



Screening

Policy scoping

Information about the policy

Name of the policy – Employee Representative Group policy
Is this an existing, revised or a new policy? New Policy

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

The Employee Representative Group (ERG) exists to:

- Provide a structured, inclusive forum for employee voice and consultation.
- Highlight and address workplace issues, ideas, and concerns.
- Support engagement, wellbeing, diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Strengthen two-way communication between employees and leadership.
- Contribute to continuous improvement and positive workplace culture.

Are there any S75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy? If so, explain how.

Yes. All categories as policy aims to support engagement, equity, diversity and inclusion.

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

ICRIR Director of People and Culture.

Who owns and who implements the policy?

The Commission owns the policy, reflecting its organisational values and compliance with legal frameworks such as the Equality Act 2010 and Northern Ireland's equality legislation.

Implementation factors

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

- Regular review will help maintain relevance and effectiveness.
- Clear communication and consistent application across directorates are essential to avoid confusion or inequity.

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/trade unions, other, please specify:

The policy applies to the following groups:

- Staff

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

What are they?

Code of Conduct

Who owns them?

The Commission owns our policies.

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.

1. Age:

Northern Ireland's workforce generally reflects an aging population, with approximately 18% of the population being over 65 and about 20% under 15. In the public sector, the average age of employees is typically between 35–55. Age-related issues in employment could include older employees facing challenges in adapting to new technologies or younger employees feeling underrepresented in leadership roles.

Surveys from sources like the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) show concerns about intergenerational fairness and age-based discrimination in the workplace, including opportunities for younger workers to access training and promotions, and challenges older workers may face when adapting to evolving work practices.

ICRIR has the remit to investigate deaths and serious injuries related to the Troubles/Conflict in the period between 1 January 1966 and 10 April 1998 which caused serious physical or mental harm.

A victim or survivor can request that the Commission investigates an incident involving a serious injury to them.

A close family member of the deceased can ask the Commission to investigate an incident involving a death.

Given the time period in which these deaths or serious crimes occurred, Requesting Individuals are likely to be older than the general population.

Within ICRIIR, a proportion of staff are semi-retired or have retired from previous employment.

2. Disability:

According to the NISRA, around 21% of Northern Ireland's population lives with a disability. This percentage increases with age. Requesting Individuals who have themselves suffered serious harm as a result of a serious injury related to the Troubles / Conflict will be more likely than the general public to be living with a disability. Within the ICRIIR workforce approximately 15% have declared a disability

3. Gender reassignment:

Data on individuals who have undergone or are undergoing gender reassignment is scarce due to privacy concerns. However, estimates suggest that around 1% of the UK population identifies as transgender or non-binary.

4. Marriage and civil partnership:

The most recent Northern Ireland Census shows a declining trend in marriage rates, with more people opting for civil partnerships or remaining single.

Northern Ireland Census 2021 data shows a decline in marriage rates, with 42% of adults married, 11% divorced, and an increasing number of people opting for civil partnerships or remaining single.

5. Pregnancy and maternity:

Northern Ireland typically sees around 23,000 births annually, with significant policy efforts around maternity leave and returning to work. The UK Government's Annual Population Survey indicates that 75% of women in Northern Ireland return to work after maternity leave, but disparities in career progression remain.

6. Race (Including colour, nationality, and ethnic or national origin):

Around 98% of Northern Ireland's population identifies as white, with 2% belonging to minority ethnic groups (e.g., Black, Asian, Mixed). The 2021 Census data also revealed growth in the minority ethnic population. Within the time period in which the deaths and serious harm which the ICRIR can investigate occurred, the percentage of the population which identifies as white was even higher.

7. Religion or belief:

Northern Ireland is traditionally split between those identifying as Protestant (around 42%) and Catholic (about 41%), with increasing numbers identifying as having no religion or other religions.

8. Sex and sexual orientation:

Sexual orientation data indicates around 2% of the population identifies as LGB (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual) based on NISRA's Continuous Household Survey.

9. Political opinion (Northern Ireland specific):

The political landscape in Northern Ireland is unique, with political opinions often aligning with religious or national identity. Political affiliations in Northern Ireland often correlate with religious and national identity, with Unionists (typically Protestant) and Nationalists (typically Catholic) making up the largest groups. However, no precise statistics on political opinions are routinely collected due to sensitivities surrounding this information.

Sources for gathering data:

- Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA)
- Equality Commission for Northern Ireland (ECNI)
- UK Office for National Statistics (ONS)
- Internal Equality Data

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?

Age: NISRA and Internal data shows an aging workforce;

Disability: 15% of workforce lives with a disability; policy supports wellbeing .

Gender reassignment: Limited data; policy applies equally and includes wellbeing protections.

Marital status: Neutral impact; policy applies regardless of marital status.

Pregnancy and maternity: Supports rest and wellbeing; aligns with maternity protections.

Racial group: Policy applies equally; no differential impact identified.

Religious belief: Neutral impact; policy is operational and not belief based.

Sex and sexual orientation: Policy supports fair treatment and wellbeing for all genders and orientations.

Political opinion: Neutral impact; policy is operational and not politically aligned.

Dependents: Policy applies equally; no differential impact identified.

Part 2. Screening questions

Introduction

1. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy for each of the Section 75 equality categories?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Age**:

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

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Marital status**:

Details of impact? Minor / Major / **None**

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Sexual orientation**:

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

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Men and women**:

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

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Disability**:

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

Details of the likely policy impacts on **Dependants**:

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

2. **Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories?** Yes through representation on the group
3. **To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?**

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. **Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?** No. The policy is operational and not designed to influence intergroup relations.

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?

These staff have the opportunity to be represented on the Employee Representative Group.

Part 3. Screening decision

Screening outcome:

Decision: Screened out, no equality impact assessment required. This policy does not adversely affect any of the 9 groups.

Mitigation

Approval and authorisation

Screened by:

Senior HR Business Partner

Date: 8 January 2026

Approved by:

Director of People and Culture

Date: 16 February 2026

Approved by:

People Committee

Date: 16 February 2026