

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

2021 Census

DoF Screening template

SECTION A

Information about the policy

This 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 on a step-by-step basis.

Remember that the Section 75 statutory duties apply to internal policies (relating to people who work for us) as well as external policies (relating to those who are, or could be, served by us).

Is this a new or revised policy?

Revised

a) Name of the policy

2021 Census of Population and Housing

b) Brief Description of the policy

The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) is responsible for undertaking the census. NISRA aims to collect census returns from all households and communal establishments across Northern Ireland. The census is carried out under the Census Act (Northern Ireland) 1969 which specifies the mandatory nature of the census. The next census is planned for March 2021.

c) Aims of the policy/ Rationale behind the changes

The census is a comprehensive survey of population and housing. The aim is to collect returns from all households and communal establishments (i.e. Nursing Homes, Student Halls etc...).

The 2021 Census will be predominantly online, encouraging respondents to make returns via a secure encrypted electronic online questionnaire (eQ). However around 20% of households will be provided with a paper questionnaire at first contact. Paper questionnaires will also be available on request from a dedicated Contact Centre for anyone who needs one and will also be provided to all non-respondents three weeks after Census Day.

Whilst electronic returns were used during the 2011 census, the predominantly online approach is new for 2021. However this approach is in line with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) for the 2021 Census in England and Wales. Indeed NISRA will be using the ONS online questionnaire system to collect returns in Northern Ireland. This predominantly online approach is also in line with international best practice, with USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand all adopting this approach in their latest Census.

d) Who will the policy affect?

The Census Act (Northern Ireland) 1969 specifies the mandatory nature of the census which affects the entire population. Each household and communal establishment will be asked to complete a census questionnaire.

e) Is this a NICS wide policy?

The initial decision to conduct a census and to employ a predominantly online approach was taken, on advice of officials, by the DoF Minister in 2014. A full public consultation on the Census questions and approach was held in 2015 and the updated policy position was approved by the DoF Minister. The final proposals for the operation and content of the 2021 Census were approved by all Government Departments through the Permanent Secretaries Group in 2019. Following this the [2021 Census Northern Ireland Proposal Document](#) was published in April 2019.

The purpose of the census is to successfully collect and process census returns from households and communal establishments in line with the Census Act (Northern Ireland) 1969. The Act sets out the responsibility of the Registrar General to make arrangements for the Census. The Registrar General is the NISRA Chief Executive and an official within the Department of Finance.

f) Who will implement the policy?

Dr David Marshall, Director of Census and Population Statistics within NISRA will implement Census policy on behalf of the Registrar General working through officials in Census Office.

g) Will this policy or revision address an existing inequality? Yes/No
If yes, please give details.

No

h) Will this policy or revision benefit any Section 75 categories? Yes/No
If yes, please give details.

Yes - The Census 2011 provided Section 75 categories which useful information on the following:

Age, Sex, Marital/Civil Partnership Status, Religion and Religion brought up in, Ethnic Group, Country of Birth, Main Language, Proficiency in English, National Identity, Dependants/Provision of unpaid care, Disability, Long term health problem or disability and Adaptation to accommodation.

The 2021 Census will gather this information along with data on Sexual Orientation through a new question. As a result, information on this Section 75 category for the population will be available through the 2021 Census.

i) Will this policy or revision have an adverse differential impact upon any of the Section 75 groupings? Yes/No. If yes, please give details.

No

Section B

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? 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.

Please also provide details of priorities and needs identified for each group

Section 75 category	Details of evidence / information and engagement / needs and priorities
Religious belief	<p>Census Content</p> <p>The 2021 Census Topic Consultation for Northern Ireland (2015) considered religion (current religion and religion brought up in) with an initial view to include the religion questions on the census questionnaire. NISRA's intention is to measure religion in a comparable manner to 2011 to help examine change over time.</p> <p>After an assessment of the responses, a recommendation was made to include these questions on the questionnaire.</p> <p>NISRA established a range of topic expert groups throughout 2016 and 2017 to develop and test the proposed questions. A total of six groups were set up to cover the themes including ethnic group, identity, language and religion. Topic expert groups were comprised of customers for census information from a range of Government Departments together with representatives from public bodies such as the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Equality Commission and the Public Health Agency, together with leading academics.</p>

	<p>Census Delivery</p> <p>Responses to the religion questions in the 2021 Census will not carry a statutory penalty. This step is in line with the 2011 Census.</p> <p>Census Office have engaged and continue to engage with key groups across the community. This includes communicating key messages to the groups as well as meeting groups associated with this category to provide advice and support.</p> <p>Census Office have met with a variety of religious groups and will engage with many other groups across this sector in the run up to the 2021 Census.</p>
Political opinion	<p>Census Content</p> <p>Political opinion has not been a question asked on the Northern Ireland Census. It is not planned to ask a question on this topic in the 2021 Census.</p> <p>Census Delivery</p> <p>Census Office have engaged and continue to engage with key groups across the community. This includes communicating key messages to the groups as well as meeting groups associated with this category to provide advice and support.</p> <p>To date Census Office have corresponded with MPs, MLAs, councillors and the local political parties. Census Office will engage with many other groups in the run up to the 2021 Census.</p>
Racial group	<p>Census Content</p> <p>The Northern Ireland census has asked a question on ethnicity since 2001. Whilst ethnicity is not racial group it is very closely related. The 2021 Census Topic Consultation for Northern Ireland (2015) considered ethnicity – with an initial view to include this question on the census questionnaire.</p> <p>After an assessment of the responses on ethnicity, a recommendation was made to include this question on the census questionnaire.</p> <p>NISRA established a range of topic expert groups throughout 2016 and 2017 to develop and test the proposed questions. A total of six groups were set up to cover the themes including ethnic group, identity, language and religion. Topic expert groups were comprised of customers for census information from a range of Government Departments together</p>

	<p>with representatives from public bodies such as the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Equality Commission and the Public Health Agency, together with leading academics.</p> <p>Census Delivery</p> <p>Census Office have engaged and continue to engage with key groups across the community. This includes communicating key messages to the groups as well as meeting groups associated with this category to provide advice and support.</p> <p>Examples include meeting and sharing information with the Horn of Africa people's Aid Northern Ireland, Belfast Mela, Wah-Hep Chinese Community Association, Belfast Migrant Forum, Bryson Intercultural, Chinese Welfare Association and the Community Intercultural Programme. Census Office plan to engage with many other groups across this sector in the run up to the 2021 Census.</p>
Age	<p>Census Content</p> <p>The 2021 Census Topic Consultation for Northern Ireland (2015) considered Age - with an initial view to include this question on the census questionnaire. NISRA's intention is to measure essential demographic information. Age will be derived from the collection of date of birth. This method is in line with international best practice.</p> <p>After an assessment of the consultation responses on age, a recommendation was made to include this question on the census questionnaire.</p> <p>Census Delivery</p> <p>Census Office have engaged and continue to engage with key groups across the community. This includes communicating key messages to the groups as well as meeting groups associated with this category to provide advice and support.</p> <p>Census Office have met and shared information with Age NI, South West Age Partnership and various student groups. Census Office plan to engage with many other groups across this sector in the run up to the 2021 Census.</p>

<p>Marital status</p>	<p>Census Content</p> <p>The 2021 Census Topic Consultation for Northern Ireland (2015) considered Marital or Legal Partnership status - with an initial view to include this question on the census questionnaire. NISRA's intention is to measure essential demographic information including marital status.</p> <p>After an assessment of the responses on marital or legal partnership status, a recommendation was made to include this question on the census questionnaire.</p> <p>Census Delivery</p> <p>Census Office will engage with key groups across the community. This includes communicating key messages to the groups as well as meeting groups associated with this category to provide advice and support.</p>
<p>Sexual orientation</p>	<p>Census Content</p> <p>NISRA have tested survey questions on sexual orientation over a number of years. The Census Topic Consultation for Northern Ireland (2015) proposed sexual orientation as a possible question for the 2021 Census.</p> <p>After an assessment of the responses on sexual orientation, a recommendation was made to include this question on the census questionnaire.</p> <p>It is proposed that the question on sexual orientation is asked only of those people aged 16 years and over and includes a "Prefer not to say" option. In addition under the Census (Return Particulars and Removal of Penalties) Act 2019 it is proposed that the question on sexual orientation will have no penalty for non-response.</p> <p>Census Delivery</p> <p>Census Office have engaged and continue to engage with key groups (e.g. Rainbow Project) across the community. This includes communicating key messages to the groups as well as meeting groups associated with this category to provide advice and support.</p> <p>Census Office plan to engage with groups across this sector in the run up to the 2021 Census.</p>

<p>Men & women generally</p>	<p>Census Content</p> <p>The 2021 Census Topic Consultation for Northern Ireland (2015) considered sex - with an initial view to include this question on the census questionnaire. NISRA's intention is to measure sex as essential demographic information.</p> <p>After an assessment of the responses on sex, a recommendation was made to include this question on the census questionnaire.</p> <p>Census Delivery</p> <p>Census Office have engaged and continue to engage with key groups across the community. This includes communicating key messages to the groups as well as meeting groups associated with this category to provide advice and support.</p> <p>Census Office have met and shared information with Women's Aid NI and other interested groups. Census Office plan to engage with many other groups in the run up to the 2021 Census.</p>
<p>Disability</p>	<p>Census Content</p> <p>The 2021 Census Topic Consultation for Northern Ireland (2015) considered long-term health problem or disability - with an initial view to include this question on the census questionnaire. NISRA understands there is strong user demand for this information for resource allocation, identifying health inequalities and policy development and assessment.</p> <p>After an assessment of the responses on long term health problems or disabilities, a recommendation was made to include this question on the census questionnaire.</p> <p>NISRA established a range of topic expert groups throughout 2016 and 2017 to develop and test the proposed questions. A total of six groups were set up to cover the themes including health. Topic expert groups were comprised of customers for census information from a range of Government Departments together with representatives from public bodies such as the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Equality Commission and the Public Health Agency, together with leading academics.</p>

	<p>Census Delivery</p> <p>Census Office have engaged and continue to engage with key groups across the community. This includes communicating key messages to the groups as well as meeting groups associated with this category to provide advice and support.</p> <p>To date the team have met and shared information with Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB), Mencap and a number of other disability rights groups. Census Office plan to engage with many other groups across this sector in the run up to the 2021 Census.</p>
<p>Dependants</p>	<p>Census Content</p> <p>The 2021 Census Topic Consultation for Northern Ireland (2015) considered household and family relationships - with an initial view to include these questions on the census questionnaire. NISRA's intention is to collect as essential demographic information.</p> <p>After an assessment of the responses on household and family relationships, a recommendation was made to include these questions on the census questionnaire.</p> <p>Census Delivery</p> <p>Census Office have engaged and continue to engage with key groups across the community. This includes communicating key messages to the groups as well as meeting groups associated with this category to provide advice and support.</p>

No evidence held? Outline how you will obtain it:

Screening questions


There are 4 essential screening questions:

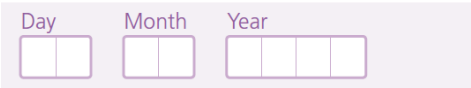
1. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the nine Section 75 categories? (minor/major/none)
2. Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 categories? (yes/no)
3. To what extent is the policy likely to impact upon good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group? (minor/major/none)
4. Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between these three groups? (Yes/No)

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	<p>Census Content</p> <p>The census questionnaire has a question on religious belief asking “<i>What religion, religious denomination or body do you belong to?</i>” (shown below)</p> <p>13 What religion, religious denomination or body do you belong to?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Roman Catholic → GO TO 15 <input type="checkbox"/> Presbyterian Church in Ireland → GO TO 15 <input type="checkbox"/> Church of Ireland → GO TO 15 <input type="checkbox"/> Methodist Church in Ireland → GO TO 15 <input type="checkbox"/> Other, write in → GO TO 15 <input style="width: 100%; height: 20px; margin-top: 5px;" type="text"/> </div> <p><input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p>If the respondent answers none a further question is asked “<i>What religion, religious denomination or body were you brought up in?</i>” (shown below)</p> <p>14 What religion, religious denomination or body were you brought up in?</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Roman Catholic <input type="checkbox"/> Presbyterian Church in Ireland <input type="checkbox"/> Church of Ireland <input type="checkbox"/> Methodist Church in Ireland <input type="checkbox"/> Other, write in <input style="width: 100%; height: 20px; margin-top: 5px;" type="text"/> </div> <p><input type="checkbox"/> None</p>	None

	<p>These two questions give respondents the option to record their answers without any impact on equality of opportunity.</p> <p>In addition responses to the religion questions in the 2021 Census will not carry a statutory penalty. This is in line with the policy adopted in the 2011 Census.</p> <p>Census Delivery</p> <p>There is not considered to be an impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy under this category.</p> <p>Census Outputs</p> <p>The statistical outputs from the 2021 Census will provide accurate information to develop and monitor policies and programmes.</p> <p>In addition the religion brought up question will help public authorities meet their statutory obligations under employment law.</p>	
<p>Political opinion</p>	<p>Census Content</p> <p>Political opinion is not asked on the Northern Ireland Census. As a result there is no impact on equality of opportunity across this sector.</p>	<p>None</p>

<p>Racial group</p>	<p>Census Content</p> <p>While racial group is not included in the census content the closely associated topic of ethnic group is asked. The proposed question is shown below.</p> <p>12 What is your ethnic group?  Tick one box only.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px;"> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"><input type="checkbox"/> White</td> <td style="width: 50%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Chinese</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Irish Traveller</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Roma</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Indian</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Filipino</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Black African</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Black Other</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><input type="checkbox"/> Mixed ethnic group, write in</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;"> <input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/> </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><input type="checkbox"/> Any other ethnic group, write in</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;"> <input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/> </td> </tr> </table> </div> <p>This question gives respondents the option to record their ethnic group on the census without any impact on equality of opportunity.</p> <p>Census Delivery</p> <p>There is considered to be a minor impact on equality of opportunity given the variety of different languages used by people from the various ethnic groups.</p> <p>Paper and digital guidance booklets/with copies of the questions will be available in a number of different languages (other than English). In addition there will be help available in different languages available through the Census Contact centre. Census field staff will also be trained to help support people with language difficulties. These steps are seen as sufficient to ensure that everyone can participate in the Census.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> White	<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/> Irish Traveller	<input type="checkbox"/> Roma	<input type="checkbox"/> Indian	<input type="checkbox"/> Filipino	<input type="checkbox"/> Black African	<input type="checkbox"/> Black Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed ethnic group, write in		<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Any other ethnic group, write in		<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>		<p>Minor</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> White	<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese																	
<input type="checkbox"/> Irish Traveller	<input type="checkbox"/> Roma																	
<input type="checkbox"/> Indian	<input type="checkbox"/> Filipino																	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black African	<input type="checkbox"/> Black Other																	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed ethnic group, write in																		
<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>																		
<input type="checkbox"/> Any other ethnic group, write in																		
<input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>																		

	<p>Responses to the 2021 Census are mandatory under the Census Act (Northern Ireland) 1969. Therefore, all those within Section 75 categories are expected to respond with no differentiation made relating to this category.</p> <p>Census Outputs</p> <p>The statistical outputs from the 2021 Census will provide accurate information which will be invaluable in identifying section 75 groups and may be used to develop policies and programmes to support these groups.</p>	
Age	<p>Census Content</p> <p>The census ask the date of birth of respondents.</p> <p>2 What is your date of birth?</p>  <p>This question gives respondents the option to record their age, by providing their date of birth without any impact on equality of opportunity.</p> <p>Census Delivery</p> <p>The 2021 Census will be predominantly online, encouraging respondents to make returns via a secure encrypted electronic online questionnaire (eQ).</p> <p>There is considered to be a minor impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy under this category. Evidence suggests that older members of the</p>	Minor


	<p>population may be less IT illiterate than younger members of the population.</p> <p>To address this around 20% of households (identified as elderly/poor broadband households through administrative data) will be provided with a paper questionnaire at first contact. Paper questionnaires will also be available on request from a dedicated Contact Centre and for anyone who needs one. This will mitigate any impact on age a predominantly online Census brings.</p> <p>Responses to the 2021 Census are mandatory under the Census Act (Northern Ireland) 1969. Therefore, all those within Section 75 categories are expected to respond with no differentiation made relating to this category.</p> <p>Census Outputs</p> <p>The statistical outputs from the 2021 Census will provide accurate information which will be invaluable in identifying section 75 groups and may be used to develop policies and programmes to support these groups.</p>	
<p>Marital status</p>	<p>Census Content</p> <p>The census questionnaire has a question asking “<i>What is your marital or civil partnership status.</i>”</p> <p>This question gives respondents the opportunity to record their marital status without any impact on equality of opportunity.</p>	<p>None</p>

	<p>Census Delivery</p> <p>There is not considered to be an impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy under this category.</p> <p>Responses to the 2021 Census are mandatory under the Census Act (Northern Ireland) 1969. Therefore, all those within Section 75 categories are expected to respond with no differentiation made relating to this category.</p> <p>Census Outputs</p> <p>The statistical outputs from the 2021 Census will provide accurate information which will be invaluable in identifying section 75 groups and may be used to develop policies and programmes to support these groups.</p>	
<p>Sexual orientation</p>	<p>Census Content</p> <p>A question on sexual orientation is proposed which will be asked of those aged 16 years of more. The question is shown below.</p> <p>➔ If you are aged 16 or over ➔ GO TO 23 If you are aged 15 or under ➔ GO TO 42</p> <hr/> <p>23 Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Straight/Heterosexual</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Gay or Lesbian</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Bisexual</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other sexual orientation, write in</p> <p><input type="text"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say</p>	<p>None</p>

	<p>This question gives respondents the opportunity to record their sexual orientation without any impact on equality of opportunity.</p> <p>Under the Census (Return Particulars and Removal of Penalties) Act 2019 it is proposed that the question on sexual orientation will have no penalty for non-response. Given this and the inclusion of a “Prefer not to say” option it is not expected that this new question will have any negative impacts.</p> <p>Census Delivery</p> <p>There is not considered to be an impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy under this category.</p> <p>Responses to the 2021 Census are mandatory under the Census Act (Northern Ireland) 1969. Therefore, all those within Section 75 categories are expected to respond with no differentiation made relating to this category.</p> <p>Census Outputs</p> <p>The statistical outputs from the 2021 Census will provide accurate information which will be invaluable in identifying section 75 groups and may be used to develop policies and programmes to support these groups.</p>	
<p>Men and women generally</p>	<p>Census Content</p> <p>Both men and women are asked to record their sex on the census questionnaire.</p> <p>3 What is your sex?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male</p>	<p>None</p>

	<p>This question gives respondents the opportunity to record their sex without any impact on equality of opportunity.</p> <p>Census Delivery</p> <p>There is not considered to be an impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy under this category.</p> <p>Responses to the 2021 Census are mandatory under the Census Act (Northern Ireland) 1969. Therefore, all those within Section 75 categories are expected to respond with no differentiation made relating to this category.</p> <p>Census Outputs</p> <p>The statistical outputs from the 2021 Census will provide accurate information which will be invaluable in identifying section 75 groups and may be used to develop policies and programmes to support these groups.</p>	
Disability	<p>Census Content</p> <p>Respondants are asked 3 questions relating to their health which may capture a disability. These are</p> <p><i>“How is your health in general”</i></p> <p><i>“Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months”</i></p> <p><i>“Do you have any of the following conditions which have lasted, or are expected to last at least 12 months.”</i></p>	Minor

	<p>This last question has a range of possible answers. The questions are shown below.</p> <p>19 How is your health in general?</p> <p>Very good Good Fair Bad Very bad</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <hr/> <p>20 Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months?</p> <p>➤ Include problems related to old age.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, limited a little</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, limited a lot</p> <hr/> <p>21 Do you have any of the following conditions which have lasted, or are expected to last, at least 12 months?</p> <p>➤ Tick all that apply.</p> <hr/> <p>This question gives respondents the opportunity to record their disability without any impact on equality of opportunity.</p> <p>Census Delivery</p> <p>As a digital first census there is considered to be a minor impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy under this category. It may be considered that people with a disability may have a lower participation rate compared to those without. However a variety of steps will be taken to support people with a disability.</p> <p>Responses to the 2021 Census are mandatory under the Census Act (Northern Ireland) 1969. Therefore, all those within Section 75 categories are expected to respond with no differentiation made relating to this category.</p>	
--	---	--

	<p>Census Outputs</p> <p>The statistical outputs from the 2021 Census will provide accurate information which will be invaluable in identifying section 75 groups and may be used to develop policies and programmes to support these groups.</p>	
<p>Dependants</p>	<p>Census Content</p> <p>The census collects information on household and family relationships from which information on dependants can be derived.</p> <p>There is a further question which asks</p> <p><i>“Do you look after, or give help or support to, anyone because they have long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses, or problems related to old age.”</i></p> <p>This question may also capture those with dependants.</p> <p>These question give respondents the opportunity to record dependants without any impact on equality of opportunity.</p> <p>22 Do you look after, or give any help or support to, anyone because they have long-term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses, or problems related to old age?</p> <p> Exclude anything you do in paid employment.</p> <div style="background-color: #f0f0f0; padding: 5px;"> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, 19 hours or less a week</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, 20 to 34 hours a week</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, 35 to 49 hours a week</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, 50 hours or more a week</p> </div> <p>Census Delivery</p> <p>There is not considered to be an impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy under this category.</p>	<p>None</p>

	<p>Responses to the 2021 Census are mandatory under the Census Act (Northern Ireland) 1969. Therefore, all those within Section 75 categories are expected to respond with no differentiation made relating to this category.</p> <p>Census Outputs</p> <p>The statistical outputs from the 2021 Census will provide accurate information which will be invaluable in identifying section 75 groups and may be used to develop policies and programmes to support these groups.</p>	
--	--	--

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	<p>Census Outputs</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>The statistical outputs from the 2021 Census will provide accurate information which will be invaluable in identifying section 75 groups and may be used to develop policies and programmes to support these groups.</p>	<p>Census Content</p> <p>No</p> <p>There is no likely inequality of opportunity for those affected by this policy across this category. Respondents have the opportunity to record their religious belief or to reflect no religious belief on their census return.</p> <p>Census Delivery</p> <p>No</p> <p>There is no likely inequality of opportunity for those affected by this policy across this category.</p>
Political opinion		<p>Census Content</p> <p>No</p> <p>There is no likely inequality of opportunity for those affected by this policy across this category. Political opinion is not asked on the Northern Ireland census.</p> <p>Census Delivery</p> <p>No</p> <p>There is no likely inequality of opportunity for those affected by this policy across this category.</p>

<p>Racial group</p>	<p>Census Delivery</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Support will be made available to promote equality of opportunity for people across this category.</p> <p>The online questionnaire will be available for completion in English, Irish & Ulster-Scots languages.</p> <p>There will also be translation booklets providing instructions on what to do and how to complete the English version of the Census questionnaire in the following languages:</p> <p>Arabic, Bulgarian, Cantonese, Czech, Hungarian, Irish, Latvian, Lithuanian, Mandarin, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Slovak, Somali, Tetum and Ulster-Scots.</p> <p>Translation booklets are available to download, available on request from the contact centre or via a request to Census field staff.</p> <p>There will be a dedicated language helpline set up to provide support to non-English speaking citizens. The Census field staff will carry a Multi-Lingual show card stating where to get help in the languages listed.</p> <p>Interpreters can be provided to offer support. Requests for the service of an interpreter</p>	<p>Census Content</p> <p>No</p> <p>There is no likely inequality of opportunity for those affected by this policy across this category. Respondents have the opportunity to record their ethnicity on their census return.</p>
----------------------------	---	--

	<p>will be made through the Contact Centre.</p> <p>Through engagement with local community groups NISRA hope to have completions events within the groups. These events will give citizens the opportunity to complete their census returns in a local community setting.</p> <p>Census Outputs</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>The statistical outputs from the 2021 Census will provide accurate information which will be invaluable in identifying section 75 groups and may be used to develop policies and programmes to support these groups.</p>	
Age	<p>Census Delivery</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Support will be made available to promote equality of opportunity for people across this category.</p> <p>Support will be made available for those who may face barriers completing their census online whether due to this category and/or another.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion events may be held across local communities to provide assistance in completion of census questionnaires. 	<p>Census Content</p> <p>No</p> <p>There is no likely inequality of opportunity for those affected by this policy across this category. Respondents have the opportunity to record their age on their census return.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a dedicated Census Contact Centre where help can be provided and paper questionnaires will be available on request through the contact centre • Around 20% of households (in areas of poor broadband coverage or likely to contain solely elderly people) will be provided with a paper questionnaire in the first instance. This will support such households in taking part in the Census. • Census field staff will call at homes during follow up and will be in a position to provide paper questionnaires. • Paper questionnaire will be provided with the second reminder via post. <p>Census Outputs</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>The statistical outputs from the 2021 Census will provide accurate information which will be invaluable in identifying section 75 groups and may be used to develop policies and programmes to support these groups.</p>	
Marital status	<p>Census Outputs</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>The statistical outputs from the 2021 Census will provide</p>	<p>Census Content</p> <p>No</p> <p>There is no likely inequality of opportunity for those affected by</p>

	<p>accurate information which will be invaluable in identifying section 75 groups and may be used to develop policies and programmes to support these groups.</p>	<p>this policy across this category. Respondents have the opportunity to record their marital status on their census return.</p> <p>Census Delivery</p> <p>No</p> <p>There is no likely inequality of opportunity for those affected by this policy across this category.</p>
<p>Sexual orientation</p>	<p>Census Outputs</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>The statistical outputs from the 2021 Census will provide accurate information which will be invaluable in identifying section 75 groups and may be used to develop policies and programmes to support these groups.</p>	<p>Census Content</p> <p>No</p> <p>There is no likely inequality of opportunity for those affected by this policy across this category. Respondents have the opportunity to record their sexual orientation on their census return.</p> <p>Census Delivery</p> <p>No</p> <p>There is no likely inequality of opportunity for those affected by this policy across this category.</p>
<p>Men and women generally</p>	<p>Census Outputs</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>The statistical outputs from the 2021 Census will provide accurate information which will be invaluable in identifying section 75 groups and may be used to develop policies and programmes to support these groups.</p>	<p>Census Content</p> <p>No</p> <p>There is no likely inequality of opportunity for those affected by this policy across this category. Respondents have the opportunity to record their sex on their census return.</p>

		<p>Census Delivery</p> <p>No</p> <p>There is no likely inequality of opportunity for those affected by this policy across this category.</p>
<p>Disability</p>	<p>Census Delivery</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Support will be made available to promote equality of opportunity for people across this category.</p> <p>The following accessibility measures will be in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Braille translation guidance booklet including questionnaire • Easy read information leaflet • Large print information leaflet • Large print questionnaire • BSL (video and audio) • Text relay - NGT users dial 18001 followed by the phone number you need • We are committed to making the census website accessible, in accordance with the Public Sector Bodies (Website and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018. • Completion events will be held across local communities to provide assistance in completion of census questionnaires. 	<p>Census Content</p> <p>No</p> <p>There is no likely inequality of opportunity for those affected by this policy across this category. Respondents have the opportunity to record disabilities against a list provided, select other or none.</p>

	<p>Census Outputs</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>The statistical outputs from the 2021 Census will provide accurate information which will be invaluable in identifying section 75 groups and may be used to develop policies and programmes to support these groups.</p>	
<p>Dependants</p>	<p>Census Outputs</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>The statistical outputs from the 2021 Census will provide accurate information which will be invaluable in identifying section 75 groups and may be used to develop policies and programmes to support these groups.</p>	<p>Census Content</p> <p>No</p> <p>There is no likely inequality of opportunity for those affected by this policy across this category. Respondents have the opportunity to record their relationships to others in the household thus reflecting dependants and to record if they look after anyone else due to a long term physical or mental health conditions or illnesses, or conditions relating to old age.</p> <p>Census Delivery</p> <p>No</p> <p>There is no likely inequality of opportunity for those affected by this policy across this category.</p>

3 To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group? minor/major/none		
Good relations category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact minor/major/none
Religious belief	<p>Census Outputs</p> <p>The outputs from the 2021 Census may have a positive impact on good relations between people across this category.</p>	Minor
Political opinion	<p>Census Content & Delivery</p> <p>The policy is not likely to impact on good relations between people across this category.</p>	None
Racial group	<p>Census Outputs</p> <p>The outputs from the 2021 Census may have a positive impact on good relations between people across this category.</p>	Minor

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	<p>Census Outputs</p> <p>The outputs from the 2021 Census may have a positive impact on good relations between people across this category.</p>	

Political opinion	N/A	N/A
Racial group	<p>Census Outputs</p> <p>The outputs from the 2021 Census may have a positive impact on good relations between people across this category.</p>	

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).

Promotion of equality of opportunity across all the sectors ensures there are no potential impacts of the census on people with multiple identities.

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

N/A

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.

Alternatively there may already be policies in place which would mitigate any adverse impact identified.

Please provide details in the box below:

The detailed planning of the census has led to several policies in place to mitigate any adverse impact identified in this screening.

- Online questionnaire available in English, Ulster-Scots and Irish
- Translation booklets provided in 17 languages
- Dedicated language helpline
- Interpretation service available
- Braille translation guidance booklet including questionnaire
- Easy read information leaflet
- Large print information leaflet
- Large print questionnaire
- BSL (video and audio)
- Text relay - NGT users dial 18001 followed by the phone number you need
- Commitment to making the census website accessible, in accordance with the Public Sector Bodies (Website and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018
- Completion events
- Census field staff calling at homes
- Census Contact Centre
- Around 20% of households (in areas of poor broadband coverage or composed of elderly people) will be provided with a paper questionnaire in the first instance
- Paper questionnaires available on request
- Paper questionnaire will be provided with the second reminder via post

Section C

DoF also has legislative obligations to meet under the Disability Discrimination Order and the Human Rights Act . The following questions relate to these two areas.

Consideration of Disability Duties

- a) Does the proposed policy / decision provide an opportunity for DoF to better **promote positive attitudes** towards disabled people?

Explain your assessment in full

Yes. The statistical outputs from the 2021 Census will provide accurate information which will be invaluable in identifying section 75 groups and may be used to develop policies and programmes to support these groups.

- b) Does the proposed policy / decision provide an opportunity to actively **increase the participation** by disabled people in public life?

Explain your assessment in full

Yes. The statistical outputs from the 2021 Census will provide accurate information which will be invaluable in identifying section 75 groups and may be used to develop policies and programmes to support these groups.

Consideration of Human Rights

- c) The Human Rights Act (HRA) 1998 brings the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) into UK law and it applies in N Ireland. Articles 3 and 4 are classified as “absolute” rights ie the State can never withhold or take away these rights. All others are either “qualified” or “limited”. Further information is available via the following link

<http://www.nicshumanrightsguide.com/>

Indicate any potential *adverse impacts* that the policy / decision may have in relation to human rights issues.

		<u>Adverse impact</u>
Right to Life	Article 2	Yes /no
Prohibition of torture, inhuman or degrading treatment	Article 3	Yes /no
Prohibition of slavery and forced labour	Article 4	Yes /no
Right to liberty and security	Article 5	Yes /no
Right to a fair and public trial	Article 6	Yes /no
Right to no punishment without law	Article 7	Yes /no
Right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence	Article 8	Yes /no
Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion	Article 9	Yes /no
Right to freedom of expression	Article 10	Yes /no
Right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association	Article 11	Yes /no

Right to marry and to found a family	Article 12	Yes /no
The prohibition of discrimination	Article 14	Yes /no
Protection of property and enjoyment of possessions	Protocol 1 Article 1	Yes /no
Right to education	Protocol 1 Article 2	Yes /no
Right to free and secret elections	Protocol 1 Article 3	Yes /no

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

The statistical outputs from the 2021 Census will provide accurate information which may be used to develop policies and programmes to support and promote human rights.

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

N/A

If you have identified any adverse impacts on human rights through this screening you must complete a Human Rights Impact Assessment: <https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/publications/human-rights-impact-assessment-proforma>

Monitoring Arrangements

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

<http://www.equalityni.org/ECNI/media/ECNI/Publications/Employers%20and%20Service%20Providers/S75MonitoringGuidance2007.pdf>

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.

Please detail proposed monitoring arrangements below:

- Collection and monitoring of paradata during live operations and as an evaluation tool
- Data collected within the census questionnaire will provide information on the following section 75 categories across Northern Ireland:
 - religious belief
 - ethnic group
 - age
 - marital status
 - sexual orientation
 - sex
 - disability
 - dependants

Section D - Formal Record of Screening Decision

Title of Proposed Policy / Decision being screened: Census 2021

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

Yes	equality of opportunity and good relations
Yes	disabilities duties; and
Yes	human rights issues

On the basis of the answers to the screening questions, I recommend that this policy / decision is –

	* Screened In – Necessary to conduct a full EQIA
	* Screened Out – No EQIA necessary (no impacts)
x	* Screened Out – Mitigating Actions (minor impacts) Provide a brief note here to explain how this decision was reached: The census will generally have a positive impact on section 75 groups and any minor negative impacts which have been identified have mitigating actions in place as set out in this document.

**Screening assessment
completed by -**

approved by –

Name	William Dukelow	Name	David Marshall
Grade	Principal Officer	Grade	Director of Census
Date	21/01/20	Date	12/02/20
Central Support Team Notified Equality Contacts advised			