

The Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

Rural Needs Impact Assessment Template

(April 2018)



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

1A. Name of Public Authority - Department of Health

1B. Please provide the official title/ description of the Strategy, Policy, Plan or Public Service document or initiative:

Independent Appeals

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

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

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

The aim of the policy is to provide an independent appeals process for decisions taken by Departmental Committees in relation to lists of family practitioner service providers (GPs, Dentists, Pharmaceutical and Ophthalmic) and the contracts with those providers.

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

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

Other Definition (Provide details and the rationale below)

A definition of 'rural' is not applicable¹

¹If a definition of 'rural' is not applicable, the policy is unlikely to fall under the scope of the Act and you should be able to screen out at this stage



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

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

Please Yes No explain:

This policy sets out a process for dealing with appeals from contractors. This process does not impact on the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

If the response is **NO** after entering explanation **GO TO Section 3**

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

2C. Please indicate the rural policy areas the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on (see list at note 1):



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

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

Yes

No

Please explain:

This policy simply relates to a process for dealing with potential appeals from service contractors. Consultation on the process is planned and consultees will have the opportunity to comment on this assessment.

If the response is **NO** please explain above and **GO TO Section 4**

3B. Please indicate which methods or information sources were used to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas (see note 2 for examples) and provide details including relevant dates, names of organisations, titles of publications, website references, details of surveys or consultations undertaken etc:

3C. Please provide details of the social and economic needs of people in rural areas which have been identified:



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

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

No consideration necessary as the policy does not change anything in relation to persons living in rural areas.
Accessing the service will not differ from what currently provided – it's the process for managing appeals that will differ.

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

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

Yes

No

Please explain:

No rural needs have been identified.



SECTION 6 – Documenting and Recording

6A. I confirm that details of the Rural Needs Impact Assessment will be recorded on the Public Authority’s Annual Monitoring Return and the RNIA Template retained by the Public Authority (please check box)

Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:	
Position / Grade:	Noreen Meehan/Deputy Principal
Division/Branch	Organisational Change Directorate
Signature:	
Date:	
Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:	
Position / Grade:	
Division / Branch	
Signature:	
Date:	

Note 1

Rural Policy Areas (relates to question 2C):

- Rural Businesses
- Rural Tourism
- Rural Housing
- Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas
- Education or Training in Rural Areas
- Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas
- Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas
- Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas
- Poverty in Rural Areas
- Deprivation in Rural Areas
- Rural Crime or Community Safety
- Rural Development
- Other (Please specify)

Note 2

Examples of methods or information sources used (relates to question 3B):

- Consultation with Rural Stakeholders
- Consultation with Other Organisations
- Surveys or Questionnaires
- Other Methods or Information Sources (include details)
- Published Statistics
- Research Papers
- Other Publications