identify any unintended impacts, and the policy will be reviewed accordingly

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

Please provide details of the likely policy impact and determine the level of impact for each of the categories below i.e. either minor, major or none.

Details of the likely policy impacts on Religious belief: The policy is unlikely to have any impact on good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

The measures are technical, regulatory and operational in nature, with no identifiable pathways through which they would differentially affect community relations.

What is the level of impact? None

Details of the likely policy impacts on Political Opinion: The policy is unlikely to have any impact on good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

The measures are technical, regulatory and operational in nature, with no identifiable pathways through which they would differentially affect community relations.

What is the level of impact? None

Details of the likely policy impacts on Racial Group: The policy is unlikely to have any impact on good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

The measures are technical, regulatory and operational in nature, with no identifiable pathways through which they would differentially affect community relations.

What is the level of impact? None

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

Detail opportunities of how this policy could better promote good relations for people within each of the Section 75 Categories below:

Religious Belief - If Yes, provide details: If No, provide reasons:

No opportunities to better promote good relations have been identified at this stage.

Political Opinion - If Yes, provide details: If No, provide reasons

No opportunities to better promote good relations have been identified at this stage.

Racial Group - If Yes, provide details: If No, provide reasons

No opportunities to better promote good relations have been identified at this stage.

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?

(Every citizen belongs to more than one group - For example: disabled minority ethnic people; disabled women; young Protestant men; and young lesbians, gay and bisexual people).

Each Section 75 identity combines to make society in general. Introducing a proposal to improve infrastructure delivery, reduce risk exposure to customers, and enhance confidence in the housing system will potentially benefit Northern Irish society.

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

No multiple identity considerations relevant to the policy have been identified.

Part 3. Screening decision

If the decision is not to conduct an equality impact assessment, please provide details of the reasons.

The proposals have the potential to positively impact society in general, with it applying uniformly across all section 75 groups, and as such an EQIA is not required at this stage as the policy is technical in nature.

If the decision is not to conduct an equality impact assessment the public authority should consider if the policy should be mitigated or an alternative policy be introduced - please provide details of this consideration.

No impacts on any Section 75 groups have been identified. The decision at this stage is that an EQIA is not required as the policy is technical in nature.

This policy will soon be subject to a public consultation and if any section 75 issues are raised they will be fully considered and if necessary, this screening form will be reviewed.

If the decision is to subject the policy to an equality impact assessment, 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?

NI Water has assessed this policy as having “no” impact as it 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.

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

N/A

Timetabling and prioritising

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

If the policy has been 'screened in' for equality impact assessment, then please answer the following questions to determine its priority for timetabling the equality impact assessment.

On a scale of 1-3, with 1 being the lowest priority and 3 being the highest, assess the policy in terms of its priority for equality impact assessment.

Priority criterion [choose 1 2 or 3 if a full EQIA is to take place]

Effect on equality of opportunity and good relations	N/A
Social need	N/A
Effect on people's daily lives	N/A
Relevance to a public authority's functions	N/A

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

No

If yes, please provide details.

N/A

Part 4. Monitoring

Public authorities 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, the public authority should monitor more broadly than for adverse impact (See Benefits, P.9-10, paras 2.13 – 2.20 of the Monitoring Guidance).

Effective monitoring will help the public authority identify any future adverse impact arising from the policy which may lead the public authority to conduct an equality impact assessment, as well as help with future planning and policy development.

NI Water will continue to monitor the implementation of the policy and will take appropriate action should any unintended impacts emerge through consultation feedback or operational delivery.

Part 5 - Approval and authorisation

Screened by: [REDACTED]
Position/Job Title: [REDACTED]
Date: 29/06/2026

Approved by: [REDACTED]
Position/Job Title: [REDACTED]
Date: 14/07/2026