CONSULTATION PAPER

"TELECOMS 2015-2017 – CONTINUING TO CONNECT"

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

SCREENED OUT IMPACTS

1.　　　**Crime Impact Assessment**

	Screening Questions	Response to Screening Questions		Full Impact Assessment Required		Justification / Key issues and groups to focus on
		Yes	No	Yes	No	
Crime	Will the policy impact on the costs of or demand for legal goods or services to consumers, or impact on the costs of disposal of legal goods?		X		X	Not applicable
	Will the policy involve the introduction, delivery or amendment of a financial measure, i.e. a tax or concession, grant or subsidy?		X		X	Not applicable
	Will the policy introduce, remove or amend a legal requirement or regulatory power?		X		X	Not applicable
	Will it impact on funding for law or regulatory enforcement activity including demand for legal aid?		X		X	Not applicable
	CONCLUSION				X	No impacts noted

2. Community Safety & Victims

	Screening Questions	Response to Screening Questions			Full Impact Assessment Required		Justification / Key issues and groups to focus on
		Yes	No		Yes	No	
Community Safety	Will the policy / project contribute to community safety or impact on fear of crime?		X			X	Not applicable
	Is it likely to have an impact on any specific type of crime?		X			X	Not applicable
	Will the policy / project have an impact on victims of crime?		X			X	Not applicable
	Is there any evidence to suggest that the policy would have a particular impact on victims of the conflict?		X			X	Not applicable
	CONCLUSION					X	No impacts noted

3. Health

Health Determinants

Is the initiative affecting any of the following determinants of health?

LIFESTYLE	Positive Effect	Negative Effect		No Effect
Diet				X
Physical activity				X
Safe sex				X
Substance use: alcohol, tobacco, illegal substances				X
Other				X

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT	Positive Effect	Negative Effect		No Effect
Air				X
Built Environment & Land Use				X
Noise				X
Water				X

	Positive Effect	Negative Effect	No Effect
Other			X

Explanation: If there is likely to be a positive or negative effect on the physical environment, note briefly here what those effects are.

No impacts identified

SOCIO-ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT	Positive Effect	Negative Effect	No Effect
Crime			X
Education	X		
Employment	X		
Family Cohesion			X
Housing			X
Income	X		
Recreation			X
Social Cohesion	X		
Transport			X

SOCIO-ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT	Positive Effect	Negative Effect	No Effect
Other			X

Explanation: If there is likely to be a positive or negative effect on socio-economic factors, note briefly here what those effects may be.

Economic impacts

It is estimated that the availability and take-up of faster broadband speeds will add about £17 billion to the UK's annual Gross Value Added (GVA) by 2024.

In Northern Ireland, fibre broadband could potentially provide a £750m boost to the economy my 2018, through additional revenue. It could also generate savings in operating costs of some £45m.

Government interventions are substantially improving the quality of broadband technology across a significant proportion of the UK. This will benefit businesses through improvements in the **productivity of broadband-using firms**, the **safeguarding of employment** in areas which would otherwise be at an unfair disadvantage, **productivity-enhancing time-savings for teleworkers** and **increased participation in the labour force.**

Social impacts

In addition to the economic benefits, broadband plays an increasingly important role in everyday life, as individuals, within our homes and places of work, and within our communities:

Education

Broadband internet offers school children and students access to online educational resources and information, both from at home and their place of study.

Telecommuting

Broadband enables people to work from home, saving time and expenses..

Employment

Getting unemployed people online increases chances of getting employment. People with ICT skills have the potential to earn more.

Consumer

Households can save money and time by shopping and paying bills online. The internet also provides fast access to government services.

(Sources: The UK Broadband Impact Study – November 2013; BT Fibre Business Impact Report – Regeneris January 2013; about technology – Benefits of Broadband 2014)

1. **Health Care**
   Is the initiative affecting access to health services?

HEALTH CARE	Positive Effect	Negative Effect		No Effect
Access to Health Services	X			

Explanation: If there is likely to be a positive or negative effect on access, note briefly here what those effects are.

Online patient healthcare and monitoring and improved access to medical information.

2. **Population Affected**
   Considering the health impacts identified above, which of the following sections of the population will be affected (Includes Section 75 groups)

LIFESTYLE	Positive Effect	Negative Effect		No Effect
Whole Population				
Sub-Populations:				
Children (0-18 years)	X			
Older People	X			
Marital Status	X			
Persons with dependants	X			

LIFESTYLE	Positive Effect	Negative Effect	No Effect
Persons without dependants	X		
Political Opinion	X		
Religious Belief	X		
Chronically ill	X		
Economically Disadvantaged People	X		
Gender (specify male/female)	X (BOTH)		
Homeless			X
Sexual Orientation	X		
People with Disabilities	X		
Racial and Ethnic Minority Groups	X		
Rural Population	X		
Unemployed	X		
Other	X		

Explanation: If there is likely to be a positive or negative effect on the whole or a section of the population, note briefly here what those effects are.

Note: The proposal may have a positive impact on one section of the population and a negative effect on another. Specify where this occurs.

> Improved access to self-diagnosis facilities, social networking help-groups, published reports on medical conditions. Identification of options for treatment of medical conditions. Early-warning fact sheets for common illnesses and ailments. Access to professional care options.
>
> Being digitally connected means communications can improve people's lives on the job, in their personal lives, and unite people with disabilities. Broadband empowers people with disabilities and removes barriers that keep them from participating in everyday activities.
>
> (Source: about technology – Benefits of Broadband 2014)

3. **Recommendation**

Considering the health impacts, if any, identified above, are these significant enough to warrant a health impact assessment?

YES	
No	X

4. **Human Rights**

Human Right	Does the Policy Engage the Right?	
	Yes/No	**Explanation**
Article 2 Right to life	NO	
Article 3 Prohibition of torture, inhuman and degrading treatment	NO	
Article 4 Prohibition of slavery and forced labour	NO	
Article 5 Right to liberty	NO	
Article 6 Right to a fair trial	NO	
Article 7 No punishment without law	NO	
Article 8 Right to respect for private and family life	NO	

Human Right	Does the Policy Engage the Right?	
	Yes/No	Explanation
Article 9 Freedom of thought conscience and religion	NO	
Article 10 Freedom of expression	NO	
Article 11 Freedom of assembly and association	NO	
Article 12 Right to marry and found a family	NO	
Article 14 Prohibition of discrimination	NO	
Protocol 1, Article 1 Right to property	NO	
Protocol 1, Article 2 Right to education	NO	
Protocol 1, Article 3 Right to free elections	NO	

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Please tick the statement that applies, and sign below.

[X]	a) The policy/proposal does not engage any Convention rights.
[ ]	b) The policy/proposal does engage one or more of the Convention rights, but does not interfere with or limit it/them.
[ ]	c) The policy/proposal interferes with or limits one or more Convention rights and legal advice is being sought.

Countersign, hold copy with policy papers and refer to your legal advisor

Signed by *Alan Prurler*   (Official)

Date   05.05.15   Grade   G7

Signed by *Mike Thompson*   (Senior Responsible Officer)

Date   05.05.15   Grade   G5

5.   Regulatory Impact Assessment

	Screening Questions	Response to Screening Questions		Full Impact Assessment Required		Justification / Key issues and groups to focus on
		Yes	No	Yes	No	
Regulatory	Is the policy or amendment to the policy likely to have a direct or indirect impact on businesses?	X			X	The proposals seek to improve broadband access for businesses and to encourage businesses to fully exploit Northern Ireland's telecoms infrastructure in order to drive business efficiency. Such impacts are considered to be positive and supportive of business.
	Is the policy or amendment to the policy likely to have a direct or indirect impact on the voluntary / community sector?	X			X	No impacts identified
	CONCLUSION				X	

6. Legal Aid Impact

	Screening Questions	Response to Screening Questions		Full Impact Assessment Required		Justification / Key issues and groups to focus on
		Yes	No	Yes	No	
Legal Aid	Will the new legislation impact on or have implications for the workload of the courts and legal aid?		X		X	No impacts identified, positive, negative or neutral
	Will the policy proposal involve any entitlement to benefits?		X		X	No impacts identified, positive, negative or neutral
	Will the new legislation or policy proposal impact on people?		X		X	No legal impacts identified, positive, negative or neutral
	CONCLUSION				X	No impacts identified, positive, negative or neutral

7. Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment

<table>
<tr>
<td rowspan="12">Strategic Environmental Assessment</td>
<td rowspan="2">Screening Questions</td>
<td colspan="2">Response to Screening Questions</td>
<td colspan="2">Full Impact Assessment Required</td>
<td rowspan="2">Justification / Key issues and groups to focus on</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Is the plan / programme likely to have significant environmental effects?
If yes:</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>May require limited deployment of infrastructure. However, likely to be contained within defined procedures/regulations to which the telecommunications industry adheres.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Is the plan / programme of the type listed in Article 3(2)[1] which determine the use of small areas at local level, or which are minor modifications to plans and programmes;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Where the plan / programme is not of the type listed in Article 3(2), does it set the framework for future development consent of projects?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Is the sole purpose of the plan / programme to serve national defence or civil emergency?</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Is it a financial or budget plan / programme?</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>No – Strategy to encourage the further development of and exploitation of telecommunications in Northern Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Is it supported by the EU Structural Funds?</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONCLUSION</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>SEA not required</td>
</tr>
</table>

ANNEX B:

INTERIM ASSESSMENTS

8. Economic Appraisal

ECONOMIC APPRAISAL	Screening Questions	Response to Screening Questions		Full Appraisal Required		Justification / Key issues and groups to focus on
		Yes	No	Yes	No	
	Does the decision/proposal involve the spending or saving of public money?	X		X		Possible use of public funds to stimulate further industry investment will require full economic appraisal
	Does the decision or proposal involve changes in the use of public resources?		X			
	CONCLUSION			X		DETI will complete a full Economic Appraisal of any funding proposal under the strategy.

9. Economic Impact Assessment

	Screening Questions	Response to Screening Questions		Full Appraisal Required		Justification / Key issues and groups to focus on
		Yes	No	Yes	No	
ECONOMIC APPRAISAL	Will the policy impact on the provision of goods or services to consumers, or the uptake of such goods and services to consumers?	X		X		The proposals provide opportunities for the further development of the Northern Ireland telecommunications infrastructure, offering alternative business and service delivery options
	Will the policy impact on the region's infrastructure?	X		X		Proposal is for further development of the telecommunications infrastructure to provide enhanced connectivity and competitiveness of the region
	Will the policy impact on investment in research and development or promote innovation and creativity?	X		X		The proposals include further deployment of fibre-to-the-cabinet technology, which in itself represents innovative use of technology. It will also stimulate further innovation in the market through development of new applications that can be delivered over the technology.
	Will the policy impact on or encourage enterprise?	X		X		The economic impact of broadband is recognised globally with many economic studies showing the impact of broadband in regions where telecommunications networks are pervasive and robust. The enhancement of telecommunications infrastructure will create conditions for growth of business and enterprise and improvement of productivity and business efficiency.

Will the policy impact on the skills level within the economy?	X			X		Deployment and maintenance of world class telecommunications networks will require specialist engineering skills, while use of technologies has the potential to increase generally the skills levels within the business and residential user communities.
Will the policy address negative perceptions of Northern Ireland and /or help promote it as a place to live, work and invest?	X			X		Regions with world class telecommunications infrastructure are best placed to attract FDI and to capture a significant share of high-value jobs across sectors such as finance, ICT, health and life sciences, digital media and advanced engineering.
CONCLUSION				X		The impacts of the proposals are, at this stage, considered to be entirely positive and the monetary and non-monetary benefits of the carried forward options will be assessed within the full economic appraisal at the appropriate time.

10. State Aid Compliance

	Screening Questions	Response to Screening Questions		Full Impact Assessment Required		Justification / Key issues and groups to focus on
		Yes	No	Yes	No	
State Aid	Will the policy involve undertakings (businesses or any entity involved in economic activity)?	X		X		Investment in delivery of infrastructure will require contract(s) with telecommunications network owner/operators
	CONCLUSION			X		The UK telecommunications market is fully privatised and competitive. While DETI has a general remit under the main UK legislation, the Communications Act 2003, its interventions must always be examined from additionality and displacement perspectives. Any options brought forward for delivery under this strategy will be subject to full examination of the State Aid implications.

ANNEX C:

DETAILED ASSESSMENTS

11.   Equality

DETI EQUALITY SCREENING FORM

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

Telecoms 2015-2017 – Continuing to Connect

Is this an existing, revised or a new policy?

New Strategy

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

To encourage further investment in and exploitation of NI's broadband infrastructure

Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy?
If so, explain how.

Further deployment of basic and superfast broadband will benefit all citizens and businesses across NI.

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

DETI Telecoms Branch

Who owns and who implements the policy?

DETI Telecoms Branch

Implementation factors

Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision?

If yes, are they

√ financial

☐ legislative

√ other, please specify ___

Technical constraints

Main stakeholders affected

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

√ staff

√ service users

√ other public sector organisations

√ voluntary/community/trade unions

√ other, please specify _

business community

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

- what are they?

  Digital Agenda for Europe

  Connectivity, Content and Consumers – Britain's digital platform
     for growth

  The Northern Ireland Regional Development Strategy

  The Northern Ireland Economic Strategy

  The Northern Ireland Programme for Government

  The Economic Pact between the Northern Ireland Executive
     and the UK Government

- who owns them?

  The Digital Agenda for Europe (DAE) aims to help European
  citizens and businesses get the most out of digital technologies.

  The UK Government, through the Department of Culture, Media
  and Sport has responsibility for the implementation of the UK's
  digital strategy.

  The NI Executive's Regional Development Strategy is led by
  the Department for Regional Development and recognises the
  importance of a modern and sustainable infrastructure to
  economic growth

  The NI Executive's Economic Strategy, led by the Department for
  Enterprise, Trade and Investment, also recognises the need to
  build on NI's strengths, including our next generation
  broadband services

  The Programme for Government, led by the Office of the First
  Minister and deputy First Minister, is committed to extending
  superfast broadband across Northern Ireland (TBC)

  The Economic Pact between the NI Executive and UK
  Government, also led by the Office of the First Minister and
  deputy First Minister, acknowledges the need to build on Northern
  Ireland's telecoms infrastructure to boost the economy

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.

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

Section 75 category	Details of evidence/information
Religious belief	Published statistics on this category of S75 are widely available. This can be examined alongside published coverage maps by Ofcom and by those provided by the Consultants contracted by Telecoms branch to determine where there is inadequate broadband in the region, to identify composition of population by religious belief category in specific areas. This proposed project will cover all areas and regions of Northern Ireland and therefore will not have any differential impact on any of the equality groups.
Political opinion	Published statistics on this category of S75 are widely available. This can be examined alongside published coverage maps by Ofcom and by those provided by the Consultants contracted by Telecoms branch to determine where there is inadequate broadband in the region, to identify composition of population by political opinion category in specific areas. This proposed project will cover all areas and regions of Northern Ireland and therefore will not have any differential impact on any of the equality groups.
Racial group	Published statistics on this category of S75 are widely available. This can be examined alongside published coverage maps by Ofcom and by those provided by the Consultants contracted by Telecoms branch to determine where there is inadequate broadband in the region, to identify composition of population by racial group category in specific areas. This proposed project will cover all areas and regions of Northern Ireland and therefore will not have any differential impact on any of the equality groups.
Age	Published statistics on this category of S75 are widely available. This can be examined alongside published coverage maps by Ofcom and by those provided by the Consultants

	contracted by Telecoms branch to determine where there is inadequate broadband in the region, to identify composition of population by age category in specific areas. This proposed project will cover all areas and regions of Northern Ireland and therefore will not have any differential impact on any of the equality groups.
Marital status	Published statistics on this category of S75 are widely available. This can be examined alongside published coverage maps by Ofcom and by those provided by the Consultants contracted by Telecoms branch to determine where there is inadequate broadband in the region, to identify composition of population by marital status category in specific areas. This proposed project will cover all areas and regions of Northern Ireland and therefore will not have any differential impact on any of the equality groups.
Sexual orientation	Published statistics on this category of S75 are widely available. This can be examined alongside published coverage maps by Ofcom and by those provided by the Consultants contracted by Telecoms branch to determine where there is inadequate broadband in the region, to identify composition of population by sexual orientation category in specific areas. This proposed project will cover all areas and regions of Northern Ireland and therefore will not have any differential impact on any of the equality groups.
Men and women generally	Published statistics on this category of S75 are widely available. This can be examined alongside published coverage maps by Ofcom and by those provided by the Consultants contracted by Telecoms branch to determine where there is inadequate broadband in the region, to identify composition of population by men and women generally category in specific areas. This proposed project will cover all areas and regions of Northern Ireland and therefore will not have any differential impact on any of the equality groups.
Disability	Published statistics on this category of S75 are widely available. This can be examined alongside published coverage maps by Ofcom and by those provided by the Consultants contracted by Telecoms branch to determine where there is inadequate broadband in the region, to identify composition of population by disability category in specific areas. This proposed project will cover all areas and regions of Northern Ireland and therefore will not have any differential impact on any of the equality groups.
Dependants	Published statistics on this category of S75 are widely available. This can be examined alongside published coverage

	maps by Ofcom and by those provided by the Consultants contracted by Telecoms branch to determine where there is inadequate broadband in the region, to identify composition of population by dependants category in specific areas. This proposed project will cover all areas and regions of Northern Ireland and therefore will not have any differential impact on any of the equality groups.

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 for each of the Section 75 categories

Section 75 category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
Religious belief	DETI has not identified any specific needs, experiences or priorities in respect of this category. DETI considers that the provision of improved broadband services will allow all user categories to access services specific to their needs or choices
Political opinion	DETI has not identified any specific needs, experiences or priorities in respect of this category. DETI considers that the provision of improved broadband services will allow all user categories to access services specific to their needs or choices
Racial group	DETI has not identified any specific needs, experiences or priorities in respect of this category. DETI considers that the provision of improved broadband services will allow all user categories to access services specific to their needs or choices
Age	DETI has not identified any specific needs, experiences or priorities in respect of this category. DETI considers that the provision of improved broadband services will allow all user categories to access services specific to their needs or choices
Marital status	DETI has not identified any specific needs, experiences or priorities in respect of this category. DETI considers that the provision of improved broadband services will allow all user categories to access services specific to their needs or choices
Sexual orientation	DETI has not identified any specific needs, experiences or priorities in respect of this category. DETI considers that the provision of improved broadband services will allow all user categories to access services specific to their needs or choices
Men and women generally	DETI has not identified any specific needs, experiences or priorities in respect of this category. DETI considers that the provision of improved broadband services will allow all user categories to access services specific to their needs or choices
Disability	DETI has not identified any specific needs, experiences or priorities in respect of this category. DETI considers that the provision of improved broadband services will allow all user categories to access services specific to their needs or choices
Dependants	DETI has not identified any specific needs, experiences or priorities in respect of this category. DETI considers that the provision of improved broadband services will allow all user categories to access services specific to their needs or choices

Part 2. Screening questions

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 detailed below.

If the public authority's conclusion is **<u>none</u>** 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 **<u>major</u>** 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 **<u>minor</u>** 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

a) The policy has no relevance to equality of opportunity or good relations.

b) 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 detailed below 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? minor/major/none		
Section 75 category	Details of policy 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 – proposals contained within the draft strategy relate to the development and exploitation of telecoms infrastructure, improving access for all user categories. The decision to access services is one for the consumer, regardless of S75 category
Political opinion		No – proposals contained within the draft strategy relate to the development and exploitation of telecoms infrastructure, improving access for all user categories. The decision to access services is one for the consumer, regardless of S75 category
Racial group		No – proposals contained within the draft strategy relate to the development and exploitation of telecoms infrastructure, improving access for all user categories. The decision to access services is one for the consumer, regardless of S75 category
Age		No – proposals contained within the draft strategy relate to the development and exploitation of telecoms infrastructure, improving access for all user categories. The decision to access services is one for the consumer, regardless of

		S75 category
Marital status		No – proposals contained within the draft strategy relate to the development and exploitation of telecoms infrastructure, improving access for all user categories. The decision to access services is one for the consumer, regardless of S75 category
Sexual orientation		No – proposals contained within the draft strategy relate to the development and exploitation of telecoms infrastructure, improving access for all user categories. The decision to access services is one for the consumer, regardless of S75 category
Men and women generally		No – proposals contained within the draft strategy relate to the development and exploitation of telecoms infrastructure, improving access for all user categories. The decision to access services is one for the consumer, regardless of S75 category
Disability		No – proposals contained within the draft strategy relate to the development and exploitation of telecoms infrastructure, improving access for all user categories. The decision to access services is one for the consumer, regardless of S75 category
Dependants		No – proposals contained within the draft strategy relate to the development and exploitation of telecoms infrastructure,

		improving access for all user categories. The decision to access services is one for the consumer, regardless of S75 category

3 To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?		
Section 75 category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact minor/major/none
Religious belief		**None**
Political opinion		**None**
Racial group		**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 strategy relates to the further development and exploitation of Northern Ireland's telecoms infrastructure for the benefit of the economy and all citizens
Political opinion		No – the proposed strategy relates to the further development and exploitation of Northern Ireland's telecoms infrastructure for the benefit of the economy and all citizens
Racial group		No – the proposed strategy relates to the further development and

		exploitation of Northern Ireland's telecoms infrastructure for the benefit of the economy and all citizens

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?
(*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.

No impacts identified. The delivery of telecoms infrastructure to support economic growth and improve access to services benefits all consumer groups. However, the decision to use such services is one of individual choice.

Part 3. Screening decision

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

> The objective of the proposed strategy is to further develop and encourage the exploitation of Northern Ireland's telecommunications infrastructure. Delivery of enhanced access to broadband services will be beneficial to everyone in Northern Ireland, including all S75 groups.

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.

> In the absence of this strategy, it is unlikely that the industry would make the level of investment necessary to bring faster broadband services to the harder to reach target areas. There is, therefore, no alternative possibility.

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

> Not applicable

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: Practical Guidance on 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?

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

No – further development of Northern Ireland's telecoms infrastructure will benefit all S75 groups.

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	

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?

If yes, please provide details

Part 4. Monitoring

Public authorities should consider the guidance contained in the Commission's Monitoring Guidance for Use by Public Authorities (July 2007).

The Commission recommends that where the policy has been amended or an alternative policy introduced, the public authority should monitor more broadly than for adverse impact (See Benefits, P.9-10, paras 2.13 – 2.20 of the Monitoring Guidance).

Effective monitoring will help the public authority identify any future adverse impact arising from the policy which may lead the public authority to conduct an equality impact assessment, as well as help with future planning and policy development.

Part 5. Disability Duties

Under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (as amended by the Disability Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 2006), public authorities, when exercising their functions, are required to have due regard to the need:

- **to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people; and**

- **to encourage participation by disabled people in public life.**

5. Does this policy/legislation have any potential to contribute towards promoting positive attitudes towards disabled people or towards encouraging participation by disabled people in public life? If yes, please give brief details.

The enhancement of broadband services will assist all citizens, including those with disabilities, to interact with government and others.

Signed: _____ *Mike Thompson* _

Head of Division

Division: _____Tourism, Telecoms and GSNI Policy Division___

Date: _____05.05.15___

PLEASE FORWARD A COPY OF THIS COMPLETED FORM (WITHIN 2 WEEKS OF G5 SIGNATURE) TO:

> **DETI EQUALITY & DIVERSITY UNIT**
> **NETHERLEIGH**
>
> **MASSEY AVENUE**
> **BELFAST   BT4 2JP**

ANY QUERIES: SHARON SMYTH EXT 29524
sharon.smyth@detini.gov.uk

TELECOMS 2015-2017 - CONTINUING TO CONNECT

RURAL PROOFING

Policy stage	Typical questions to focus on rural issues
Design	

What are the policy objectives in terms of problem / outcome?

The strategy aims to ensure that Northern Ireland remains at the forefront of the deployment and exploitation of telecoms infrastructure, in line with NI Executive, UK Government and European Union priorities

What are the rural specific impacts of the policy? Are there any potential indirect impacts?

The impact of the proposed strategy will benefit citizens and businesses across Northern Ireland. However, due to the significant investment that has already taken place in the deployment of fibre broadband services, the infrastructural aspect of this strategy seeks to encourage the deployment of superfast broadband in harder to reach areas, and these will predominantly be rural. There will, therefore, be a direct positive impact on rural areas.

There could potentially be an indirect impact on the value of house prices. Evidence suggests that availability of broadband can influence the cost of houses

Are there any potential local impacts that will differ from the regional impact?

None. The impact locally is not expected to significantly differ from the regional impact. .

Is there a need for pre-consultation with rural stakeholders to get better insight into potential rural impacts?

No. DETI has already undertaken a public consultation on a major component of the strategy i.e. the Superfast Roll-out Programme Phase 2 (SRP Phase 2) project. DETI also has significant ongoing engagement with DARD and is aware of broadband issues in rural areas.

Is there a need for actions to mitigate against impacts in rural areas?

No

If you screen out rural proofing, what is your reason?

The reason for screening out rural proofing is that the impact will be distributed across all rural areas of Northern Ireland.

Evidence

Are the predicted impacts supported by evidence?

Yes

What types of evidence have you considered in your policy development (statistics/research/stakeholder advice)?

An open market review has been carried out in respect of the SRP Phase 2 project, involving the Northern Ireland telecoms industry.

A public consultation/key stakeholder engagement has already taken place with regard to the SRP Phase 2 project, which included the Section 75 Groupings, the Rural Community Network, DARD and Ofcom.

Are there any areas of uncertainty, where further evidence would be useful?

No

Have you already put in place any design features as a result of the evidence considered?

Yes. The urban areas of Belfast City Council and Derry City Council have been excluded.

Consulting

Have the consultation responses identified any potentially different impacts in terms of rural areas/communities?

Can you demonstrate how you have targeted and fully engaged with rural stakeholders during consultation?

Can you identify rural responses by nature of their concerns and issues?

Monitoring
and
Outcomes

Have you any rural specific indicators that have been set to monitor your policy implementation?

Will the outcomes of the policy meet your set objectives in rural areas?

Describe your process for effective impact evaluation on rural issues.