

Equality and Human Rights Screening Template

March 2014



Department of
**Agriculture and
Rural Development**
www.dardni.gov.uk

DARD Equality and Human Rights Screening Template

DARD has a statutory duty to screen. This includes our strategies and plans, policies, legislative developments; and new ways of working such as – the introduction, change or end of an existing service, grant funding arrangement or facility. This screening template is designed to help business areas consider the likely equality and human rights impacts of their proposed decisions on different groups of customers, service users, staff and visitors.

Before carrying out an equality screening exercise it is important that you have received the necessary training first. To find out about the training needed, contact - equalitybranch@dardni.gov.uk. All screening exercises must be supported by evidence and cleared at Grade 3 level. The accompanying [Screening Guidance](#) note provides straightforward advice on how to carry out equality screening exercises. Detailed information about the Section 75 equality duties¹ and what they mean in practice is available on the Equality Commission's website.

The screening template has 4 sections to complete. These are:

Section A - asks you to provide details about the policy / decision that is being screened.

Section B - has 4 key questions that require you to outline the likely impacts on equality groups, and all supporting evidence.

Section C - has 4 key questions in relation to obligations under the Disability Discrimination Order and the Human Rights Act.

Section D - is the formal record of the screening decision.

¹ ECNI 'Section 75 of the NI Act 1998: A Guide for Public Authorities' April 2010. www.equalityni.org

Section A

Details about the policy / decision to be screened

Title of policy / decision to be screened:- Potential Relaxation of Brucellosis Pre-Movement Testing Controls

Brief description of policy / decision to be screened:-

There have not been any confirmed cases of brucellosis in the north of Ireland since 28 February 2012. Various options in relation to the Brucellosis Eradication Programme (BEP) under EU Council Directive 64/432/EEC (as amended) ("the Council Directive") have therefore been considered by DARD as part of its strategic planning such as:

- maintaining its existing programme fully until Officially Brucellosis Free (OBF) status is attained on application to the European Commission; and
- relaxing certain elements of its programme in a graduated fashion, while taking full account of the potential risks associated with each change.

Following a veterinary risk assessment, it was judged that one significant element of the BEP which could be relaxed is the statutory pre-movement testing controls for moves internal to NI which:

- are a requirement under the Council Directive where brucellosis herd breakdowns have exceeded 0.2% of herds in the previous 2 years;
- were introduced here on 1 December 2004 for all cattle over 12 months (except steers) by the Brucellosis Control Order (NI) 2004 (as amended); and
- are done at the expense of the farmer in terms of the cost of the required sample taken by a person approved by DARD, but where DARD meets the cost of laboratory testing the sample.

On the basis of their assessment of current risk, DARD Veterinary Service have concluded that:

- The pre-movement age threshold should be increased from 12 months to 24 months.
- The movement window for a valid pre-movement should be extended from 30 days to 60 days.
- It would be premature to abolish pre-movement testing at this stage.

The above recommendations have been made on taking account of the following:

- the fact that Britain and the south of Ireland are OBF;
- the recommendation of the EU Brucellosis Task Force in late 2011 to continue with our current controls;
- the reference in our Brucellosis Eradication Plan 2014 (as approved by the European Commission) to the continuation of our annual and pre-movement testing disease surveillance regime;
- the on-going need for continuing compliance with the requirements, in general, for trade between Member States by dealers or operators as specified in the Trade in Animals and Related Products Regulations (NI) 2011 and, in particular, for exports to Britain; and
- the basic assumption that there will be no further major outbreak or outbreaks of brucellosis here during the period of the programme.

Aims and objectives of the policy / decision to be screened:

In line with the with the express key commitment in the NI Executive Programme for Government (PfG) 2011-2015 to eradicate brucellosis in cattle here by 31 March 2014, securing OBF status will further allow DARD to relax progressively and proportionately its current pre-movement testing regime and, in due course, its annual testing regime. In fact, the reduction in the brucellosis risk has already allowed DARD to plan to take the majority of dairy herds out of the annual testing regime since there is now an increasing reliance on the bulk milk test as the necessary screening tool for such cattle.

Additionally, the reduction in the brucellosis risk reinforces the continuing need for farmers to report all abortions and observe good biosecurity in line with the Statutory Biosecurity Guidance for Brucellosis that:

- was issued by DARD to all farmers in March 2013;
- outlines their legal obligations regarding brucellosis; and
- provides advice on best practice to help avoid the spread of infection and keep herds disease-free.

Finally in terms of savings, it is estimated that the increase in the pre-movement test age threshold from 12 to 24 months and extension of the validity of a pre-movement test from 30 to 60 days will benefit farmers by approximately £830,000 annually in the lesser payment of veterinarian fees, whilst DARD will benefit by approximately £160,000 annually in laboratory testing cost savings.

On whom will the policy / decision impact?

The proposed relaxation of Brucellosis Pre-Movement Testing controls has a direct impact on farmers in both the dairy and beef sectors here and will benefit all in terms of cost savings as specified above and reducing the current administrative burden.

Are there linkages to other NI Departments / NDPBs? No

Section B

1. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories? What is the level of impact?

Section 75 category	Details of likely impact	Level of impact? Minor/Major/None
Religious belief	None	None
Political opinion	None	None
Racial group	None	None
Age	None	None
Marital status	None	None
Sexual orientation	None	None
Men and women generally	None	None
Disability	None	None
Dependants	None	None

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

Section 75 category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide reasons
Religious belief		No. The proposed relaxation of Brucellosis Pre-Movement Testing controls does not provide any scope for promoting equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 categories.
Political opinion		As above.
Racial group		As above.
Age		As above.
Marital status		As above.
Sexual orientation		As above.
Men and women generally		As above.
Disability		As above.
Dependants		As above.

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

Good relations category	Likely impact?	Level of impact? Minor/Major/None
Religious belief	None	None
Political opinion	None	None
Racial group	None	None

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

Good relations category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide reasons
Religious belief		No. The proposed relaxation of Brucellosis Pre-Movement Testing controls does not provide any scope for promoting good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial groups.
Political opinion		As above.
Racial group		As above.

Available evidence

What evidence / information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy? Set out all evidence below along with details of the different groups you have met and / or consulted with to help inform your screening assessment.

Section 75 category	Details of evidence / information and engagement
Religious belief	<p>The proposed relaxation of Brucellosis Pre-Movement Testing controls is subject to a 12 week public consultation exercise, specifically directed at representatives of the livestock industry.</p> <p>DARD also liaises closely with farmer and veterinary representative organisations through the forum of the Brucellosis Stakeholder Working Group, which is representative of the stakeholders directly affected by the proposed relaxation of the specified pre-movement testing controls.</p> <p>DARD identified no evidence of any significant impact on any Section 75 group, but will give consideration as to how it may collect evidence in the future to support future screening recommendations.</p>
Political opinion	As above.
Racial group	As above.
Age	As above.
Marital status	As above.
Sexual orientation	As above.

Men & women generally	As above.
Disability	As above.
Dependants	As above.

No evidence held? Outline how you will obtain it:

It is not clear if any particular group would have any specific needs in relation to the proposed relaxation of Brucellosis Pre-Movement Testing controls. However the proposal does not propose the introduction of any substantial measures that would be new or contrary to normal farming or wider agricultural industry practices. DARD will give consideration as to how it may collect evidence in the future to support any prospective screening recommendations.

Additionally, although DARD has arrived at a 'No' conclusion, comments from any of the Section 75 groups are welcomed at consultation stage, especially if any group considers that it is significantly affected by the proposal and this is not otherwise recognised in this Equality Screening Document.

Section C

DARD also has legislative obligations to meet under the [Disability Discrimination Order](#) and [Human Rights Act](#) (insert links) Questions 5 -9 relate to these two areas.

Consideration of Disability Duties

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

Explain your assessment in full

The proposal to effect a relaxation in the statutory requirement to conduct Brucellosis pre-movement testing on cattle does not provide an obvious opportunity to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people, but comments at consultation stage are welcomed if any group/individual thinks that there is an opportunity to do so.

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

Explain your assessment in full

The proposal does not provide an obvious opportunity to increase the participation by disabled people in public life, but comments at consultation stage are welcomed if any group/individual thinks that there is an opportunity to do so.

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 (place an X in the appropriate box) any potential *adverse impacts* that the policy / decision may have in relation to human rights issues.

Right to Life	Article 2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prohibition of torture, inhuman or degrading treatment	Article 3	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prohibition of slavery and forced labour	Article 4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Right to liberty and security	Article 5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Right to a fair and public trial	Article 6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Right to no punishment without law	Article 7	<input type="checkbox"/>
Right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence	Article 8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion	Article 9	<input type="checkbox"/>
Right to freedom of expression	Article 10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association	Article 11	<input type="checkbox"/>
Right to marry and to found a family	Article 12	<input type="checkbox"/>
The prohibition of discrimination	Article 14	<input type="checkbox"/>
Protection of property and enjoyment of possessions	Protocol 1 Article 1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Right to education	Protocol 1 Article 2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Right to free and secret elections	Protocol 1 Article 3	<input type="checkbox"/>

Consideration of Human Rights (cont)

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

None identified.

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

None identified.

Monitoring Arrangements

Section 75 places a requirement on DARD 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.

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

Equality	Good Relations	Disability Duties
<p>In our opinion, the proposal to effect a relaxation in the statutory requirement to conduct Brucellosis pre-movement testing on cattle is not expected to have any impact on equality, good relations or disability duties. However, should any issues be raised by stakeholders during the consultation, these will be taken into consideration during the analysis of the responses to the consultation.</p>	<p>As column 1.</p>	<p>As column 1.</p>

Section D

Formal Record of Screening Decision

Title of Proposed Policy / Decision being screened. Relaxing Brucellosis Pre-Movement Testing Controls

I can confirm that the proposed policy / decision has been screened for –

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	equality of opportunity and good relations
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	disabilities duties; and
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	human rights issues

On the basis of the answers to the screening questions, I recommend that this policy be –

*place an X in the appropriate box below

<input type="checkbox"/>	* <u>Screened In</u> – Necessary to conduct a full EQIA
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>*<u>Screened Out</u> – No EQIA necessary (no impacts)</p> <p>The proposed relaxation of Brucellosis Pre-Movement Testing controls will benefit farmers in both the dairy and beef sectors here in terms of cost savings and reducing the current administrative burden.</p> <p>The proposal has been taken forward in liaison with farming and veterinary representative organisations through the forum of the Brucellosis Stakeholder Working Group.</p> <p>No impact on equality of opportunity and good relations, disability duties or human rights issues have been identified by either the Department or raised by the Brucellosis Stakeholder Working Group.</p>
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<input type="checkbox"/>	* <u>Screened Out -</u> Mitigating Actions (minor impacts)
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Formal Record of Screening Decision (cont)

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

Name: Ian McKee

Grade: Grade 7

Date: 25 March 2014

Branch: TB & Brucellosis Policy Branch

Signature:



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

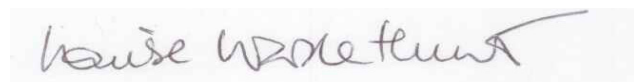
Name: Louise Warde Hunter

Grade: Grade 3

Date: 1 April 2014

Branch: Central Policy Group

Signature:



For more information about equality screening, go to -

http://dardintranet/coord_intranet/EqualityBranch/index.shtml

Or contact –

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AN ROINN

**Talmhaíochta agus
Forbartha Tuaithe**

MÁNNYSTRIE O

**Fairms an
Kintra Fordèrin**
