

Equality Screening Template for Conflicts of Interest Policy

Date: November 2024

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LNI Policy Screening Template

Part 1. Policy Scoping

Information about the policy

Name of the policy Conflicts of Interest Policy (2025 Review)
Is this an existing, revised or a new policy? Reviewed/Revised
What is it trying to achieve? (intended aims/outcomes) The purpose of this policy, and the associated guidance, is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• provide a framework for managing actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest in a consistent and transparent manner• protect the integrity of Libraries NI's decision-making processes• enable stakeholders to have confidence in the integrity of the organisation; and• protect the integrity and reputation of individual Board Members and staff.
Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy? If so, explain how. The Policy offers the same benefits to all persons who may be members of the Board of Libraries NI irrespective of their status in relation to section 75 categories.
Who initiated or wrote the policy? Board Members and staff must discharge their duties in a manner that is honest, fair and unbiased and ensure that decision-making is open and transparent and is seen to be so. Actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest can lead to doubt about the integrity of the organisation. A conflict of interest that is not declared, even if unintentionally, or is managed poorly, creates, at best, a risk of allegations or perceptions of misconduct. It could potentially result in more serious consequences, such as disciplinary action against the individual or litigation against the organisation and severe reputational damage

Who owns and who implements the policy?

The policy is owned and managed by the Libraries NI Director of Business Support.

Implementation Factors

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

NO

If yes, are they

☐

financial

☐

legislative

☐

**other, please
specify** _____

Main stakeholders affected

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

☒

staff

☐

service users

☐

other public sector organisations

☐

Voluntary/community/trade unions

☒

Other, please specify Members of the Libraries NI Board.

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

In addition to fulfilling a legislative requirement this policy contributes to the support of the organisations overall governance framework.

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

Section 75 category	Details of evidence/information
Religious belief	As the policy applies to and impacts on all section 75 categories in a fair and consistent manner no qualitative and quantitative evidence has been gathered to inform this policy
Political opinion	As above
Racial group	As above
Age	As above
Marital status	As above
Sexual orientation	As above
Men women generally	As above
Disability	As above
Dependants	As above

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? Specify for each of the section 75 categories.

Section 75 category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
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Religious belief	The Policy applies fairly and consistently to all members of staff and persons using our facilities irrespective of religious belief
Political opinion	The Policy applies fairly and consistently to all members of staff and persons using our facilities irrespective of political opinion
Racial group	Where necessary the Policy may require to be translated into alternative languages.
Age	The Policy applies fairly and consistently to all members of staff and persons using our facilities irrespective of age
Marital status	The Policy applies fairly and consistently to all members of staff and persons using our facilities irrespective of marital status
Sexual orientation	The Policy applies fairly and consistently to all members of staff and persons using our facilities irrespective of sexual orientation
Men women generally	The Policy applies fairly and consistently to all members of staff and persons using our facilities irrespective of gender
Disability	Need to consider use of different formats when communicating the Policy in order to allow a full understanding of the Policy to be gained
Dependants	The Policy applies fairly and consistently to all members of staff and persons using our facilities irrespective of dependants

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	Details of policy impact	Level of impact? Minor/major/none
Religious belief		None
Political opinion		None
Racial group	Provided consideration is given to those whose first language is not English	None
Age		None
Marital status		None
Sexual orientation		None
Men women generally		None
Disability	Provided consideration is given to the needs of disabled persons	None
Dependants		None

2 Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equality categories?		
Section 75 category	If yes, provide details	If no, provide reasons
Religious belief		The Policy does not impact on the equality of opportunity for this category
Political opinion		The Policy does not impact on the equality of opportunity for this category
Racial group	By addressing language needs and translation of any relevant material	
Age		The Policy does not impact on the equality of opportunity for this category
Marital status		The Policy does not impact on the equality of opportunity for this category
Sexual orientation		The Policy does not impact on the equality of opportunity for this category
Men women generally		The Policy does not impact on the equality of opportunity for this category
Disability	The Policy reflects the current legislative provisions. Libraries NI will take into account the needs of those with disabilities, including consideration of the use of different formats when communicating	
Dependants		The Policy does not impact on the equality of opportunity for this category

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		
Section 75 category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact Minor/major/none
Religious belief	None	None
Political opinion	None	None
Racial group	None	None

4 Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?		
Section 75 category	If yes, provide details	If no, provide reasons
Religious belief		The scope of the Policy does not offer the opportunity to promote good relations.
Political opinion		As Above
Racial group		As Above

Additional considerations

Multiple identity

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

As the Policy applies fairly and consistently to all members of staff and persons using our facilities irrespective of their membership of a particular section 75 category the issues of multiple identity is already covered in the previous responses.

Part 3. Screening decision

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

The Policy does not have any adverse impact on any of the Section 75 categories - provided proper consideration is given to those who may have particular needs e.g. staff with a disability or those who do not speak English as a first language - it is designed to comply with a wider NI Assembly legislative requirement aimed at maintaining appropriate governance arrangements for those in public office.

If the decision is not to conduct an equality impact assessment consider if the policy should be mitigated or an alternative policy be introduced.

The Policy addresses a statutory duty and as such cannot be mitigated or replaced by an alternative.

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

Not applicable

Mitigation

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

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

Not applicable

Timetabling and prioritising

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)
Effect on equality of opportunity and good relations	N/A
Social need	N/A
Effect on people's daily lives	N/A
Relevance to a public authority's functions	N/A

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 in timetabling. Details of the Equality Impact Assessment Timetable should be included in the quarterly Screening Report.

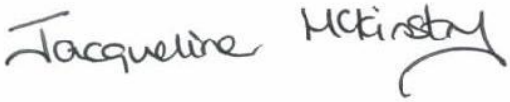
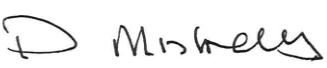
Is the policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities?

If yes, please provide details:

Part 4. Monitoring

Compliance with the requirements of the policy will be monitored at a local(individual facility) level

Part 5. Approval and authorisation

Screened by:	Position/Job Title:	Date:
	Head of Human Resources	6/11/2024
Approved by:		
	Director of Business Support	6 November 2024

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 website as soon as possible following completion and made available on request.