

## Appendix 2 - Template for Information to be Compiled

### Information to be compiled by Public Authorities under Section 3(1)(a) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.

(To be completed and included in public authorities' own annual reports and submitted to DAERA for inclusion in the Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Report).

Name of Public Authority:

Reporting Period: April 20  to March 20

The Trust is committed to its reporting and monitoring obligations in accordance with Rural Needs Act (NI) (2016). The Trust has carried out the following activity to comply with and mainstream the duties.

- The Trust's Senior Management Team has been briefed to ensure ownership of these duties at strategic level.
- HSC Trusts worked collaboratively to develop [Guidance for Board Members 2020](#) for its Board members in regard to their legislative responsibilities
- The Directorate of Planning, Performance and Informatics is responsible for central co-ordination of the monitoring report on behalf of the Trust.
- The Planning and Equality Team provides support for compliance and signpost staff to the guidance. Rural Champions are also in situ across the Trust and have received training in rural needs assessments.
- The Trust partook in the Review of the Implementation of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 and has taken due consideration of the Report which was subsequently published in January 2020
- Governance arrangements and reporting structure for ensuring compliance is through the Trust Involvement Group.
- HSC Trusts have worked collaboratively to ensure the rural needs assessment template (Appendix A) is user-friendly and relevant to HSC business. The key components of the template issued by DAERA have been used in compliance with the legislative obligations.
- A menu of advice and guidance resources is provided to staff via the Trust's intranet site relevant to policy writing to raise

awareness and support staff when completing rural needs assessments.

- The Trust 'Writing a Policy' template available on the Trust intranet site has a section dedicated to rural needs to raise awareness of the need to undertake a rural impact assessment if the policy impacts on the social and economic needs of people in rural areas?
- The Trust uses a working definition of Rural in terms of Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service to mean those settlements with populations of less than 5,000 together with the open countryside as per DEARA guidance for public authorities.
- A Screening Masterclass has been delivered to approx. 40 senior managers included raising awareness of the need to undertake rural impact assessments.
- Recognising our Trust boundaries, where appropriate, our Community Development Teams continue to reach out to rural groups such as Killynure Residents Association. Our Health Improvement Teams remain abreast of any rural connected information such as the Farm Families Health check programme which the Northern Trust Health Improvement Team facilitate.
- This Annual Monitoring report on rural needs has been considered by Trust Board before submission to DAERA and monitoring information in this report will be included in the Trust's Annual Report

The Trust is committed to promoting and upholding its duties in relation to the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 and will have due regard to rural needs in the development of all our policy and public service delivery decisions. The Trust is mindful that the level of 'regard' due will depend on the circumstances and, in particular, on the relevance of rural needs to the decision or function in question. The greater the relevance and potential impact for people in rural needs, the greater the regard required by the duty. In the table below, the Trust has provided detail on those policies which were considered as having a bearing on rural needs and therefore subject to a rural needs assessment.

In preparing this monitoring template the Trust considered policies in respect of the social and economic needs of persons in rural areas and for the majority, no rural needs were identified. Many of these policies are clinical or technical in nature and have no bearing on rural needs. In the interests of openness and transparency, the Trust has provided the following hyperlink to S75 equality screenings of Trust policies.

[Belfast Trust Equality Screening Outcome Reports April 2019 - March 2020](#)

The following table includes information on policies where a Rural Needs Impact Assessment has been completed.

<p><i>Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016<sup>1</sup>.</i></p>	<p><i>The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to<sup>2</sup>.</i></p>	<p><i>Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service<sup>3</sup>.</i></p>
<p>Policy for HSC Patients who wish to pay for additional treatment- Oncology and Haematology Services at the Belfast City Hospital Site</p>	<p>Health and Social Care</p>	<p>Given the service is a regional service a rural impact assessment was undertaken. No impact was identified as people from rural areas can access the top up treatment via the regional specialist centre at Belfast. In addition, the core principles of the policy reflect Department of Health's guidance including issues relating to a patient's entitlement to HSC care and that HSC should exhaust all reasonable avenues for securing public funding.</p>
<p>Memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Beaumont Hospital / Dublin (BH) and Belfast Health &amp; Social Care Trust (BHSCT) and the Health Service Executive (HSE - funding only) for the provision of living donor exchange kidney transplant service (plus data sharing agreement).</p>	<p>Health and Social Care</p>	<p>Given the service is a cross border service a rural impact assessment was undertaken. An adverse impact not detected. The impact was deemed positive as there is likely to be greater access to kidneys and the wait for surgery is likely to be less.as a result of the MoU.</p>

## NOTES

1. This information should normally be contained in section 1B of the RNIA Template completed in respect of the activity.
2. This information should normally be contained in section 2D of the RNIA Template completed in respect of the activity.
3. The information contained in sections 3D, 4A & 5B of the RNIA Template should be considered when completing this section.

## Rural Needs Impact Assessment

### Section 1: Define activity subject to Section 1(1) of Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

1A. Short title describing activity being undertaken that is subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016:

1B. Are you Developing, Adopting, Implementing or Revising a Policy a Strategy or a Plan? (Underline or Circle)  
 Or are you delivering or designing a public service? (Underline or Circle)  
 What is official title of this Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public service (if any)?

1C. Give details of the aims and/or objectives of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service:

1D. What definition of 'rural' is the Trust using in respect of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service:

### Section 2 - Understanding impact of Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

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

Yes  No  If response is NO Go To Section 2E.

2B. How is it likely to impact on people in rural areas?

2C. 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 is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently?

2D. Please indicate which of the following rural policy areas the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to primarily impact on.

Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas		Community Safety or Rural Crime		Agriculture-Environment	
Education or Training in Rural Areas		Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas		Other, please state below;	
Rural Development		Broadband/Mobile Communications in Rural Areas			
Poverty or Deprivation in Rural Areas		Rural Business, Tourism or Housing			

2E. Please explain why the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is NOT likely to impact on people in rural areas.

**SECTION 3 - Identifying Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas**

3A. Has the Trust taken steps to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas, relevant to the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service? Yes  No  if the response is NO, GO TO Section 3D

3B. Which of following methods or information sources were used by the Trust to identify these needs?

Consultation with relevant stakeholders / Survey or Questionnaire / Research / Statistics / Publications / Other methods.  
Please provide details:

3C. What social and economic needs of the people in rural areas have been identified?

3D Please explain why no steps were taken by the Trust to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas?

**SECTION 4 - Considering Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas**

4A. What issues were considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas?

**SECTION 5 - Influencing the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service**

5A. Has the policy, strategy, plan or public service been changed by consideration of the rural needs identified?  
Yes  No  if the response is NO, GO TO Section 5C

5B. If yes, how have rural needs influenced the policy, strategy plan or public service?

5C. If no, why have the rural needs identified not influenced the policy, strategy, plan or public service?

**Section 6: Documentation:**

6A. Please tick below to confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained by the Trust and relevant information on the Section 1 activity compiled in accordance with paragraph 6.7 of the guidance.

I confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained and relevant information compiled.

Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:

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