

Screening flowchart and template (taken from Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 – A Guide for public authorities 2010 (Appendix 1)).

Introduction

Part 1. Policy scoping – asks public authorities to provide details about the policy, procedure, practice and/or decision being screened and what available evidence you have gathered to help make an assessment of the likely impact on equality of opportunity and good relations.

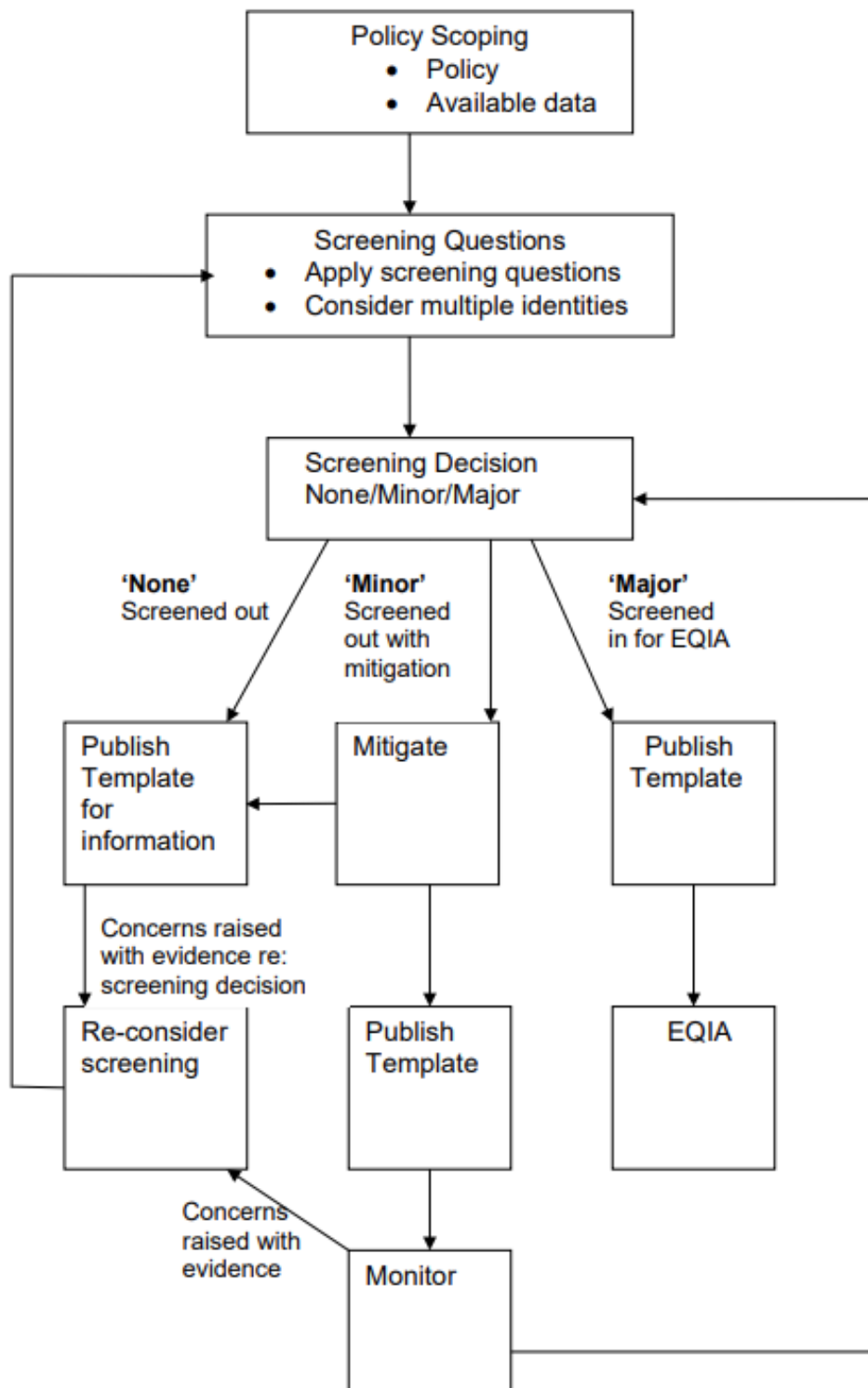
Part 2. Screening questions – asks about the extent of the likely impact of the policy on groups of people within each of the Section 75 categories. Details of the groups consulted and the level of assessment of the likely impact. This includes consideration of multiple identity and good relations issues.

Part 3. Screening decision – guides the public authority to reach a screening decision as to whether or not there is a need to carry out an equality impact assessment (EQIA), or to introduce measures to mitigate the likely impact, or the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

Part 4. Monitoring – provides guidance to public authorities on monitoring for adverse impact and broader monitoring.

Part 5. Approval and authorisation – verifies the public authority's approval of a screening decision by a senior manager responsible for the policy.

A screening flowchart is provided overleaf.



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.

Information about the policy

Name of the policy

Truth Recovery Programme – Standardised Payment Scheme Regulations

Is this an existing, revised or a new policy?

New policy.

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

The Regulations are secondary legislation related to the Inquiry (Mother and Baby Institutions, Magdalene Laundries and Workhouses) and Redress Scheme Bill. The Bill establishes the eligibility criteria for the Standardised Payment Scheme and creates the Truth Recovery Redress Service, an arms-length body to administer the scheme.

The Regulations provide the procedural and administrative framework for the scheme, including how applications are made, how records will be verified, how applicants will be notified of outcomes, appeals arrangements, reimbursement of expenses and other case

management procedures. The aim is to ensure applications are handled in a way that is clear, consistent and accessible.

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

Yes.

The Regulations are designed to make the application process accessible and flexible for all applicants. Particular benefit may arise for:

- Older people through the availability of written, online and postal application methods, and support from community partner organisations.
- Disabled people through provisions allowing applications and payments to be managed by Controllers, attorneys or others legally authorised to act on their behalf,. They may also benefit from flexibility around documentary evidence, extensions of time limits and support from community partner organisations.
- Women, given the nature of Mother and Baby Institutions and Magdalene Laundries, which were established specifically for women and girls. The scheme is intended to recognise the historical disadvantage, stigma and institutionalisation experienced by women in those settings.

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

The Executive Office

Who owns and who implements the policy?

The Executive Office owns the policy. The regulations will be implemented by the Truth Recovery Redress Service.

Implementation factors

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

If yes, are they (please delete as appropriate)

Financial

Financial factors include the funding required to make payments to eligible applicants and to operate the Truth Recovery Redress Service. This includes costs associated with staffing, training, case management systems, record verification, applicant support, communications, and reimbursement of expenses.

The overall cost will also depend on the number of applications received, the complexity of individual cases, the availability of records and the level of support applicants require.

Legislative

The Regulations are derived from the framework established by the primary legislation, the Inquiry (Mother and Baby Institutions, Magdalene Laundries and Workhouses) and Redress Scheme Bill.

The Regulations can only operate within the powers provided by the Bill and must remain consistent with its provisions, including the eligibility criteria for the Standardised Payment Scheme and the functions of the Truth Recovery Redress Service.

other, please specify

Other factors may include the volumes and type of applications received, the availability and quality of institutional records, timely access to information held by other bodies, public awareness of the scheme and the capacity of the Redress Service to process applications.

Main stakeholders affected

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

Staff

Service users

Other public sector organisations

Voluntary/community groups

other, please specify- the organisations responsible for the institutions.

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

- what are they?
- who owns them?

Available evidence

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

The evidence used to inform this screening includes the Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University [Mother and Baby Homes and Magdalene Laundries in Northern Ireland, 1922-1990](#) report, the Truth Recovery Design Panel's [Truth Acknowledgement and Accountability](#) report, and the findings from the 2024 public consultation on the policy, and general data from the 2021 Census. This included both quantitative information, such as available institutional and consultation data, and qualitative evidence from victims and survivors, stakeholders and relevant organisations.

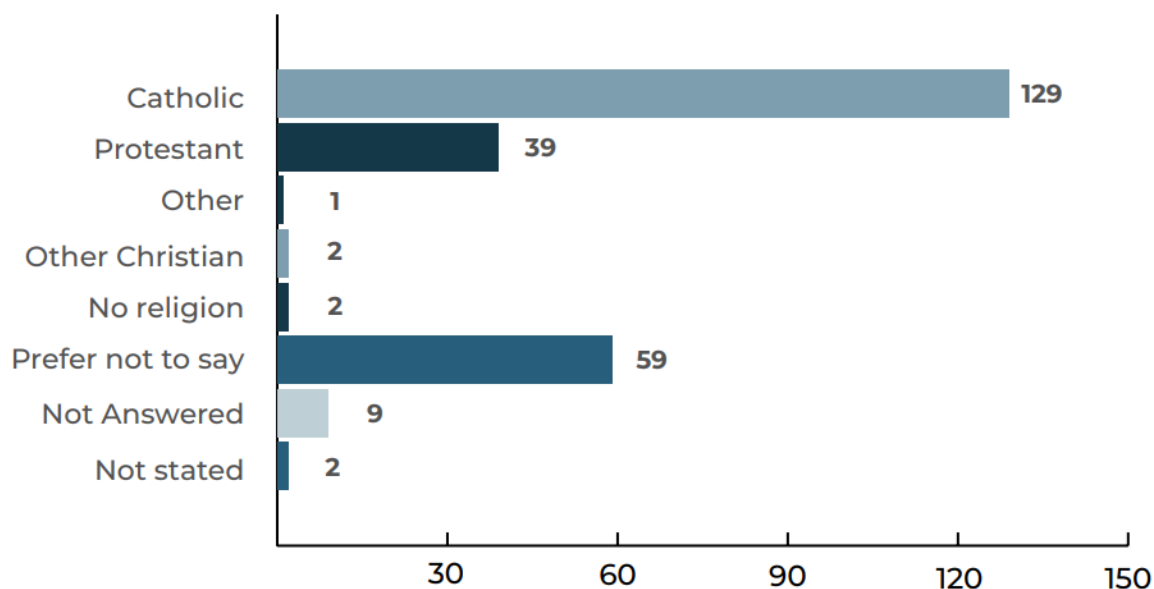
Religious belief evidence / information:

Of the 11 Magdalene Laundries and Mother and Baby Institutions listed for the Standardised Payment, six were Catholic, four were Protestant and one is considered non-denominational. Of the 13,448 women admitted, 59% were in a Catholic-run institution and 41% in a Protestant-run institution (note there are no numbers on the non-denominational institution at this point).

As some of the Protestant Mother and Baby Institutions closed in the 1940s and 1950s, there are likely to be fewer people alive from these institutions. This suggests that a greater number of applicants participating in the public inquiry and applying for redress will be from a Catholic community background.

Respondents to the 2024 public consultation on the redress scheme and public inquiry were asked about their religious affiliation. Of those that gave a religion, 75% were from a Catholic background. However, a number of respondents said they preferred not to answer which may be indicative of the sensitive nature of this policy area.

Figure 6: Q4 - What religious background were you brought up in?



Political Opinion evidence / information:

There is no available data on the political beliefs of those likely to be impacted by the policy. However, as political belief often aligns with religion in Northern Ireland, it is possible (but not definite) that the policy could have greater impact on those with Nationalist political beliefs.

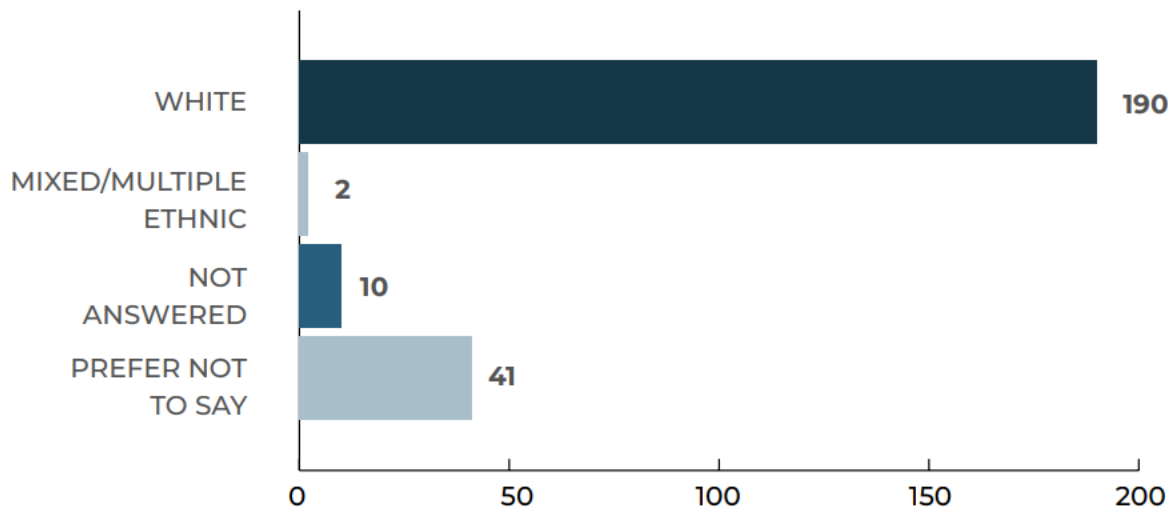
Racial Group evidence / information:

There is no data available on the race of potential participants and applicants. The majority (86%) of women identified in the Queens/UU research report were Northern Irish. The ethnicity of the NI population in 2021 is predominantly white (96.6% in 2021 Census)¹, therefore, it is expected that the majority of applicants to the Redress Service will be of white ethnicity.

In the 2024 public consultation, only two respondents identified themselves as from an ethnicity other than white.

¹ [Census 2021 main statistics ethnicity tables | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency \(nisra.gov.uk\)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/census-2021-main-statistics-ethnicity-tables)

Figure 8: Q6 – What is your ethnic group?



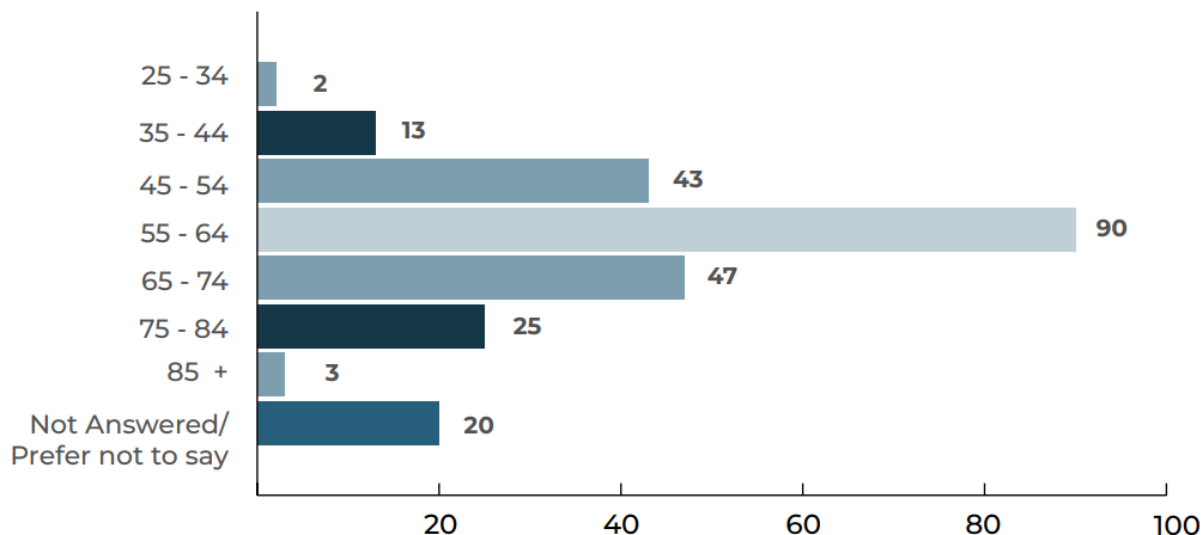
Age evidence / information:

Although there is expected to be a diverse range of ages applying for the redress scheme, due to the time period the events being investigated occurred, it is anticipated that the majority of applicants will be middle-aged or in older age groups.

As the last Mother and Baby Institution in Northern Ireland closed in 1990, the youngest possible age of a child born there would be 36 in 2026.

Respondents to the public consultation were given the option to disclose their age. The largest cohort was aged between 55 – 65 years, this is likely to be reflected in participants in the public inquiry and redress scheme.

Figure 5: Q3 - Please select your age range:



Marital Status evidence / information:

Although mothers who were not married formed a significant part of those admitted to Mother and Baby Institutions, Magdalene Laundries and Workhouses, there may have been married women who were admitted due to other circumstances, such as domestic abuse, substance dependency, poverty etc. As well as this, women who were not married at the time may have married later. If the same rates of marriage in the NI population are applied to victims and survivors, then around 72.6% may have subsequently married.²

Sexual Orientation evidence / information:

Information pertaining to the sexual orientation of women in Mother & Baby Institutions and Magdalene Laundries was not available but, as the focus on the report is on women who had children, now adults, in an institutional setting, it follows that many of the applicants will have been heterosexual females. There is no data available on the sexual orientation of children born in relevant institutions or surviving children of deceased victims and survivors, but the

² Families and Households in the UK: 2019' Office of National Statistics

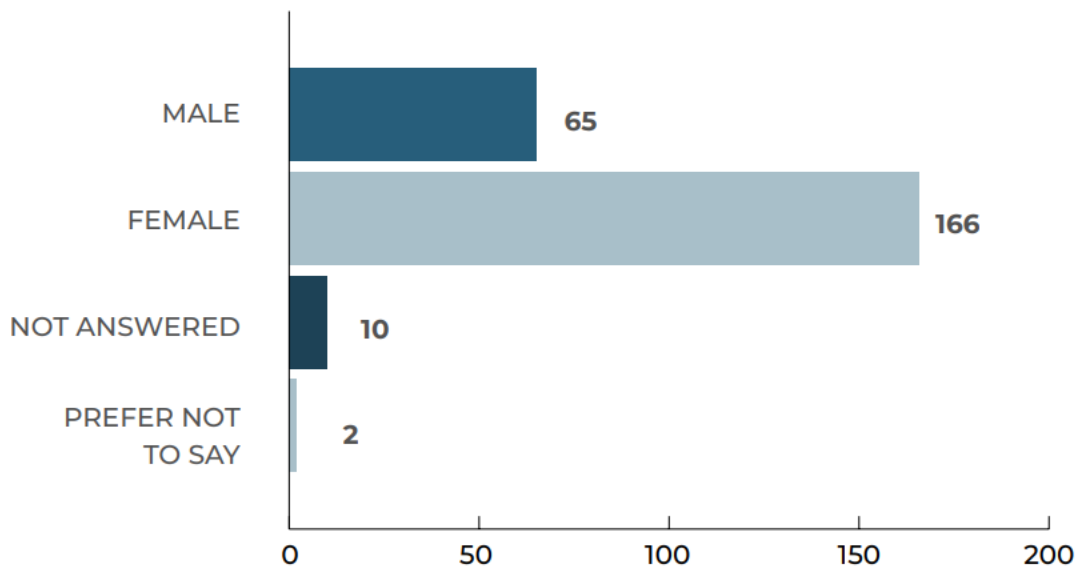
2021 Census¹⁶ found that 2.09% of the Northern Ireland population identify as LGBT so the applicant profile may mirror that.³

Men & Women generally evidence / information:

Mother and Baby Institutions and Magdalene Laundries were historical institutions established specifically for women and girls, so female applicants are more likely. However, eligibility also extends to those born while their mother was ‘under the care of’ a relevant institution and eligible family members for the purpose of posthumous claims, so there will be a significant number of applicants from males.

In the Truth Recovery public consultation, 72% (of those that gave an answer) of respondents were women and this reinforces the likelihood that they will be the main group applying to the redress scheme.

Figure 7: Q5 - What is your sex?



³ [Census 2021 main statistics sexual orientation tables | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency \(nisra.gov.uk\)](https://www.nisra.gov.uk/census-2021-main-statistics-sexual-orientation-tables)

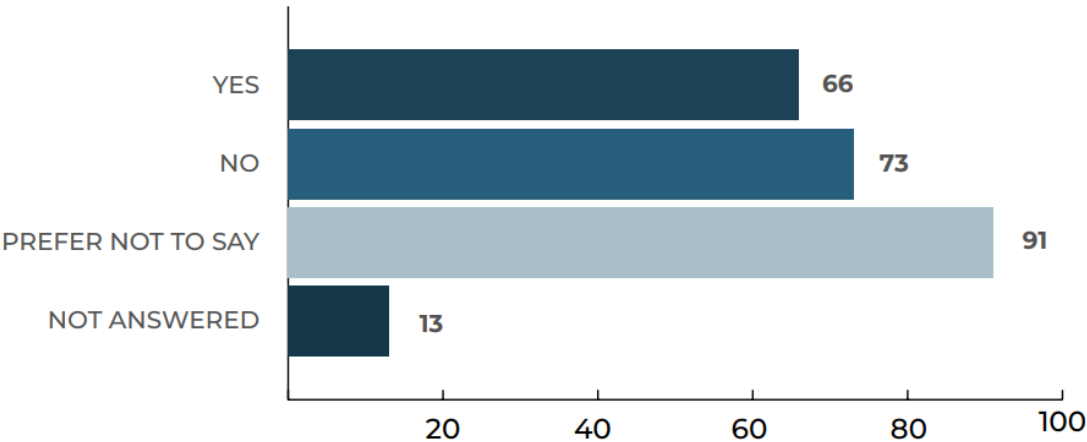
Disability evidence / information:

The Queen’s/UU research report mentions a small but significant number of women with learning disabilities and mental health issues who resided in Magdalene Laundries, noting *“Sometimes they were sent by their parents who were unsure how to care for them.”*⁴

It is clear that the institutions were used to accommodate women who may have been ‘deemed’ to have a physical, behavioural, developmental, and sensory disability. For some women, the experience of Mother and Baby Institutions and Magdalene Laundries, may have led to long-term mental health problems.

In the Truth Recovery consultation, almost half (of those who answered yes/no) said that they had a long-term health condition

Figure 9: Q7 – Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months?



Dependants evidence / information:

Although most women who entered a prescribed institution did so due to pregnancy and some remained post-childbirth, none of the children would be under the age 18 today so

⁴ Mother and Baby Homes and Magdalene Laundries in Northern Ireland, P325

would not be considered as dependants. There is no data available on the extent to which children, now adults, born to women in institutions have dependants themselves.

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?

Religious belief

Applicants may have different experiences depending on whether they were in Catholic-run, Protestant-run or non-denominational institutions. Some people from Protestant backgrounds may feel their experiences have been less visible in public discussion, so communications should make clear that the scheme is open to all eligible applicants, regardless of religious belief.

Political Opinion

There is no specific evidence on political opinion, but in Northern Ireland it may overlap with religious/community background.

Racial Group

Most applicants are expected to be from a white ethnic background, reflecting the historical context, but the scheme will be accessible to applicants from all racial groups. Applicants from minority ethnic backgrounds, including mixed race applicants, may have experienced additional stigma or discrimination and may need sensitive handling, accessible communication and interpretation or translation support where required.

Age

Many applicants are likely to be older. They may need non-digital application routes, clear written guidance, telephone support, help from community organisations, longer time to gather evidence, and flexibility if they have health, mobility or caring issues. Some applications may also need to be prioritised on age or health grounds.

Marital status

Many women entered institutions because of pregnancy outside marriage, but married women may also have been affected. The scheme should avoid assumptions about marital status and use sensitive language that recognises stigma, shame and family separation without reinforcing historic judgement.

Sexual orientation

There is limited evidence on sexual orientation, but LGBT applicants may have had distinct experiences of stigma, secrecy or family rejection. The scheme should be inclusive, confidential and avoid assumptions about applicants' relationships, family structures or identity.

Men and Women Generally

Women are likely to be the main group directly affected, as the institutions were established for women and girls. The process should recognise experiences linked to pregnancy, birth, separation from children, shame and institutionalisation. Men may also apply where they were born to a woman while she was under the care of a relevant institution, or where they are eligible family members in a posthumous claim. Communications should therefore be clear that eligibility is not limited to women.

Disability

Disabled applicants may need accessible formats, Easy Read material, support to complete applications, longer time limits, telephone or paper-based options, reasonable adjustments and trauma informed support. Some applicants may have mental health conditions, learning disabilities, sensory impairments or age-related disabilities. The scheme will also allow authorised people, such as Controllers, attorneys or personal representatives, to act where appropriate.

Dependants

Most children born in the institutions are now adults, but some applicants may still have caring responsibilities. The process should be flexible around appointments, evidence gathering and communication.

Part 2. 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?

Section 75 category	Level of impact? minor/major/none
Religious belief	Minor It is possible that the scheme may benefit more the Catholic community but compensation will be available to people from all religious backgrounds.
Political opinion	None It is not considered that this policy will have an impact on equality of opportunity for this category.
Racial group	None It is not considered that this policy will have an impact on equality of opportunity for this category
Age	Minor This policy may benefit older age group categories more than younger age group categories as victims and survivors are likely to be in their middle aged - elderly age bracket

Marital status	None It is not considered that this policy will have an impact on equality of opportunity for this category.
Sexual orientation	None It is not considered that this policy will have an impact on equality of opportunity for this category.
Men and women generally	Minor This policy is likely to benefit women more than men as its purpose is address the shame and stigma unfairly imposed on women and girls, and by extension their children, now adults, in a system of gender-specific institutions.
Disability	Minor This policy may benefit those who have long-term mental health issues or age-related ailments.
Dependants	None It is not considered that this policy will have an impact on equality of opportunity for this category.

2. Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories? Yes/No

Detail opportunities of how this policy could promote equality of opportunity for people within each of the Section 75 Categories below:

Religious Belief - Yes.

Communications will make it clear that the scheme is open to all eligible applicants, regardless of religious belief. Outreach should include both Catholic and Protestant community backgrounds, as well as people of other religions or no religion, particularly where some experiences may have been less visible in public discussion.

Political Opinion – No.

Although political opinion may reflect broader community background in Northern Ireland, the scheme will not specifically reference or take account of political opinion when determining eligibility or processing applications.

Racial Group - Yes.

Information about the scheme should be accessible to applicants from all racial and ethnic backgrounds. Translation, interpretation or additional support should be considered where needed, particularly for applicants living outside Northern Ireland or those who may face language or documentation barriers.

Age - Yes.

The policy can promote equality of opportunity by offering paper, online and postal application routes, clear written guidance, telephone support, and help from community partner organisations. Flexibility around time limits and evidence requirements may particularly support older applicants.

Marital Status - Yes.

The scheme should use sensitive language and avoid assumptions about marital status or family circumstances. This is important because some applicants may have experienced stigma linked to pregnancy outside marriage, separation from children or later family relationships.

Sexual Orientation No.

The scheme will not specifically reference or take account of sexual orientation when determining eligibility or processing applications. Eligibility is based on whether the relevant person was admitted to, or born to a mother who was under the care of, a relevant institution.

Men and Women generally - Yes.

The policy promotes equality of opportunity by recognising historical disadvantage experienced by women and girls in the relevant institutions. Communications should also make clear that eligible men can apply where they were born to a mother in a relevant institution or where they are eligible relatives in a posthumous claim.

Disability - Yes.

The scheme can promote equality of opportunity through accessible formats, Easy Read material, reasonable adjustments, telephone and paper-based options, support to complete applications, trauma informed handling, and provisions allowing Controllers or attorneys to act on behalf of applicants where appropriate.

Dependants - Yes.

Flexibility around communication, evidence gathering and deadlines may help applicants with caring responsibilities.

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

Please provide details of the likely policy impact and determine the level of impact for each of the categories below i.e. either minor, major or none.

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Religious belief**:

What is the level of impact? Minor / Major / None

The redress scheme may help foster a shared sense of acknowledgement and justice among victims and survivors from different religious backgrounds..

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Political Opinion**:

What is the level of impact? Minor / Major / None

The Redress Scheme may help foster a shared sense of acknowledgement and justice among victims and survivors who hold different political opinions.

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Racial Group**:

What is the level of impact? Minor / Major / **None**

The policy is not expected to affect good relations between people of different racial groups.

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

Detail opportunities of how this policy could better promote good relations for people within each of the Section 75 Categories below:

Religious Belief – Yes

Some of the institutions within scope were operated by, or associated with, religious organisations, and this may be particularly relevant or sensitive for some victims and survivors, family members and representative groups.

Engagement through the Consultative Forum, which includes people from different religious backgrounds and those with no religious belief, alongside engagement with the Redress Service, will provide opportunities to identify any issues or sensitivities relating to religious belief and foster good relations between community groups.

There is also an opportunity to further include those who spent time in a Protestant institution who may feel that the media coverage up to now has not been representative of their experience.

Political Opinion – yes

The Consultative Forum for victims and survivors brings together people with different political opinions on a monthly basis. Ongoing engagement through the Forum, together with engagement by the Redress Service, will provide opportunities to support cross-community participation, identify any emerging issues, and ensure that the views of victims and survivors from different backgrounds continue to inform implementation.

Racial Group - No

The remit and function of the redress scheme will not provide opportunity to better promote good relations between people of different political opinion

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).

Yes. Some applicants may have more than one Section 75 identity and this could affect how they experience or access the scheme. For example, an older disabled woman may need accessible information, support to apply, longer time to gather evidence and trauma informed handling. A disabled applicant from a minority ethnic background may also face additional barriers around language, identity documents, records or confidence in engaging with public services. Applicants living outside Northern Ireland may face practical barriers in obtaining certified documents, accessing support or communicating with the Redress Service.

The Regulations are intended to reduce these barriers by providing different application routes, flexibility where records or documents are difficult to obtain, extensions of time, support from community partner organisations, and arrangements for authorised people to act on behalf of applicants where appropriate.

Part 3. Screening decision

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

A full Equality Impact Assessment is not considered necessary at this stage. The screening has identified minor impacts for some Section 75 categories, including religious belief, age, men and women generally, and disability. These impacts are largely positive or can be addressed through the way the scheme is operated, including accessible application routes, clear communications, flexibility around evidence and time limits, support from community partner organisations, and arrangements for authorised people to act on behalf of applicants where appropriate.

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 - please provide details.

No alternative policy is considered necessary at this stage. The screening has not identified any major adverse impact that would require the policy to be replaced or subject to a full Equality Impact Assessment. The minor impacts identified can be mitigated through the design and operation of the scheme.

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

N/A

Mitigation

Can the policy/decision be amended or changed or an alternative policy introduced to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations?

No alternative policy is considered necessary at this stage,

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

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)

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.

The Redress Service will monitor the operation of the scheme to identify any adverse impact and to support future planning and policy development. Point-of-use monitoring should include, where appropriate and proportionate, information on the Section 75 categories of applicants, application outcomes, withdrawals, appeals, requests for additional information, use of support services, requests for accessible formats or reasonable adjustments, extensions of time, and complaints or feedback.

Monitoring will help identify whether particular groups experience barriers in accessing the scheme or different outcomes. This may include older applicants, disabled applicants, applicants from different religious or community backgrounds, people from minority ethnic backgrounds, people living outside Northern Ireland and those who require support to apply.

The information gathered will be reviewed during implementation and used to consider whether any further mitigation is needed. If monitoring identifies evidence of adverse impact

or unequal access, the policy and operational arrangements can be reviewed and amended where appropriate.

Part 5 - Approval and authorisation

Screened by: Stephanie Higbee

Position/Job Title: G7 Truth Recovery

Date: 30.06.26

Approved by: Martin Carey

Position/Job Title: Programme Director

Date: 9.7.26

Note: A copy of the Screening Template, for each policy screened should be 'signed off' and approved by a senior manager responsible for the policy, made easily accessible on the public authority's website as soon as possible following completion and made available on request.