

From: The Minister

Patsy McGlone MLA,
Parliament Buildings,
Stormont,
Belfast.
BT4 3XX

Via email: patsy.mcglone@mla.niassembly.gov.uk

Dear Patsy,

AQW 37759/22-27 To ask the Minister for Communities to detail (i) the number of Rural Needs Impact Assessments (RNIA) under the Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016, carried out by his Department and its arm's-length bodies, of policies, strategies, and services affecting rural communities; and (ii) a breakdown of (a) the number of; and (b) which, strategies and services that were enhanced as a consequence of the RNIA, in each of the last five years.

Due to the large volume of detail required to provide an answer to your question, I have arranged for this to be placed in the Assembly Library.

Yours sincerely,



**Gordon Lyons MLA
Minister for Communities**

AQW 37759/22 27 - To ask the Minister for Communities to detail (i) the number of Rural Needs Impact Assessments (RNIAAs) under the Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016, carried out by his Department and its arm's-length bodies, of policies, strategies, and services affecting rural communities; and (ii) a breakdown of (a) the number of; and (b) which, strategies and services that were enhanced as a consequence of the RNIA, in each of the last five years.

Number of RNIA carried out by Year

Name of Department/Arm's Length Bodies	Number of RNIA carried out by Year				
	Year April 2020- March 2021	Year April 2021 - March 2022	Year April 2022 - March 2023	Year April 2023 - March 2024	Year April 2024 - March 2025
Department for Communities (Not including ALBs)	35	68	47	59	38
Armagh Observatory & Planetarium	0	0	0	0	0
Arts Council NI	0	0	0	0	0
Charity Commission for Northern Ireland	0	0	0	0	0
Commissioner for Older People for Northern Ireland	0	0	0	0	0

Foras na Gaeilge	0	0	0	0	0
Libraries NI	33	11	17	22	19
Local Government Staff Commission	0	0	0	0	0
National Museums Northern Ireland	0	0	0	0	0
NI Museums Council	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Ireland Housing Executive	26	22	31	22	31
Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee	0	0	0	0	0
Sport NI	12	6	11	6	9
Ulster Scots Agency	0	0	0	0	0
Ulster Supported Employment Limited	0	0	0	0	0

Number of Strategies/Services enhanced by year for Department and Arm's Length Bodies

Year	Department/Name of Arm's Length Bodies	Number of strategies or services	Name of the strategy or service
April 2020 - March 2021	Department for Communities	2	COVID 19 Heating Payment
			Development of a new Intermediate Rent Policy
	Libraries NI	1	Public Library Service
April 2021 - March 2022	Department for Communities	9	Energy Payment Support Scheme
			Expansion of the Adviser Discretion Fund
			Labour Market Partnerships
			Labour Market IT Project (replacement for Child Maintenance Service system)
			Workable NI
			Access to Work NI
			JobStart Scheme Phase One

			Affordable Warmth Scheme
			Housing Supply Strategy
April 2022 - March 2023	Department for Communities	2	Discretionary Rates Support Grant (RSG) funding
			Publication of Intermediate Rent Policy
April 2023 – March 2024	Department for Communities	5	Discretionary Rates Support Grant (RSG) funding
			Liquor licensing
			Gambling
			Employment Support Scheme
			Competition to award funding to an Intermediate Rent Operator
	Arts Council NI	1	Arts Council NI draft strategy 2024-2034
April 2024 - March 2025	Department for Communities	6	The Northern Ireland Football Fund Super Programme
			The Northern Ireland Football Fund Performance Programme
			Discretionary Rates Support Grant (RSG) funding
			Local Government (Remote Meetings) Regulations (NI) 2024
			Liquor licensing
			Gambling

	Libraries NI	2	Public Library Service
April 20 – to March 25	Sport NI	44	<p>Sport NI carry out RNIA on policies, programmes and projects to ensure, as far as possible, an equitable distribution of funds and services and that the needs of rural communities are considered at the earliest stages. Due to the nature of many of these programmes or policies, the location (rural or urban) was not a factor. Sport NI complete and submit information to DAERA for inclusion in its Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Report. Further detail is publicly available at</p> <p><u>https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/rural-needs-annual-monitoring-reports</u></p>