

Equality & Disability Duties Screening Template

December 2023 version



Screening flowchart and template (taken from Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 - A Guide for public authorities April 2010 (Appendix 1)).

Introduction

Part 1. Policy scoping – asks public authorities to provide details about the policy, procedure, practice and/or decision being screened and what available evidence you have gathered to help make an assessment of the likely impact on equality of opportunity and good relations.

Part 2. Screening questions – asks about the extent of the likely impact of the policy on groups of people within each of the Section 75 categories. Details of the groups consulted and the level of assessment of the likely impact. This includes consideration of multiple identity and good relations issues. This section also includes two questions related to the Disability Duties.

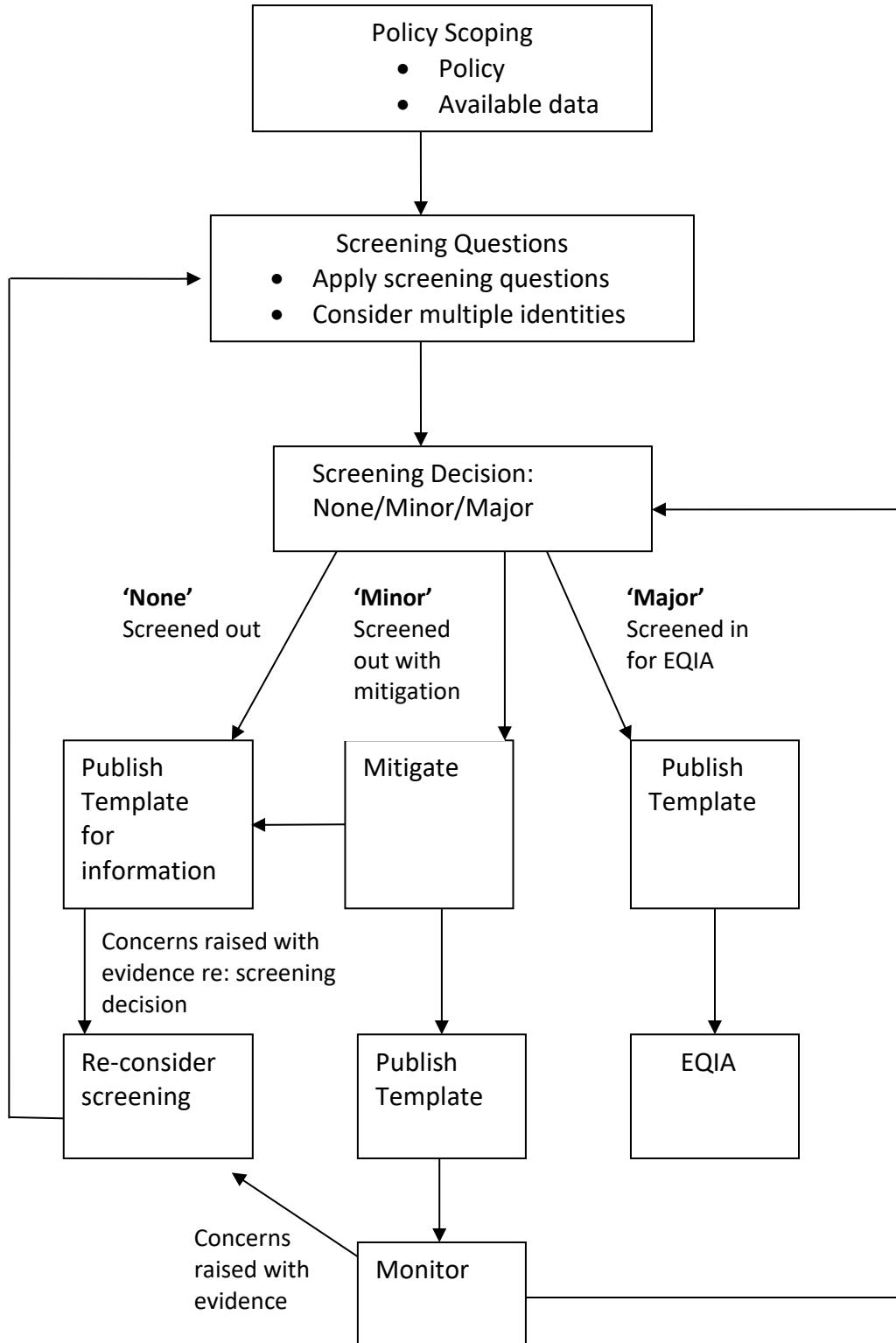
Part 3. Screening decision – guides the public authority to reach a screening decision as to whether or not there is a need to carry out an equality impact assessment (EQIA), or to introduce measures to mitigate the likely impact, or the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

Part 4. Monitoring – provides guidance to public authorities on monitoring for adverse impact and broader monitoring.

Part 5. Consideration of Human Rights – please note this is not a Human Rights Screening form but rather a prompt that impacts on Human Rights should be considered.

Part 6. Approval and authorisation – verifies the public authority’s approval of a screening decision by a senior manager responsible for the policy.

A screening flowchart is provided below.



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

The Agriculture (Student fees) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2023

Is this an existing, revised or new policy?

An existing policy

Brief Decision of the Policy / decision being screened and

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

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) increases the higher education (HE) student fee amounts charged to HE students enrolled on HE courses at its college, the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE), on an annual basis in line with inflation.

To maintain the DAERA Minister's policy of parity with the student fee amounts charged by other HE Institutions (HEIs) across Northern Ireland, DAERA apply the same inflationary rate used by the Department of the Economy as prescribed in the Student Fees (Inflation Index) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2023 for students ordinarily resident in Northern Ireland and enrolled on a HE course at HEIs in Northern Ireland.

The All-Items Retail Prices Index Excluding Mortgage Interest Payments (RPI-X) is used as the basis for these inflationary uplifts. The forecasted RPI-X figure from the Office of Budgetary Responsibility for the first quarter of 2027 is 2.7%.

Consequently, The Agriculture (Student Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 ("the DAERA 2026 Regulations") amend the HE student fee amounts table in Schedule 1 of The Agriculture (Student Fees) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2023 for Home students (students ordinarily resident in Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland) which will see the following maximum annual student fee amounts for foundation degree increase from £2,680 in academic year 2025/26 to £2,745 in academic year 2026/27, for undergraduate Bachelor's degree from £4,855 in academic year 2025/26 to £4,985 in academic year 2026/27, and for Master's degree from £2,885 in academic year 2025/26 to £2,955 in academic year 2026/27.

The student fee amounts for students from Great Britain enrolled at CAFRE will also be increased to the same fee amount as set by the UK Government in The Higher Education (Fee Limits and Fee Limit Condition) (England) (Amendment) Regulation 2026. Consequently, The DAERA 2026 Regulations will see the maximum annual student fee amounts for foundation degree, undergraduate Bachelor's degree, and Master's degree increase from £9,535 in academic year 2025/26 to £9,790 in academic year 2026/27.

CAFRE Widening Access and Participation Plan (WAPP)

DfE have in place regulations (The Education Student Fees (Approved Plans) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005) which require higher education institutions (HEI) that wish to charge more than the basic HE fee for any

course to have in place a Widening Access and Participation Plans (WAPP). A WAPP, which is subject to DfE approval, details the activities that institutions will undertake to promote fair access to HE through outreach work and financial support to students. The philosophy behind WAPP was that the introduction of higher fees should not have a detrimental effect on widening participation and that institutions are explicitly committed to increasing participation of under-represented groups. In Northern Ireland WAPPs are completed annually by all institutions delivering higher education courses – this includes the six regional Further Education (FE) colleges.

DAERA's (and therefore CAFRE's) statutory authority for involvement in education and training comes from the Agriculture Act (Northern Ireland) 1949 as amended by the Agriculture (Northern Ireland) Order 2004 - the 2005 Regulations **do not** apply to CAFRE. However, following the introduction of the higher tuition fees at the College, CAFRE voluntarily developed and implemented the CAFRE WAPP 2023/24 – 2025/26 as good practice.

Over the last two years DfE reviewed the WAPP process in place in NI and recently consulted on a revised approach to widening participation in HE for under-represented groups. The results of this consultation and the revised approach are due to be published by DfE over the coming months. DfE are currently working with DAERA officials on the impact this will have on the voluntary CAFRE WAPP.

Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy? Yes No (select as appropriate)

If so, explain how.

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

Education Policy Branch, Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.

Who owns and who implements the policy?

Education Policy Branch, Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.

Implementation factors

Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision? Yes No (select as appropriate)

If yes, are they (please select as appropriate)

Financial

Legislative

other, please specify:

Main stakeholders affected

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

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?

1. Department for the Economy (DfE) HE student fee policy; and
2. Department of Education (DE) England HE student fee policy.

Who owns them?

1. DfE; and
2. DE England.

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](#).

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

Please ensure all data used is the most current and up to date available. You should verify this by contacting the Departmental Statisticians.

Religious belief evidence/information:

Northern Ireland 2021 Census

The 2021 Census of Northern Ireland found that 42.3% of the population was Catholic, 37.4% Protestant and Other Christian, 1.3% Other Religions, 17.4% None, and 1.6% Not Stated.

(Source: [NI Census 2021 - Religion | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency](#))

The Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey & Young Life and Times Survey

The Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey 2024 found that 35% of respondents regarded themselves as Catholic, 39% as Protestant and 26% as No Religion.

(Source: [Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey: 2024](#))

The Northern Ireland Young Life and Times Survey 2025, that gathered the views of 16-year-olds living in Northern Ireland, found that 65% of respondents regarded themselves as belonging to a particular religion. Of that 65%, 57% regarded themselves as Catholic, 40% as Protestant, while 3% as belonging to another religion, no religion or unknown.

(Source: [Northern Ireland Young Life and Times Survey: 2025](#))

Higher Education Statistics Agency

The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) collects data on the enrolments at Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions (excluding the Open University). They found that in the academic year 2022/23, 30% belonged to the Protestant religion, 52% belonged to the Roman Catholic religion, 18% belonged to another religion, unknown or no religion.

(Source: [Higher Education Statistical Fact Sheet: Enrolments at NI Higher Education Institutions by available equality categories: 2018/19 to 2022/23](#))

CAFRE Student Equality Monitoring Data 2025/2026

Detailed information on all Section 75 categories is collected as part of CAFRE student registration; however, the special category questions are not mandatory, and a student can enrol without providing this information.

Of the 413 NI-domiciled HE students enrolled in the 2025/26 academic year at CAFRE, 388 (94%) completed the equality monitoring question on religion. 55% identified as Protestant, 25% identified as Roman Catholic, 14% as Other (including other Christian, non-Christian and no religion) and 6% did not respond to this question.

Admission to higher education courses at CAFRE is based exclusively on academic merit. A student's religious belief is not considered when determining entry onto a higher education course, the level of student fee charged, or the award of financial support.

The Department gathers monitoring data for all students enrolled at CAFRE. All relevant data categories will be continually monitored via the online Learner Management System.

Political Opinion evidence/information:

The Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey & Young Life and Times Survey

The Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey 2024 found that 30% of respondents identified as Unionist, 30% as Nationalist, 35% as Neither, 3% Did not know and 2% provided another answer.

(Source: [Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey: 2024](#))

The Northern Ireland Young Life and Times Survey, that gathered the views of 16-year-olds living in Northern Ireland, last collected political opinion in 2022. This survey found that 26% of respondents identified as Unionist, 29% as Nationalist, 24% as Neither, 1% as Other, and 21% of respondents did not know their political opinion.

(Source: [Northern Ireland Young Life and Times Survey: 2022](#))

CAFRE Student Equality Monitoring Data 2025/2026

Detailed information on all Section 75 categories is collected as part of CAFRE student registration; however, the special category questions are not mandatory, and a student can enrol without providing this information.

Of the 413 NI-domiciled HE students enrolled in the 2025/26 academic year at CAFRE, 243 (59%) completed the equality monitoring question on political opinion. 20% identified as Unionist, 8% as Nationalist and 0.5% as Other. 18.5% stated they had no political opinion, 12% selected 'prefer not to say' and 41% did not respond to this question.

Admission to higher education courses at CAFRE is based exclusively on academic merit. A student's political opinion is not considered when determining entry onto a higher education course, the level of student fee charged, or the award of financial support.

The Department gathers monitoring data for all students enrolled at CAFRE. All relevant data categories will be continually monitored via the online Learner Management System.

Racial Group evidence/information:

Northern Ireland 2021 Census

The 2021 Census of Northern Ireland found that 97% of respondents identified as white and 3% as Other.

(Source: [Census 2021 main statistics ethnicity tables | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency](#))

The Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey & Young Life and Times Survey

The Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey 2024 found that 95% of respondents identified as White and 5% as Other.

(Source: [Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey: 2024](#))

The Northern Ireland Young Life and Times Survey 2025, that gathered the views of 16-year-olds living in Northern Ireland, found that 93% of respondents identified as being White and 7% as being Other.

(Source: [Northern Ireland Young Life and Times Survey: 2025](#))

Higher Education Statistics Agency

The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) collects data on the enrolments at Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions (excluding the Open University). They found that in the academic year 2022/23 91% identified as being White, 4% identified as Other and 5% of sample was Unknown.

(Source: [Higher Education Statistical Fact Sheet: Enrolments at NI Higher Education Institutions by available equality categories: 2018/19 to 2022/23](#))

CAFRE Student Equality Monitoring Data 2025/2026

Detailed information on all Section 75 categories is collected as part of CAFRE student registration; however, the special category questions are not mandatory, and a student can enrol without providing this information.

Of the 413 NI-domiciled CAFRE HE students enrolled in the 2025/26 academic year, 392 (95%) completed the question on ethnicity. 94.5% identified as being White, 0.5% identified as ‘other’ ethnic group and 5% did not respond to the question.

Admission to higher education courses at CAFRE is based exclusively on academic merit. A student’s ethnicity is not considered when determining entry onto a higher education course, the level of student fee charged, or the award of financial support.

The Department gathers monitoring data for all students enrolled at CAFRE. All relevant data categories will be continually monitored via the online Learner Management System.

Age evidence/information:

Northern Ireland 2021 Census

The 2021 Census of Northern Ireland found that the age profile of the population was.

0-18yrs:	23%
18-20yrs:	3%
21-24yrs:	5%
25-29yrs:	6%
30+:	63%

(Source: [Census 2021 main statistics demography tables – age and sex | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency](#))

Higher Education Statistics Agency

The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) collects data on the enrolments at Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions (excluding the Open University). They found that in the academic year 2022/2023 the age profile of students was:

18-20yrs: 33%

21-24yrs: 26%

25-29yrs: 15%

30+: 26%

(Source: [Higher Education Statistical Fact Sheet: Enrolments at NI Higher Education Institutions by available equality categories: 2018/19 to 2022/23](#))

CAFRE Student Equality Monitoring Data 2025/26

Detailed information on all Section 75 categories is collected as part of CAFRE student registration; however, the special category questions are not mandatory, and a student can enrol without providing this information.

Of the 413 NI-domiciled CAFRE HE students enrolled in the 2025/26 academic year, 413 (100%) completed the question on age. The age profile at undergraduate and postgraduate level is.

18-20yrs: 66%

21-24yrs: 24%

25-29yrs: 5%

30+: 5%

Admission to higher education courses at CAFRE is based exclusively on academic merit. A student's age is not considered when determining entry onto a higher education course, the level of student fee charged or the award of financial support.

The Department gathers monitoring data for all students enrolled at CAFRE. All relevant data categories will be continually monitored via the online Learner Management System.

Marital Status evidence/information:

Northern Ireland 2021 Census

The 2021 Census of Northern Ireland found that around 46% of the population were married or in a civil partnership. 38% were single (never married or registered civil partnership), 10% were separated, divorced/dissolved civil partnership, and 6% widowed/surviving partner from a civil partnership.

(Source: [Census 2021 main statistics demography tables – household relationships | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency](#))

The Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey

The Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey 2024 found that 47% of respondents were married, 36% Single (never married) and 16% Other (separated, divorced or widowed).

(Source: [Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey: 2024](#))

Higher Education Statistics Agency

The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) collects data on the enrolments at Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions (excluding the Open University). They found that in the academic year 2022/2023 10% were married or in a civil partnership, 84% were single (never married or in a civil partnership, 4% co-habiting, separated, divorced/dissolved civil partnership, and 3% unknown.

(Source: [Higher Education Statistical Fact Sheet: Enrolments at NI Higher Education Institutions by available equality categories: 2018/19 to 2022/23](#))

CAFRE Student Equality Monitoring Data 2025/2026

Detailed information on all Section 75 categories is collected as part of CAFRE student registration; however, the special category questions are not mandatory, and a student can enrol without providing this information.

Of the 413 NI-domiciled CAFRE HE students enrolled in the 2025/26 academic year, 391 (95%) completed the question on marital status. 3% of were married or in a civil partnership and 90% were single, never married, 1% were cohabiting and 1% were divorced. 5% did not respond to the question.

Admission to higher education courses at CAFRE is based exclusively on academic merit. A student's marital status is not considered when determining entry onto a higher education course, the level of student fee charged, or the award of financial support.

The Department gathers monitoring data for all students enrolled at CAFRE. All relevant data categories will be continually monitored via the online Learner Management System.

Sexual Orientation evidence/information:

Northern Ireland 2021 Census

The 2021 Census of Northern Ireland found that, of all usual residents aged 16 and over, 90% of the population identified as being straight or heterosexual while 2% identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual or other sexual orientation. 8% preferred not to say or did not respond to the question.

(Source: [Census 2021 main statistics sexual orientation tables | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency](#))

The Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey

The Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey 2024 92% identified as heterosexual, 6% as Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual, and 1% as Other.

(Source: [Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey: 2024](#))

CAFRE Student Equality Monitoring Data 2025/26

Detailed information on all Section 75 categories is collected as part of CAFRE student registration; however, the special category questions are not mandatory, and a student can enrol without providing this information.

Of the 413 NI-domiciled CAFRE HE students enrolled in the 2025/26 academic year, 382 (93%) completed the question on sexual orientation. 92% of students identify as heterosexual, 1% as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Other and 7% of HE Students preferred not to say or did not respond to this question.

Admission to higher education courses at CAFRE is based exclusively on academic merit. A student's sexual orientation is not considered when determining entry onto a higher education course, the level of student fee charged, or the award of financial support.

The Department gathers monitoring data for all students enrolled at CAFRE. All relevant data categories will be continually monitored via the online Learner Management System.

Men & Women generally evidence/information:

Northern Ireland 2021 Census

The 2021 Census of Northern Ireland found that 51% of the population were female and 49% were male.

(Source: [Census 2021 main statistics demography tables – age and sex | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency](#))

The Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey & Young Life and Times Survey

The Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey 2024 found that 49% of respondents were male and 51% were female.

The Northern Ireland Young Life and Times Survey 2025, that gathered the views of 16-year-olds living in Northern Ireland, found that 41% of respondents were male and 57% were female. 2% identified as Other.

(Source: [Northern Ireland Young Life and Times Survey: 2025](#))

Higher Education Statistics Agency

The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) collects data on the enrolments at Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions (excluding the Open University). They found that in the academic year 2022/2023 42% were male and 58% were female.

(Source: [Higher Education Statistical Fact Sheet: Enrolments at NI Higher Education Institutions by available equality categories: 2018/19 to 2022/23](#))

CAFRE Student Equality Monitoring Data 2025/26

Detailed information on all Section 75 categories is collected as part of CAFRE student registration; however, the special category questions are not mandatory, and a student can enrol without providing this information.

Of the 413 NI-domiciled CAFRE HE students enrolled in the 2025/26 academic year, 413 (100%) completed the question on sex. 62% are female, 38% are male.

Admission to higher education courses at CAFRE is based exclusively on academic merit. A student's biological sex is not considered when determining entry onto a higher education course, the level of student fee charged, or the award of financial support.

The Department gathers monitoring data for all students enrolled at CAFRE. All relevant data categories will be continually monitored via the online Learner Management System.

Disability evidence/information:

Northern Ireland 2021 Census

The 2021 Census of Northern Ireland found that around 11% of the population found their day-to-day activities to be limited a lot due to a disability and around 13% found their activities limited a little.

(Source: [Census 2021 main statistics health, disability and unpaid care tables | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency](#))

The Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey & Young Life and Times Survey

The Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey 2024 found that 33% of respondents indicated that they have a physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last for 12 months or more. Of that 33%, 30% indicated their illness(es) or condition(s) reduced their ability to carry out day-to-day activities a lot, 50 % indicated a little, and 20% not at all.

(Source: [Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey: 2024](#))

(Source: [Northern Ireland Life and Times Survey: 2024](#))

The Northern Ireland Young Life and Times Survey 2025, that gathered the views of 16-year-olds living in Northern Ireland, found that 17% of respondents indicated that they have a physical or mental health condition or illness lasting or expected to last for 12 months or more.

Higher Education Statistics Agency

The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) collects data on the enrolments at Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions (excluding the Open University). They found that in the academic year 2022/2023 14% recorded having a disability and 86% recorded having no disability.

(Source: [Higher Education Statistical Fact Sheet: Enrolments at NI Higher Education Institutions by available equality categories: 2018/19 to 2022/23](#))

CAFRE Student Equality Monitoring Data 2025/2026

Detailed information on all Section 75 categories is collected as part of CAFRE student registration; however, the special category questions are not mandatory, and a student can enrol without providing this information.

Of the 413 NI-domiciled CAFRE HE students enrolled in the 2025/26 academic year, 402 (97%) completed the question on disability. 15% of recorded having a disability and 82% recorded having no disability. 3% of did not respond to this question.

Admission to higher education courses at CAFRE is based exclusively on academic merit. Whether as a student has or has not a disability is not considered when determining the level of student fee charged or the award of financial support. Additional financial support through Student Finance NI is available for eligible CAFRE students with a disability.

The Department gathers monitoring data for all students enrolled at CAFRE. All relevant data categories will be continually monitored via the online Learner Management System

Dependants evidence/information:

Northern Ireland 2021 Census

The 2021 Census of Northern Ireland found that around 29% of all households had one or more dependent children. The census also found that on census day 11% of people were providing unpaid care to family members, friends, neighbours or others because of their long term physical or mental ill health or disability, or problems related to age.

(Source: [Census 2021 main statistics demography tables – household relationships | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency](#))

Higher Education Statistics Agency

The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) collects data on the enrolments at Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions (excluding the Open University). They found that in the academic year 2022/2023 12% had a child or an elderly person as a dependant and 85% had no dependants.

(Source: [Higher Education Statistical Fact Sheet: Enrolments at NI Higher Education Institutions by available equality categories: 2018/19 to 2022/23](#))

CAFRE Student Equality Monitoring Data 2025/2026

Detailed information on all Section 75 categories is collected as part of CAFRE student registration; however, the special category questions are not mandatory, and a student can enrol without providing this information.

Of the 413 NI-domiciled CAFRE HE students enrolled in the 2025/26 academic year, 263 (64%) completed the question on dependants 4% had dependants (a child or children or a dependant elderly person(s)), 60% recorded no children or adults as dependants. 36% did not respond to the question.

Admission to higher education courses at CAFRE is based exclusively on academic merit. Whether a student has or does not have caring responsibilities for dependents is not considered when determining entry onto a higher education course or the level of student fee charged. Additional financial support through Student Finance NI is available for those students with caring responsibilities.

The Department gathers monitoring data for all students enrolled at CAFRE. All relevant data categories will be continually monitored via the online Learner Management System.

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

DAERA's policy on HE student fees at CAFRE and these Regulations will neither actively promote, nor adversely affect, equality of opportunity between different section 75 groups.

The Agriculture (Student Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 make the necessary changes to reflect the expected increase of HE student fees at CAFRE in line with inflation. The fees will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students independent of whether they identify as Protestant, Roman Catholic or Other.

DAERA's policy position on HE student fees at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the amounts that are charged to students studying for degrees at other FE colleges and HE Institutions in Northern Ireland by adhering to the DfE HE tuition fee framework.

Based on the response to the question on religious belief in the equality monitoring form, the data provided shows that there is a higher proportion of Protestants in NI domiciled HE students at CAFRE compared to NI domiciled HE students at other NI HE Institutions and the general population.

There is no evidence that those of differing religious beliefs have different needs, experiences or priorities in respect of DAERA's HE student fees policy or these Regulations.

However, financial assistance, by way of the tuition fee loan from Student Finance NI, is available to all eligible CAFRE students regardless of their religious belief. The maximum amount of tuition fee loan available to eligible CAFRE students will cover the revised HE student fees at CAFRE.

Political Opinion

DAERA's policy on HE student fees at CAFRE and these Regulations will neither actively promote, nor adversely affect, equality of opportunity between different section 75 groups.

The Agriculture (Student Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 make the necessary changes to reflect the expected increase of HE student fees at CAFRE in line with inflation. The fees will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students independent of whether they identify as Unionist, Nationalist or Other.

DAERA's policy position on HE student fees at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the amounts that are charged to students studying for degrees at other FE colleges and HE Institutions in Northern Ireland by adhering to the DfE HE tuition fee framework.

Student Equality Monitoring Data 2025/2026 found that 20% of HE students identified as Unionist, 8% as Nationalist and 0.5% as Other. 19% had no political opinion, 12% selected 'prefer not to say' and 41% did not respond to this question.

There is no evidence that those with differing political opinion have different needs, experiences or priorities in respect of DAERA's HE student fees policy or these Regulations.

However, financial assistance, by way of the tuition fee loan from Student Finance NI, is available to all eligible CAFRE students regardless of their political opinion. The maximum amount of tuition fee loan available to eligible CAFRE students will cover the revised HE tuition fees at CAFRE.

Racial Group

DAERA's policy on HE student fees at CAFRE and these Regulations will neither actively promote, nor adversely affect, equality of opportunity between different section 75 groups.

The Agriculture (Student Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 make the necessary changes to reflect the expected increase of HE student fees at CAFRE in line with inflation. The fees will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students independent of whether they identify as White or from any other racial group.

DAERA's policy position on HE student fees at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the amounts that are charged to students studying for degrees at other FE colleges and HE Institutions in Northern Ireland by adhering to the DfE HE tuition fee framework.

Based on the response rate (95%) of the ethnicity question in the equality monitoring form, the data provided shows that the revised student fees impact more on students who identify as White (94%) than any other racial group (1%). It should be noted that 5% of HE students did not respond to this question. The CAFRE HE student racial makeup of NI domiciled students is

similar to NI domiciled students at other NI HE Institutions and the general population.

There is no evidence that those with differing racial groups have different needs, experiences or priorities in respect of DAERA's HE student fees policy or these Regulations.

However, financial assistance, by way of the tuition fee loan from Student Finance NI, is available to all eligible CAFRE students regardless from which racial group they come. The maximum amount of tuition fee loan available to eligible CAFRE students will cover the revised HE student fees at CAFRE

Age

DAERA's policy on HE student fees at CAFRE and these Regulations will neither actively promote, nor adversely affect, equality of opportunity between different section 75 groups.

The Agriculture (Student Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 make the necessary changes to reflect the expected increase of HE student fees at CAFRE in line with inflation. The fees will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students independent of their age.

DAERA's policy position on HE student fees at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the amounts that are charged to students studying for degrees at other FE colleges and HE Institutions in Northern Ireland by adhering to the DfE HE tuition fee framework.

Based on the response rate (100%) of the question on age in the equality monitoring forms, the data provided shows that NI domiciled HE students at CAFRE are younger compared to NI domiciled HE students at other NI HE Institutions and the general population.

There is no evidence that those from different age ranges have different needs, experiences or priorities in respect of DAERA's HE student fees policy or these Regulations.

However, financial assistance, by way of the tuition fee loan from Student Finance NI, is available to all eligible CAFRE students regardless of their age. The maximum amount of tuition fee loan available to eligible CAFRE students will cover the revised HE student fees at CAFRE

In addition, eligible CAFRE students aged 60 or over in the 2026/2027 academic year can get up to £3,569 depending on their household income under the Special Support Grant Scheme. Please refer to the Student

Finance NI website for more information on the details and eligibility criteria for this scheme.

Marital status

DAERA's policy on HE student fees at CAFRE and these Regulations will neither actively promote, nor adversely affect, equality of opportunity between different section 75 groups.

The Agriculture (Student Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 make the necessary changes to reflect the expected increase of HE student fees at CAFRE in line with inflation. The fees will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students independent of their marital status.

DAERA's policy position on HE student fees at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the amounts that are charged to students studying for degrees at other FE colleges and HE Institutions in Northern Ireland by adhering to the DfE HE tuition fee framework.

Based on the response rate (95%) of the marital status question in the equality monitoring forms, the data provided shows that there is a higher proportion of single people in NI domiciled HE students at CAFRE compared to NI domiciled HE students at other NI HE Institutions and the general population.

There is no evidence that those with differing marital status have different needs, experiences or priorities in respect of DAERA's HE student fees policy or these Regulations.

However, financial assistance, by way of the tuition fee loan from Student Finance NI, is available to all eligible CAFRE students regardless of their marital status. The maximum amount of tuition fee loan available to eligible CAFRE students will cover the revised HE student fees at CAFRE

Sexual orientation

DAERA's policy on HE student fees at CAFRE and these Regulations will neither actively promote, nor adversely affect, equality of opportunity between different section 75 groups.

The Agriculture (Student Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 make the necessary changes to reflect the expected increase of HE

student fees at CAFRE in line with inflation. The fees will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students independent of their sexual orientation.

DAERA's policy position on HE student fees at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the amounts that are charged to students studying for degrees at other FE colleges and HE Institutions in Northern Ireland by adhering to the DfE HE tuition fee framework.

Based on the response rate (93%) of the question on sexual orientation in the equality monitoring forms, the data provided shows that the sexual orientation of NI domiciled students at CAFRE is similar to that of the general population.

There is no evidence that those with differing sexual orientations have different needs, experiences or priorities in respect of DAERA's HE student fees policy or these Regulations.

However, financial assistance, by way of the tuition fee loan from Student Finance NI, is available to all eligible CAFRE students regardless of their sexual orientation. The maximum amount of tuition fee loan available to eligible CAFRE students will cover the revised HE student fees at CAFRE

Men and Women Generally

DAERA's policy on HE student fees at CAFRE and these Regulations will neither actively promote, nor adversely affect, equality of opportunity between different section 75 groups.

The Agriculture (Student Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 make the necessary changes to reflect the expected increase of HE student fees at CAFRE in line with inflation. The fees will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students independent of their gender.

DAERA's policy position on HE student fees at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the amounts that are charged to students studying for degrees at other FE colleges and HE Institutions in Northern Ireland by adhering to the DfE HE tuition fee framework.

Based on the response rate (100%) of the equality monitoring forms from currently enrolled CAFRE HE students, the data provided shows that there is a higher proportion of female students in NI domiciled HE students at CAFRE compared to NI domiciled students at other NI HE Institutions and the general population.

There is no evidence that those with differing genders have different needs, experiences or priorities in respect of DAERA's HE student fees policy or these Regulations.

However, financial assistance, by way of the tuition fee loan from Student Finance NI, is available to all eligible CAFRE students regardless of their gender. The maximum amount of tuition fee loan available to eligible CAFRE students will cover the revised HE student fees at CAFRE.

Disability

DAERA's policy on HE student fees at CAFRE and these Regulations will neither actively promote, nor adversely affect, equality of opportunity between different section 75 groups.

The Agriculture (Student Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 make the necessary changes to reflect the expected increase of HE student fees at CAFRE in line with inflation. The fees will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students independent on whether they have or have not a disability.

DAERA's policy position on HE student fees at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the amounts that are charged to students studying for degrees at other FE colleges and HE Institutions in Northern Ireland by adhering to the DfE HE tuition fee framework.

Based on the response rate (97%) of the question on disability indicator in the equality monitoring forms, the data provided shows that NI domiciled HE students at CAFRE with a disability (15%) is similar to NI domiciled HE students at other NI HE Institutions (14%).

There is no evidence that those with a disability than with no disability have different needs, experiences or priorities in respect of DAERA's HE tuition fee charging policy or these Regulations.

However, financial assistance, by way of the tuition fee loan from Student Finance NI, is available to all eligible CAFRE students regardless of whether they have or have not a disability. The maximum amount of tuition fee loan available to eligible CAFRE students will cover the revised HE student fees at CAFRE.

Disabled Students' Allowance and Special Support Grant, through Student Finance NI, is available for eligible CAFRE students with a disability for the 2026/2027 academic year.

Under the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) scheme, DSA is a grant to help pay for additional higher education study-related costs a student may have to incur as a direct result of their disability, mental-health condition (such as depression or anxiety) or specific learning difficulty (such as dyslexia or dyspraxia). DSA is not a monetary grant but can help with the cost of a non-medical helper, items of specialist equipment, travel and other course-related costs up to a maximum of £27,500 a year depending on their income or that of their family, but it will depend on their needs assessment, reflecting their individual needs and will be subject to the approval of the Education Authority. As an existing DfE policy this has previously been subject to screening and is considered to be compliant.

Under the Special Support Grant scheme, eligible CAFRE students who have a disability, and qualify for the Disability Premium or Severe Disability Premium, are deaf and qualify for Disabled Students' Allowance have been treated as incapable of work for at least 28 weeks, have a disability and qualify for income-related Employment and Support Allowance, or are entitled to Personal Independence Payment can get up to £3,569 depending on their household income. As an existing DfE policy this has been previously subject to screening and is considered compliant.

Please refer to the Student Finance NI website for more information on the details and eligibility criteria for both of these schemes.

Dependants

DAERA's policy on HE student fees at CAFRE and these Regulations will neither actively promote, nor adversely affect, equality of opportunity between different section 75 groups.

The Agriculture (Student Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 make the necessary changes to reflect the expected increase of HE student fees at CAFRE in line with inflation. The fees will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students independent on whether they have or have not any dependants.

DAERA's policy position on HE student fees at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the amounts that are charged to students studying for degrees at other FE colleges and HE Institutions in Northern Ireland by adhering to the DfE HE tuition fee framework.

Based on the response rate (64%) to the dependents question in the equality monitoring form, the data provided shows that there is a lower proportion of students with dependents in NI domiciled HE students at CAFRE compared to

NI domiciled HE students at other NI HE Institutions and the general population.

There is no evidence that those with caring responsibilities or those without caring responsibilities have different needs, experiences or priorities in respect of DAERA's HE student fees policy or these Regulations.

However, financial assistance, by way of the tuition fee loan from Student Finance NI, is available to all eligible NI Students regardless of whether they have caring responsibilities or not. The maximum amount of tuition fee loan available to eligible CAFRE students will cover the revised HE student fees at CAFRE.

Childcare Grant, Adult Dependants' Grant, Parents' Learning Allowance and Special Support Grant, through Student Finance NI, is available to eligible CAFRE students for the 2026/2027 academic year.

Eligible CAFRE students can apply for 85% of their actual childcare costs during term times and holidays. They can get up to £148.75 a week for one child or up to £255 a week for more than one child depending on household income (the income of their husband, wife, civil partner or partner and any dependants) under the Childcare Grant scheme.

Eligible CAFRE students can get up to £1,538 a year depending on their income and the income of their husband, wife or partner (if they have any) and any dependants under the Parents' Learning Allowance scheme.

Eligible CAFRE students can get up to £2,695 a year depending on their income and the income of their dependants (including their husband, wife or partner) under the Adult Dependants' scheme.

Eligible CAFRE students who are a lone parent of a child or young person aged under 20 who is in full-time education below higher education level or have a partner who is also a student and one or both of them is responsible for a child or young person aged under 20 who is in full-time education below higher education level can get up to £3,569 depending on their household income under the Special Support Grant.

Please refer to the Student Finance NI website for more information on the details and eligibility criteria for these schemes.

This financial assistance schemes help to break down financial barriers to higher education by helping towards costs of undertaking higher education. As an existing DfE policy this has previously been subject to screening and is considered to be compliant.

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.

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

- 1) The policy has no relevance to equality of opportunity or good relations.
- 2) 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*:

The data provided shows that there is a higher proportion of Protestants in NI domiciled HE students at CAFRE compared to NI domiciled HE students at other NI HE Institutions and the general
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population. DAERA's policy position on HE student fees at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the amounts that are charged to students studying for degrees at other FE colleges and HE Institutions in Northern Ireland.

The Agriculture (Student Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 make the necessary changes to ensure that NI-domiciled HE students enrolled on a HE course at CAFRE will be charged the same student fee as all other NI-domiciled HE students enrolled on any HE course at a HE Institution in Northern Ireland. The fees will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students independent of whether they identify as Protestant, Roman Catholic or Other. The Regulations do not disadvantage NI domiciled students at CAFRE compared to NI domiciled students at other NI HE institutions.

Admission to higher education courses at CAFRE is based solely on academic ability. A student's religious belief is not a consideration in their entrance to CAFRE, the level of student fee or the award of financial support.

Financial assistance, by way of the tuition fee loan, maintenance loan and grants from Student Finance NI, is available to all eligible CAFRE Students regardless of their religious belief. The maximum amount of tuition fee loan available to eligible CAFRE students will cover the revised HE student fees at CAFRE.

DAERA's policy on HE student fees at CAFRE and these Regulations will neither actively promote, nor adversely affect, equality of opportunity between different section 75 groups.

CAFRE currently has a 3 year Widening Access and Participation Plan (WAPP) covering academic years 2023/24 to 2025/26 in place. This includes measures such as HE Access Bursaries that help under-represented groups including those from the most deprived backgrounds to continue to access and participate in HE. A new WAPP is currently in development for the 2026/27 academic year.

What is the level of impact? Minor Major None

(select as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on *Political Opinion*:

Based on the response rate (59%) of the question on political opinion in the equality monitoring form, the data showed 20% of HE students identified as Unionist and 8% as Nationalist and 0.5% as Other. 18.5% stated they had no political opinion, 12% selected 'prefer not to say' and 41% did not respond to this question. Given the low response rate to this question, it is difficult to draw any meaningful conclusion on impact on political opinion.

DAERA's policy position on HE student fees at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the amounts that are charged to students studying for degrees at other FE colleges and HE Institutions in Northern Ireland.

The Agriculture (Student Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 make the necessary changes to ensure that NI-domiciled HE students enrolled on a HE course at CAFRE will be charged the same student fee as all other NI-domiciled HE students enrolled on any HE course at a HE Institution in Northern Ireland. The fees will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students independent of whether they identify as Unionist, Nationalist or Other. The Regulations do not disadvantage NI domiciled students at CAFRE compared to NI domiciled students at other NI HE institutions.

Admission to higher education courses at CAFRE is based solely on academic ability. A student's political opinion is not a consideration in their entrance to CAFRE, the level of student fee or the award of financial support.

Financial assistance, by way of the tuition fee loan, maintenance loan and grants from Student Finance NI, is available to all eligible CAFRE Students regardless of their political opinion. The maximum amount of tuition fee loan available to eligible CAFRE students will cover the revised HE student fees at CAFRE.

DAERA's policy on HE student fees at CAFRE and these Regulations will neither actively promote, nor adversely affect, equality of opportunity between different section 75 groups.

CAFRE currently has a 3 year Widening Access and Participation Plan (WAPP) covering academic years 2023/24 to 2025/26 in place. This includes measures such as HE Access Bursaries that help under-represented groups including those from the most deprived backgrounds to continue to access and participate in HE. A new WAPP is currently in development for the 2026/27 academic year.

What is the level of impact? Minor Major None

(select as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on *Racial Group*:

The CAFRE HE student racial makeup of NI domiciled students is similar to NI domiciled students at other NI HE Institutions and the general population. DAERA's policy position on HE student fees at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the amounts that are charged to students studying for degrees at other FE colleges and HE Institutions in Northern Ireland.

The Agriculture (Student Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 make the necessary changes to ensure that NI-domiciled HE students enrolled on a HE course at CAFRE will be charged the same student fee as all other NI-domiciled HE students enrolled on any HE course at a HE Institution in Northern Ireland. The fees will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students independent of whether they identify as White or from any other racial group. The Regulations do not disadvantage NI domiciled students at CAFRE compared to NI domiciled students at other NI HE institutions.

Admission to higher education courses at CAFRE is based solely on academic ability. From which racial group a student belongs is not a consideration in their entrance to CAFRE, the level of student fee or the award of financial support.

Financial assistance, by way of the tuition fee loan, maintenance loan and grants from Student Finance NI, is available to all eligible CAFRE students regardless from which racial group they come. The maximum amount of tuition fee loan available to eligible CAFRE students will cover the revised HE student fees at CAFRE.

DAERA's policy on HE student fees at CAFRE and these Regulations will neither actively promote, nor adversely affect, equality of opportunity between different section 75 groups.

CAFRE currently has a 3 year Widening Access and Participation Plan (WAPP) covering academic years 2023/24 to 2025/26 in place. This includes measures such as HE Access Bursaries that help under-represented groups including those from the most deprived

backgrounds to continue to access and participate in HE. A new WAPP is currently in development for the 2026/27 academic year.

What is the level of impact? Minor Major None

(select as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on Age:

Data provided shows that NI domiciled HE students at CAFRE are younger compared to NI domiciled HE students at other NI HE Institutions and the general population. DAERA's policy position on HE student fees at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the amounts that are charged to students studying for degrees at other FE colleges and HE Institutions in Northern Ireland.

The Agriculture (Student Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 make the necessary changes to ensure that NI-domiciled HE students enrolled on a HE course at CAFRE will be charged the same student fee as all other NI-domiciled HE students enrolled on any HE course at a HE Institution in Northern Ireland. The fees will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students independent of their age. The Regulations do not disadvantage NI domiciled students at CAFRE compared to NI domiciled students at other NI HE institutions.

Admission to higher education courses at CAFRE is based solely on academic ability. A student's age is not a consideration in their entrance to CAFRE, the level of student fee or the award of financial support.

Financial assistance, by way of the tuition fee loan, maintenance loan and grants from Student Finance NI, is available to all eligible CAFRE students regardless of their age. The maximum amount of tuition fee loan available to eligible CAFRE students will cover the revised HE student fees at CAFRE.

DAERA's policy on HE student fees at CAFRE and these Regulations will neither actively promote, nor adversely affect, equality of opportunity between different section 75 groups.

CAFRE currently has a 3 year Widening Access and Participation Plan (WAPP) covering academic years 2023/24 to 2025/26 in place. This includes measures such as HE Access Bursaries that help

under-represented groups including those from the most deprived backgrounds to continue to access and participate in HE. A new WAPP is currently in development for the 2026/27 academic year.

What is the level of impact? Minor Major None

(select as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on *Marital Status*:

Data provided shows that there is a higher proportion of single people in NI domiciled HE students at CAFRE compared to NI domiciled HE students at other NI HE Institutions and the general population. DAERA's policy position on HE student fees at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the amounts that are charged to students studying for degrees at other FE colleges and HE Institutions in Northern Ireland.

The Agriculture (Student Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 make the necessary changes to ensure that NI-domiciled HE students enrolled on a HE course at CAFRE will be charged the same student fee as all other NI-domiciled HE students enrolled on any HE course at a HE Institution in Northern Ireland. The fees will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students independent of their marital status. The Regulations do not disadvantage NI domiciled students at CAFRE compared to NI domiciled students at other NI HE institutions.

Admission to higher education courses at CAFRE is based solely on academic ability. A student's marital status is not a consideration in their entrance to CAFRE, the level of student fee or the award of financial support.

Financial assistance, by way of the tuition fee loan, maintenance loans and grants from Student Finance NI, is available to all eligible CAFRE students regardless of their marital status. The maximum amount of tuition fee loan available to eligible CAFRE students will cover the revised HE student fees at CAFRE.

DAERA's policy on HE student fees at CAFRE and these Regulations will neither actively promote, nor adversely affect, equality of opportunity between different section 75 groups.

CAFRE currently has a 3 year Widening Access and Participation Plan (WAPP) covering academic years 2023/24 to 2025/26 in place.

This includes measures such as HE Access Bursaries that help under-represented groups including those from the most deprived backgrounds to continue to access and participate in HE. A new WAPP is currently in development for the 2026/27 academic year.

What is the level of impact? Minor Major None

(select as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on *Sexual Orientation*:

Data provided shows that the sexual orientation of NI domiciled students at CAFRE is similar to that of the general population DAERA's policy position on HE student fees at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the amounts that are charged to students studying for degrees at other FE colleges and HE Institutions in Northern Ireland.

The Agriculture (Student Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 make the necessary changes to ensure that NI-domiciled HE students enrolled on a HE course at CAFRE will be charged the same student fee as all other NI-domiciled HE students enrolled on any HE course at a HE Institution in Northern Ireland. The fees will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students independent of their sexual orientation. The Regulations do not disadvantage NI domiciled students at CAFRE compared to NI domiciled students at other NI HE institutions.

Admission to higher education courses at CAFRE is based solely on academic ability. A student's sexual orientation is not a consideration in their entrance to CAFRE, the level of student fee or the award of financial support.

Financial assistance, by way of the tuition fee loan, maintenance loan and grants from Student Finance NI, is available to all eligible CAFRE students regardless of their sexual orientation. The maximum amount of tuition fee loan available to eligible CAFRE students will cover the revised HE student fees at CAFRE.

DAERA's policy on HE student fees at CAFRE and these Regulations will neither actively promote, nor adversely affect, equality of opportunity between different section 75 groups.

CAFRE currently has a 3 year Widening Access and Participation Plan (WAPP) covering academic years 2023/24 to 2025/26 in place.

This includes measures such as HE Access Bursaries that help under-represented groups including those from the most deprived backgrounds to continue to access and participate in HE. A new WAPP is currently in development for the 2026/27 academic year.

What is the level of impact Minor Major None

(select as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on *Men and Women*:

Data provided shows that there is a higher proportion of female students in NI domiciled HE students at CAFRE compared to NI domiciled students at other NI HE Institutions and the general population. DAERA's policy position on HE student fees at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the amounts that are charged to students studying for degrees at other FE colleges and HE Institutions in Northern Ireland.

The Agriculture (Student Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 make the necessary changes to ensure that NI-domiciled HE students enrolled on a HE course at CAFRE will be charged the same student fee as all other NI-domiciled HE students enrolled on any HE course at a HE Institution in Northern Ireland. The fees will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students independent of their gender. The Regulations do not disadvantage NI domiciled students at CAFRE compared to NI domiciled students at other NI HE institutions.

Admission to higher education courses at CAFRE is based solely on academic ability. A student's gender is not a consideration in their entrance to CAFRE, the level of student fee or the award of financial support.

Financial assistance, by way of the tuition fee loan, maintenance loan and grants from Student Finance NI, is available to all eligible CAFRE students regardless of their gender. The maximum amount of tuition fee loan available to eligible CAFRE students will cover the revised HE student fees at CAFRE.

DAERA's policy on HE student fees at CAFRE and these Regulations will neither actively promote, nor adversely affect, equality of opportunity between different section 75 groups.

CAFRE currently has a 3 year Widening Access and Participation Plan (WAPP) covering academic years 2023/24 to 2025/26 in place. This includes measures such as HE Access Bursaries that help under-represented groups including those from the most deprived backgrounds to continue to access and participate in HE. A new WAPP is currently in development for the 2026/27 academic year.

What is the level of impact? Minor Major None

(select as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on *Disability*:

Data provided shows that NI domiciled HE students at CAFRE without a disability (15%) is similar to NI domiciled HE students at other NI HE Institutions (14%). DAERA's policy position on HE student fees at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the amounts that are charged to students studying for degrees at other FE colleges and HE Institutions in Northern Ireland.

The Agriculture (Student Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 make the necessary changes to ensure that NI-domiciled HE students enrolled on a HE course at CAFRE will be charged the same student fee as all other NI-domiciled HE students enrolled on any HE course at a HE Institution in Northern Ireland. The fees will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students independent on whether they have or have not a disability. The Regulations do not disadvantage NI domiciled students at CAFRE compared to NI domiciled students at other NI HE institutions.

Whether a student has or has not a disability is not a consideration in the level of student fee at CAFRE.

Financial assistance, by way of the tuition fee loan, maintenance loan and grants from Student Finance NI, is available to all eligible CAFRE students regardless of whether they have or have not a disability. The maximum amount of tuition fee loan available to eligible CAFRE students will cover the revised HE student fees at CAFRE.

Disabled Students' Allowance and Special Support Grant, through Student Finance NI, is available to eligible CAFRE students. The Disabled Students' Allowance can help with the cost of a non-medical helper, items of specialist equipment, travel and other course-related

costs up to a maximum of £27,500 a year depending on their income or that of their family, but it will depend on their needs assessment, reflecting their individual needs and will be subject to the approval of the Education Authority. As an existing DfE policy this has previously been subject to screening and is considered to be compliant.

The Special Support Grant scheme, up to £3,569 depending on their household income, helps towards costs incurred by an eligible student towards costs. As an existing DfE policy this has been previously subject to screening and is considered compliant.

DAERA's policy on HE student fees at CAFRE and these Regulations will neither actively promote, nor adversely affect, equality of opportunity between different section 75 groups.

CAFRE currently has a 3 year Widening Access and Participation Plan (WAPP) covering academic years 2023/24 to 2025/26 in place. This includes measures such as HE Access Bursaries that help under-represented groups including those from the most deprived backgrounds to continue to access and participate in HE. A new WAPP is currently in development for the 2026/27 academic year.

What is the level of impact? Minor Major None

(select as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on *Dependants*:

Data provided shows that there is a lower proportion of students with dependents in NI domiciled HE students at CAFRE compared to NI domiciled HE students at other NI HE Institutions and the general population. DAERA's policy position on HE student fees at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the amounts that are charged to students studying for degrees at other FE colleges and HE Institutions in Northern Ireland.

The Agriculture (Student Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 make the necessary changes to ensure that NI-domiciled HE students enrolled on a HE course at CAFRE will be charged the same student fee as all other NI-domiciled HE students

enrolled on any HE course at a HE Institution in Northern Ireland. The fees will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students independent on whether they have caring responsibilities or not. The Regulations do not disadvantage NI domiciled students at CAFRE compared to NI domiciled students at other NI HE institutions.

Admission to higher education courses at CAFRE is based solely on academic ability. Whether a student has or has not any caring responsibilities is not a consideration in their entrance to CAFRE, the level of student fee or the award of financial support.

However, financial assistance, by way of the tuition fee loan, maintenance loan and grants from Student Finance NI, is available to all eligible CAFRE students regardless of whether they have caring responsibilities or not. The maximum amount of tuition fee loan available to eligible CAFRE students will cover the revised HE student fees at CAFRE.

Childcare Grant, Adult Dependants' Grant, Parents' Learning Allowance and Special Support Grant, through Student Finance NI, is available to eligible CAFRE students for the 2026/2027 academic year.

Eligible CAFRE students can apply for 85% of their actual childcare costs during term times and holidays. They can get up to £148.75 a week for one child or up to £255 a week for more than one child depending on household income (the income of their husband, wife, civil partner or partner and any dependants) under the Childcare Grant scheme.

Eligible CAFRE students can get up to £1,538 a year depending on their income and the income of their husband, wife or partner (if they have any) and any dependants under the Parents' Learning Allowance scheme.

Eligible CAFRE students can get up to £2,695 a year depending on their income and the income of their dependants (including their husband, wife or partner) under the Adult Dependants' scheme.

Eligible CAFRE students who are a lone parent of a child or young person aged under 20 who is in full-time education below higher education level or have a partner who is also a student and one or both of them is responsible for a child or young person aged under 20 who is in full-time education below higher education level can get up

to £3,569 depending on their household income under the Special Support Grant.

This financial assistance schemes help to break down financial barriers to higher education by helping towards costs of undertaking higher education. As an existing DfE policy this has previously been subject to screening and is considered to be compliant.

DAERA’s policy on HE student fees at CAFRE and these Regulations will neither actively promote, nor adversely affect, equality of opportunity between different section 75 groups.

CAFRE currently has a 3 year Widening Access and Participation Plan (WAPP) covering academic years 2023/24 to 2025/26 in place. This includes measures such as HE Access Bursaries that help under-represented groups including those from the most deprived backgrounds to continue to access and participate in HE. A new WAPP is currently in development for the 2026/27 academic year.

What is the level of impact? Major None Minor

(select as appropriate)

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

Yes No (select as appropriate)

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:

N/A

If No, provide reasons:

There are no opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories within these Regulations.

Political Opinion - If Yes, provide details:

N/A

If No, provide reasons:

There are no opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories within these Regulations.

Racial Group - If Yes, provide details:

N/A

If No, provide reasons:

There are no opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories within these Regulations.

Age - If Yes, provide details:

N/A

If No, provide reasons:

There are no opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories within these Regulations.

Marital Status - If Yes, provide details:

N/A

If No, provide reasons

There are no opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories within these Regulations.

Sexual Orientation - If Yes, provide details:

N/A

If No, provide reasons:

There are no opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories within these Regulations.

Men and Women generally - If Yes, provide details:

N/A

If No, provide reasons:

There are no opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories within these Regulations.

Disability - If Yes, provide details:

N/A

If No, provide reasons:

There are no opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories within these Regulations.

Dependants - If Yes, provide details:

N/A

If No, provide reasons:

There are no opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories within these Regulations.

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*:

No impact

What is the level of impact? Minor Major None

(select as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on *Political Opinion*:

No impact

What is the level of impact? Minor Major None

(select as appropriate)

Details of the likely policy impacts on *Racial Group*:

No impact

What is the level of impact? Minor Major None

(select as appropriate)

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:**

N/A

If No, provide reasons:

There are no opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group within these Regulations.

DAERA's policy position on HE student fees at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the amounts that are charged to students studying for degrees at other FE colleges and HE Institutions in Northern Ireland. The Agriculture (Student Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 make the necessary changes to reflect the current HE fee structure while also addressing the expected increase of HE student fees at CAFRE in line with inflation. The fees will apply

equally across all HE CAFRE students and on that basis, it has no differential impact.

Political Opinion - If Yes, provide details:

N/A

If No, provide reasons:

There are no opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group within these Regulations.

DAERA's policy position on HE student fees at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the amounts that are charged to students studying for degrees at other FE colleges and HE Institutions in Northern Ireland. The Agriculture (Student Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 make the necessary changes to reflect the current HE fee structure while also addressing the expected increase of HE student fees at CAFRE in line with inflation. The fees will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students and on that basis, it has no differential impact.

Racial Group - If Yes, provide details:

N/A

If No, provide reasons:

There are no opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group within these Regulations.

DAERA's policy position on HE student fees at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the amounts that are charged to students studying for degrees at other FE colleges and HE Institutions in Northern Ireland. The Agriculture (Student Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 make the necessary changes to reflect the current HE fee structure while also addressing the expected increase of HE

student fees at CAFRE in line with inflation. The fees will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students and on that basis, it has no differential impact.

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? If so, please detail below.

(For example; disabled minority ethnic people; disabled women; young Protestant men; and young lesbians, gay and bisexual people).

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

DAERA's policy position on HE student fees at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the amounts that are charged to students studying for degrees at other FE colleges and HE Institutions in Northern Ireland.

This increase in HE student fees will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students and on that basis it has no differential impact and no potential impacts on people with multiple identities

DAERA also has legislative obligations to meet under the **Disability Discrimination Order**. Questions 5 - 6 relate to these.

Consideration of Disability Duties

5. Does this proposed policy or decision provide an opportunity for DAERA to better **promote positive attitudes** towards disabled people?

No.

There is no facility in the policy/Regulations proposal to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people.

6. Does this proposed policy or decision provide an opportunity to actively **increase the participation** by disabled people in public life?

No.

There is no facility in the policy/Regulations proposal to increase the participation of disabled people in public life.

Part 3. Screening decision (Please delete as appropriate)

1. “Screened out” without mitigation or an alternative policy proposed to be adopted.

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

DAERA's policy position on HE student fees at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the amounts that are charged to students studying for degrees at other FE colleges and HE Institutions in Northern Ireland by adhering to the DfE HE tuition fee framework.

The Agriculture (Student Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 make the necessary changes to reflect the expected increase of HE student fees at CAFRE in line with inflation.

The revised HE student fees policy will be applicable from academic year 2026/27 to students ordinarily resident in Northern Ireland (and excepted others) – the increases will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students and therefore **it has no differential impact on any of the Section 75 categories**. Consequently, no mitigation of this policy or no alternative policy is required to be introduced.

Financial assistance, by way of the tuition fee loan, maintenance loan and grants from Student Finance NI, is available to all eligible CAFRE students regardless of their Section 75 grouping. The maximum amount of tuition fee loan available to eligible CAFRE students will cover the revised HE student fees at CAFRE.

Disabled Students' Allowances, through Student Finance NI, is available to eligible CAFRE students with a disability. This financial assistance helps to remove any financial barriers to higher education by helping to meet the disability specific costs of undertaking higher education, this includes the provision of non-medical helpers, equipment and travel costs. As an existing DfE policy this has previously been subject to screening and is considered to be compliant.

Childcare Grant, Adult Dependents' Grant and Parents' Learning Allowance, through Student Finance NI, is available to eligible CAFRE students with

caring responsibilities. This financial assistance helps to remove any financial barriers to higher education by helping to meet specific costs of undertaking higher education. As an existing DfE policy this has previously been subject to screening and is considered to be compliant.

CAFRE currently has a 3 year Widening Access and Participation Plan (WAPP) covering academic years 2023/24 to 2025/26 in place. This includes measures such as HE Access Bursaries that help under-represented groups including those from the most deprived backgrounds to continue to access and participate in HE. A new WAPP is currently in development for the 2026/27 academic year.

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.

DAERA's policy position on HE student fees at CAFRE is to maintain parity with the amounts that are charged to students studying for degrees at other FE colleges and HE Institutions in Northern Ireland by adhering to the DfE HE tuition fee framework.

The Agriculture (Student Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 make the necessary changes to reflect the expected increase of HE student fees at CAFRE in line with inflation.

The revised HE student fee policy will be applicable from academic year 2026/27 to students ordinarily resident in Northern Ireland (and excepted others) – the increases will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students and on that basis, it has no differential impact on any of the Section 75 categories. On this basis, no mitigation of this policy or no alternative policy is required to be introduced.

Financial assistance, by way of the tuition fee loan, maintenance loan and grants from Student Finance NI, is available to all eligible CAFRE students regardless of their Section 75 grouping. The maximum amount of tuition fee loan available to eligible CAFRE students will cover the revised HE student fees at CAFRE.

Disabled Students' Allowances, through Student Finance NI, is available to eligible CAFRE students with a disability. This financial assistance helps to remove any financial barriers to higher education by helping to meet the disability specific costs of undertaking higher education, this includes the provision of non-medical helpers, equipment and travel costs. As an existing

DfE policy this has previously been subject to screening and is considered to be compliant.

Childcare Grant, Adult Dependants' Grant and Parents' Learning Allowance, through Student Finance NI, is available to eligible CAFRE students with caring responsibilities. This financial assistance helps to remove any financial barriers to higher education by helping to meet specific costs of undertaking higher education. As an existing DfE policy this has previously been subject to screening and is considered to be compliant.

CAFRE currently has a 3 year Widening Access and Participation Plan (WAPP) covering academic years 2023/24 to 2025/26 in place. This includes measures such as HE Access Bursaries that help under-represented groups including those from the most deprived backgrounds to continue to access and participate in HE. A new WAPP is currently in development for the 2026/27 academic year.

If the decision is to subject the policy to an equality impact assessment, please provide details of the reasons.

N/A

All public authorities' equality schemes must state the authority's arrangements for assessing and consulting on the likely impact of policies adopted or proposed to be adopted by the authority on the promotion of equality of opportunity. The Commission recommends screening and equality impact assessment as the tools to be utilised for such assessments. Further advice on equality impact assessment may be found in a separate Commission publication: [A Practical Guide to Equality Impact Assessment](#)

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? Yes No (select as appropriate)

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

No

The revised HE student fees policy will be applicable from academic year 2026/27 to students ordinarily resident in Northern Ireland (and excepted others) – the increases will apply equally across all HE CAFRE students and it has no differential impact on any of the Section 75 categories. Consequently, no mitigation of this policy or no alternative policy is required to be introduced.

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	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	
Total score	

Note: The Total Rating Score should be used to prioritise the policy in rank order with other policies screened in for equality impact assessment. This list of priorities will assist the public authority in timetabling. Details of the Public Authority’s Equality Impact Assessment Timetable should be included in the quarterly Screening Report.

Is the policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities? Yes No (select as appropriate)

If yes, please provide details.

(insert text here)

Part 4. Monitoring

Section 75 places a requirement on DAERA to have equality monitoring arrangements in place in order to assess the impact of policies and services etc; and to help identify barriers to fair participation and to better promote equality of opportunity. Please note the following excerpt from The Equality Commission for Northern Ireland in relation to monitoring:

A system must be established to monitor the impact of the policy in order to find out its effect on relevant groups. The results of ongoing monitoring must be reviewed on an annual basis. The public authority is required to publish the results of this monitoring. And they must be included in the public authorities' annual review on progress to the Equality Commission. The Equality Scheme must specify how and where such monitoring information will be published. It is therefore essential that monitoring is carried out in a systematic manner and that the results are widely and openly published.

If the monitoring and analysis of results over a two year period show that the policy results in greater adverse impact than predicted, or if opportunities arise which would allow for greater equality of opportunity to be promoted, the public authority must ensure that the policy is revised to achieve better outcomes for the relevant equality groups.

Further advice on monitoring can be found at: [ECNI Monitoring Guidance for Public Authorities](#)

Outline what data you will collect in the future in order to monitor the impact of this policy or decision on equality, good relations and disability duties.

Equality:

CAFRE collects and analyses equality monitoring data on all students at the commencement of their course. CAFRE will continue to monitor relevant data on an ongoing basis via the online Learner Management System and seek ways to maximise the level of response rate.

Good Relations:

Other than the equality monitoring data for students, no specific data will be collected.

Disability Duties:

CAFRE responds to any special education/disability needs identified by students.

Part 5. Consideration of Human Rights

- 7. The Human Rights Act (HRA) 1998 brings the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) into UK law and it applies in N Ireland. Indicate below by deleting Yes/No as appropriate, any potential**

adverse impacts that the policy or decision may have in relation to human rights issues.

See Annex A for brief synopsis on each of the Human Rights Articles & Protocols.

Right to Life	Article 2	No
Prohibition of torture, inhuman or degrading treatment	Article 3	No
Prohibition of slavery and forced labour	Article 4	No
Right to liberty and security	Article 5	No
Right to a fair and public trial	Article 6	No
Right to no punishment without law	Article 7	No
Right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence	Article 8	No
Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion	Article 9	No
Right to freedom of expression	Article 10	No
Right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association	Article 11	No
Right to marry and to found a family	Article 12	No
The prohibition of discrimination	Article 14	No

Protection of property and enjoyment of possessions	Protocol 1 Article 1	No
Right to education	Protocol 1 Article 2	No
Right to free and secret elections	Protocol 1 Article 3	No

8. Please explain any adverse impacts on human rights that you have identified.

No adverse impact on human rights has been identified

9. Please indicate any ways which you consider the policy positively promotes human rights.

None

Part 6 - Approval and authorisation

Before signing off this screening template please confirm that you have completed all the actions listed below.

I can confirm that all the actions listed below have been completed -

- I have explained any technical issues in plain English (easily understood by a 12 year old)
- I have used the most relevant, current & up to date data available
- I have added evidence and explained my assessments in full
- I have provided a brief note to justify my decision to ‘Screen In’ or ‘Screen Out’
- A copy of this screening template and the final decision has been sent to the Equality Unit for their consideration before it has been forwarded for sign-off

Screening assessment completed by (Staff Officer level or above) -

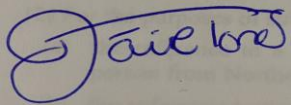
Name: Dáire Hamilton-Toner

Grade: Deputy Principal

Branch: Education Policy Branch

Date: 24 April 2026

Signature: please insert a scanned image of your signature.



Screening decision approved by (must be Grade 3/Deputy Secretary or above) -

Name: Martin McKendry

Grade: 3

Branch: FFRAG

Date: 28/04/2026

Signature: please insert a scanned image of your signature.



Note: A copy of the Screening Template, for each policy screened should be ‘signed off’ and approved by a senior manager responsible for the policy, made

easily accessible on the public authority’s website as soon as possible following completion and made available on request.

Please save the final signed version of the completed screening form in the CM container (AE2-19-11940) below as soon as possible after completion and forward the CM link to Equality Branch at equality@daera-ni.gov.uk. The screening form will be placed on the DAERA website and a link provided to the Department’s Section 75 consultees.

For more information about equality screening, contact:

DAERA Equality Unit

Capacity, Capability, Equality & Diversity Branch

Jubilee House

111 Ballykelly Road

LIMAVADY

BT49 9HP

Email: equality@daera-ni.gov.uk

Tel: 028 7744 2027



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

An Roinn
**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department o’
**Fairmin, Environment
an’ Kintra Matthers**

Annex A

Synopsis of Human Rights Act Articles & Protocols

ARTICLE 2

Right to life

1. Everyone's right to life shall be protected by law. No one shall be deprived of his life intentionally save in the execution of a sentence of a court following his conviction of a crime for which this penalty is provided by law.
2. Deprivation of life shall not be regarded as inflicted in contravention of this Article when it results from the use of force which is no more than absolutely necessary:
 - a. In defense of any person from unlawful violence;
 - b. In order to effect a lawful arrest or to prevent the escape of a person lawfully detained;
 - c. In action lawfully taken for the purpose of quelling a riot or insurrection.

ARTICLE 3

Prohibition of torture

No one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

ARTICLE 4

Prohibition of slavery and forced labour

1. No one shall be held in slavery or servitude.

2. No one shall be required to perform forced or compulsory labour.
3. For the purpose of this Article the term “forced or compulsory labour” shall not include:
 - a. Any work required to be done in the ordinary course of detention imposed according to the provisions of Article 5 of this Convention or during conditional release from such detention;
 - b. Any service of a military character or, in case of conscientious objectors in countries where they are recognised, service exacted instead of compulsory military service;
 - c. Any service exacted in case of an emergency or calamity threatening the life or well-being of the community;
 - d. Any work or service which forms part of normal civic obligations.

ARTICLE 5

Right to liberty and security

1. Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person. No one shall be deprived of his liberty save in the following cases and in accordance with a procedure prescribed by law:
 - a. The lawful detention of a person after conviction by a competent court;
 - b. The lawful arrest or detention of a person for non-compliance with the lawful order of a court or in order to secure the fulfilment of any obligation prescribed by law;
 - c. the lawful arrest or detention of a person effected for the purpose of bringing him before the competent legal authority on reasonable suspicion of having committed an offence or when it is reasonably considered necessary to prevent his committing an offence or fleeing after having done so;

- d. the detention of a minor by lawful order for the purpose of educational supervision or his lawful detention for the purpose of bringing him before the competent legal authority;
 - e. The lawful detention of persons for the prevention of the spreading of infectious diseases, of persons of unsound mind, alcoholics or drug addicts or vagrants;
 - f. The lawful arrest or detention of a person to prevent his effecting an unauthorised entry into the country or of a person against whom action is being taken with a view to deportation or extradition.
2. Everyone who is arrested shall be informed promptly, in a language which he understands, of the reasons for his arrest and of any charge against him.
3. Everyone arrested or detained in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 1(c) of this Article shall be brought promptly before a judge or other officer authorised by law to exercise judicial power and shall be entitled to trial within a reasonable time or to release pending trial. Release may be conditioned by guarantees to appear for trial.
4. Everyone who is deprived of his liberty by arrest or detention shall be entitled to take proceedings by which the lawfulness of his detention shall be decided speedily by a court and his release ordered if the detention is not lawful.
5. Everyone who has been the victim of arrest or detention in contravention of the provisions of this Article shall have an enforceable right to compensation.

ARTICLE 6

Right to a fair trial

1. In the determination of his civil rights and obligations or of any criminal charge against him, everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial tribunal established by law. Judgment shall be pronounced publicly but the press and public may be excluded from all or part of the trial in the interest of morals, public order or national security in a democratic society, where the interests of juveniles or the protection of the private life of the parties so require, or to the extent strictly necessary in the opinion of the court in special circumstances where publicity would prejudice the interests of justice.
2. Everyone charged with a criminal offence shall be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law.
3. Everyone charged with a criminal offence has the following minimum rights:
 - a. To be informed promptly, in a language which he understands and in detail, of the nature and cause of the accusation against him;
 - b. To have adequate time and facilities for the preparation of his defense;
 - c. To defend himself in person or through legal assistance of his own choosing or, if he has not sufficient means to pay for legal assistance, to be given it free when the interests of justice so require;
 - d. To examine or have examined witnesses against him and to obtain the attendance and examination of witnesses on his behalf under the same conditions as witnesses against him;
 - e. To have the free assistance of an interpreter if he cannot understand or speak the language used in court.

ARTICLE 7

No punishment without law

1. No one shall be held guilty of any criminal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a criminal offence under national or international law at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the criminal offence was committed.
2. This Article shall not prejudice the trial and punishment of any person for any act or omission which, at the time when it was committed, was criminal according to the general principles of law recognised by civilised nations.

ARTICLE 8

Right to respect for private and family life

1. Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence.
2. There shall be no interference by a public authority with the exercise of this right except such as is in accordance with the law and is necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security, public safety or the economic well-being of the country, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

ARTICLE 9

Freedom of thought, conscience and religion

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief, in worship, teaching, practice and observance.
2. Freedom to manifest one's religion or beliefs shall be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of public safety, for the protection of public order, health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

ARTICLE 10

Freedom of expression

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers. This Article shall not prevent States from requiring the licensing of broadcasting, television or cinema enterprises.
2. The exercise of these freedoms, since it carries with it duties and responsibilities, may be subject to such formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary.

ARTICLE 11

Freedom of assembly and association

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and to freedom of association with others, including the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.
2. No restrictions shall be placed on the exercise of these rights other than such as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others. This Article shall not prevent the imposition of lawful restrictions on the exercise of these rights by members of the armed forces, of the police or of the administration of the State.

ARTICLE 12

Right to marry

Men and women of marriageable age have the right to marry and to found a family, according to the national laws governing the exercise of this right.

ARTICLE 14

Prohibition of discrimination

The enjoyment of the rights and freedoms set forth in this Convention shall be secured without discrimination on any ground such as sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status.

Protocol 1

ARTICLE 1

Protection of property

Every natural or legal person is entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of his possessions. No one shall be deprived of his possessions except in the public interest and subject to the conditions provided for by law and by the general principles of international law.

The preceding provisions shall not, however, in any way impair the right of a State to enforce such laws as it deems necessary to control the use of property in accordance with the general interest or to secure the payment of taxes or other contributions or penalties.

Protocol 1

ARTICLE 2

Right to education

No person shall be denied the right to education. In the exercise of any functions which it assumes in relation to education and to teaching, the State shall respect the right of parents to ensure such education and teaching in conformity with their own religious and philosophical convictions.

Protocol 1

ARTICLE 3

Right to free elections

The High Contracting Parties undertake to hold free elections at reasonable intervals by secret ballot, under conditions which will ensure the free expression of the opinion of the people in the choice of the legislature.

For further information:

Equality Unit,
Equality & Diversity Branch
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)
Jubilee House
111 Ballykelly Road
Ballykelly
Limavady
BT49 9HP

Tel: 028 7744 2027

Email: equality@daera-ni.gov.uk



Department of

**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department o'

**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**