

Appendix I - Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) Template

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

1A. Name of Public Authority.

DAERA – Sustainable Agri Food Development Division

1B. Please provide a short title which describes the activity being undertaken by the Public Authority that is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.

Introduction of mandatory sheep carcase classification and price reporting similar to those applied to bovine and pig carcasses within The Carcase Classification and Price Reporting Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018.

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

Developing a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Adopting a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Implementing a	Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Revising a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Designing a Public Service	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Delivering a Public Service	<input type="checkbox"/>		

1D. Please provide the official title (if any) of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service document or initiative relating to the category indicated in Section 1C above.

The Sheep Carcase Classification and Price Reporting Regulations (NI) 2026

1E. Please provide details of the aims and/or objectives of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service.

It will: align the sheep industry with that of beef and pig; allow for easier comparisons of the NI and GB sheep industries; improve fairness and price transparency in the UK sheep industry; help ensure funding is allocated to DAERA inspections of sheep carcase classification practices going forward; and provide enforcement powers to ensure compliance.

1F. What definition of 'rural' is the Public Authority using in respect of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?

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

☐

Other Definition (Provide details and the rationale below).

☐

A definition of 'rural' is not applicable.

☒

Details of alternative definition of 'rural' used.

N/A

Rationale for using alternative definition of 'rural'.

N/A

Reasons why a definition of 'rural' is not applicable.

The changes from voluntary to mandatory sheep carcase classification and price reporting will not represent significant change from current practice. As such, it is not intended that it will have any impact on rural areas.

SECTION 2 - Understanding the impact of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

2A. Is the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service likely to impact on people in rural areas?

Yes ☐ No ☒ If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **2E**.

2B. Please explain how the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas.

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

2D. Please indicate which of the following rural policy areas the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to primarily impact on.

Rural Businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Tourism	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education or Training in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deprivation in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Crime or Community Safety	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Development	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agri-Environment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please state)	<input type="text"/>

If the response to Section 2A was YES GO TO Section 3A.

2E. Please explain why the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is NOT likely to impact on people in rural areas.

Sheep carcase classification and price reporting relates to organisations and individuals in the sheep/lamb supply chain, especially processors (abattoirs).

No specific impact is anticipated on people in rural areas. While those in the sheep/lamb supply chain can be expected to be from rural areas, since changes from voluntary to mandatory sheep carcase classification and price reporting will not represent significant change from current practice, there should be no significant practical impact on people in rural areas.

SECTION 3 - Identifying the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

3A. Has the Public Authority taken steps to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas that are relevant to the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?

Yes ☒ No ☐ If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **3E**.

3B. Please indicate which of the following methods or information sources were used by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

Consultation with Rural Stakeholders	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Published Statistics	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consultation with Other Organisations	<input type="checkbox"/>	Research Papers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surveys or Questionnaires	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Methods or Information Sources (include details in Question 3C below).			<input type="checkbox"/>

3C. Please provide details of the methods and information sources used to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas including relevant dates, names of organisations, titles of publications, website references, details of surveys or consultations undertaken etc.

A public consultation and a follow-up targeted consultation asked respondents to provide details of any impact on them, their businesses or other organisations. Representatives of the farming and processing industries responded to both consultations. There has also been follow up engagement with these key stakeholders.

3D. Please provide details of the social and economic needs of people in rural areas which have been identified by the Public Authority?

No specific needs identified relevant to this legislation.

If the response to Section 3A was **YES** GO TO Section 4A.

3E. Please explain why no steps were taken by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas?

N/A

SECTION 4 - Considering the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

4A. Please provide details of the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

Sheep carcase classification and price reporting relates to organisations and individuals in the sheep/lamb supply chain, especially processors (abattoirs).

It is considered that any proposed changes to legislation is not relevant to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

Introducing mandatory carcase classification and price reporting for sheep will have minimal impact as the practice is already ongoing on a voluntary basis.

SECTION 5 - Influencing the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

5A. Has the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, been influenced by the rural needs identified?

Yes

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No

☒

If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **5C**.

5B. Please explain how the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, has been influenced by the rural needs identified.

If the response to Section **5A** was **YES** GO TO Section **6A**.

5C. Please explain why the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or the delivery of the Public Service, has NOT been influenced by the rural needs identified.

Sheep carcase classification and price reporting relates to organisations and individuals in the sheep/lamb supply chain, especially processors (abattoirs).

The introduction of mandatory carcase classification and price reporting for sheep would help ensure transparency along the sheepmeat supply chain.

Introducing mandatory carcase classification and price reporting for sheep will have minimal impact as the practice is already ongoing on a voluntary basis. No additional rural needs are likely to come of it.

SECTION 6 - Documenting and Recording

6A. Please tick below to confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained by the Public Authority and relevant information on the Section 1 activity compiled in accordance with paragraph 6.7 of the guidance.

I confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained and relevant information compiled.



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Date:	10/11/2025
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Position/Grade:	Grade 7
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Signature:	Samantha Stewart
Date:	10/11/2025