

**The Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016**

**Rural Needs Impact Assessment Template**

**(April 2018)**

**SECTION 1 - Defining the activity subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016**

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| **1A. Name of Public Authority - Department of Health** |

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| **1B. Please provide the official title/ description of the Strategy, Policy, Plan or Public Service document or initiative:** |

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| Introduction of legislative restrictions on smoking in private vehicles carrying children |

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| **1C. Please indicate which category the activity specified in Section 1B above relates to -** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Developing a: | Strategy |  | Policy |  | Plan |  |
| Adopting a: | Strategy |  | Policy |  | Plan |  |
| Implementing a: | Strategy |  | Policy | X | Plan |  |
| Revising a: | Strategy |  | Policy |  | Plan |  |
| Designing a Public Service |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Delivering a Public Service |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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| **1D. Please provide the aims and/or objectives of the Strategy, Policy, Plan or Public Service:** |

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| The aim of the policy is to protect people, particularly children and young people, from harmful exposure to secondhand smoke whilst travelling in private vehicles. Children are particularly vulnerable to the harmful effects of secondhand smoke as they breathe more rapidly and inhale more pollutants per pound of body weight than adults. Regular exposure in enclosed areas, such as private cars, can lead to long-term health conditions, such as asthma, at an early stage. Particle concentrations in cars are 27 times higher than in a smoker’s home, and there is strong evidence that the level of toxic chemicals when a person is smoking in a car is very high, even with window ventilation, and that harmful particulates remain inside the car for up to 3 hours after smoking. The Department has considered the needs of people in rural areas when developing this policy and believes the policy will have a positive impact on both rural and urban communities as geographical location is not a factor. |

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| **1E. Which definition of ‘rural’ is the Public Authority using in respect of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?:** |

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Population Settlements of less than 5,000 (Default definition)

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Other Definition (Provide details and the rationale below)

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| --- |
| X |

A definition of ‘rural’ is not applicable[[1]](#footnote-1)

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| **SECTION 2 – Understanding the impact of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service** |

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| |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Yes | X | No |  |   **2A. Is the Policy, Strategy Plan or Public Service likely to impact on people in rural areas?**  **Please explain:** |

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| --- |
| The policy will be applied to private vehicles in all areas of Northern Ireland. There is no evidence to suggest that individuals in different geographical locations will have any different needs, experiences, priorities or issues in relation to the policy. The aim of the policy is to protect children and young people from the dangers of exposure to secondhand smoke. The policy should have a positive impact on the health of young people, whether they are living in rural or urban locations.  Public consultation on the draft regulations ran from 6 January to 3 March 2017. No rural issues were raised or identified, either during the development of the legislation or as a result of the consultation exercise. |

**If the response is NO after entering explanation GO TO Section 3**

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| **2B. If the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas, please explain how it will impact people in rural areas differently:** |

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| The policy is unlikely to impact differently on people in rural and urban areas. |

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| **2C. Please indicate the rural policy areas the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on (see list at note 1):** |

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| N/A |

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| **SECTION 3 – Identifying the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas** |

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| **3A. Has the Public Authority taken steps to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas that are relevant to the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?**   |  | | --- | |  | | X |   **Yes**  **No Please explain:** |

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| The policy does not relate to specific social and economic needs of people either rural or urban settings. |

**If the response is NO please explain above and GO TO Section 4**

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| **3B. Please indicate which methods or information sources were used to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas (see note 2 for examples) and provide details including relevant dates, names of organisations, titles of publications, website references, details of surveys or consultations undertaken etc:** |

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| **3C. Please provide details of the social and economic needs of people in rural areas which have been identified:** |

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| **SECTION 4 – Considering the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas** |

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| **4A. Please provide details of the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas identified by the Public Authority:** |

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| No specific social and economic needs identified. This policy is expected to have a positive health impact on both rural and urban communities with a specific emphasis on the health needs of children. Geographical location is not a factor. |

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| **SECTION 5 – Influencing the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service** |

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| **5A. Has the development, adoption, implementation or revision of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, been influenced by the rural needs identified?**   |  | | --- | |  | | x |   **Yes**  **No Please explain:** |

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| No rural needs identified. |

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| **SECTION 6 – Documenting and Recording** |

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| |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **6A. I confirm that details of the Rural Needs Impact Assessment will be recorded on the Public Authority’s Annual Monitoring Return and the RNIA Template retained by the Public Authority (**please check box**)** |  | |  | | --- | | X | | |

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| **Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:** | **Gareth Wright** |
| **Position / Grade:** | **SO** |
| **Division/Branch** | **Health Improvement Policy Branch** |
| **Signature:** | *Gareth Wright* |
| **Date:** | **October 2018** |
| **Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:** | **Gerard Collins** |
| **Position / Grade:** | **G7** |
| **Division / Branch** | **Health Improvement Policy Branch** |
| **Signature:** | *Gerard Collins* |
| **Date:** | **November 2018** |

**Note 1**

**Rural Policy Areas (relates to question 2C):**

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| --- | --- |
| * Rural Businesses * Rural Tourism * Rural Housing * Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas * Education or Training in Rural Areas * Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas | * Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas * Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas * Poverty in Rural Areas * Deprivation in Rural Areas * Rural Crime or Community Safety * Rural Development * Other (Please specify) |

**Note 2**

**Examples of methods or information sources used (relates to question 3B):**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * Consultation with Rural Stakeholders |  | * Published Statistics |  |
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| * Consultation with Other Organisations |  | * Research Papers |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| * Surveys or Questionnaires |  | * Other Publications |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| * Other Methods or Information Sources (include details) | | |  |

1. *If a definition of ‘rural’ is not applicable, the policy is unlikely to fall under the scope of the Act and you should be able to screen out at this stage* [↑](#footnote-ref-1)