

Housing Executive: Policy Screening

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 writer work through the screening process on a step by step basis.

Name of the policy

Electrical Safety Policy

Information about the policy (General Context Statement)

This Policy sets out the requirements, roles and responsibilities within the Northern Ireland Housing Executive for the achievement of electrical safety and adherence to statutory requirements and best practice.

Is this an existing, revised or a new policy?

(Please mark an 'X' where appropriate)

Existing	Revised	New
	X	

What is it trying to achieve? (Intended Aims/Outcomes)

The overall objectives of this Policy are:

1. To ensure the health, safety and welfare of the tenants, staff, visitors, contractors and others within NIHE properties as far as reasonably possible.
2. To ensure, along with the Periodic Testing and Inspection Policy, the electrical safety of fixed installations in all properties owned or managed by the NIHE and that it is inspected and maintained at defined frequencies to minimise the risk of fire, injury and / or death to a person and damage to property
3. To ensure along with the Periodic Testing and Inspection Policy, that all properties will have a valid Electrical Installation Condition Report and any properties identified as not having a valid Electrical Installation Condition Report are properly accounted for
4. To ensure the safe operation of lightning protection systems through regular tests and maintenance
5. To ensure regular testing of portable appliances in non-domestic premises to enable safe operation by staff and any other users
6. To ensure that any other electrically powered equipment and / or installations which are the responsibility of the NIHE are regularly inspected / tested and maintained

Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy?

If so, explain how.

Not Applicable.

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

Graham Reid, Building Services Manager

Who owns and who implements the policy?

Building Safety (formerly Compliance/Health& Safety, Asset Management)

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 mark an 'X' where appropriate)	
	Financial
	Legislative
	Other (Please Specify) :

Main stakeholders affected

Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the policy will impact upon?	
(Please mark an 'X' where appropriate and detail as necessary)	
X	Staff
X	Service Users, Customers
	Other Public Sector Organisations
	Voluntary/Community/Trade Unions
	Other (Please Specify) :

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

What are they?

General Health and Safety Policy

Who owns them?

Compliance/Health& Safety, Asset Management

Available evidence

Evidence to help inform the screening process may take many forms. Policy Writers should ensure that their screening decision is informed by relevant data.

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

Section 75 category	Details of evidence/information
Religious belief	This is a technical policy with little bearing on equality of opportunity.
Political opinion	
Racial group	
Age	
Marital status	
Sexual orientation	
Men and women	
Disability	
Dependants	

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 details for each of the Section 75 categories that are affected.

Section 75 category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
Religious belief	This is a technical policy with little bearing on equality of opportunity. The needs and experiences have no relationship with equality issues. They are purely technical and of a health and safety nature. However, were a communication issue is identified because of a disability or a different language Equality Bulletin 45 (Guidelines for Using Communication
Political opinion	
Racial group	
Age	

Section 75 category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
Marital status	Support Services for People Needing Language Support and Alternative Formats for People with Disabilities) will be utilised.
Sexual orientation	
Men and women	
Disability	
Dependants	

Part 2 - Screening questions

Please see guidance below for further information

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? minor/major/none		
Section 75 category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact? minor/major/none
Religious belief	This is a technical policy with little bearing on equality of opportunity.	None
Political opinion		
Racial group		
Age		
Marital status		
Sexual orientation		
Men and women		
Disability		
Dependants		

2. Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories?		
Section 75 category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide reasons
Religious belief		This is a technical policy with little bearing on equality of opportunity.
Political opinion		

2. Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories?		
Racial group		
Age		
Marital status		
Sexual orientation		
Men and women		
Disability		
Dependants		

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		
Good relations category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact minor/major/none
Religious belief	This is a technical policy with little bearing on equality of opportunity.	None
Political opinion		
Racial group		

4. Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?		
Good relations category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide reasons
Religious belief		This is a technical policy with little bearing on equality of opportunity.
Political opinion		
Racial group		

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).

N/A

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

Disability Duties:

1. Does this policy affect (or have the potential to affect) disabled people? (Please mark an 'X' where appropriate)

Yes	No
X	

2. If yes, how does this policy pay due regard to the promotion of positive attitudes towards disabled people?

This is a technical policy with little bearing on disability however our staff are trained on disability issues and will accommodate disability issues where necessary. Were a communication issue is identified because of a disability Equality Bulletin 45 (Guidelines for Using Communication Support Services for People Needing Language Support and Alternative Formats for People with Disabilities) will be used.

3. If yes, does this policy provide any opportunity for the engagement of, or participation of any stakeholder representatives? e.g. Housing Community network. (Please mark an 'X' where appropriate)

Yes	No
	X

4. If yes, what efforts have been made to encourage the participation of disabled people?

N/A

Human Rights:

The Screening Team must consider the Human Rights "Convention Checklist" set out below. The Screening Team must be satisfied that the policy does not interfere (unless justified by a legitimate, necessary and/or proportionate aim) with any of the rights listed. On occasion, the Screening Team may require legal advice to assure the Board/CXBC of adequate consideration of Human Rights.

No Human Rights Issues other than the relationship with health and safety.

Additional Human Rights Conventions:

There are many international instruments that the UK Government have made commitments to progressively realise. Some of these impact on housing policy and it is important that when we make policy that we can assure the Board that cognisance of these instruments has been observed. This is particularly important where policies affect or have the potential to affect children and young people and disabled people. The Screening Team may wish to seek additional legal advice or views of representative groups.

Monitoring:

How will this policy be monitored for equality impacts in accordance with the Housing Executive's Equality Scheme?*

As this is a technical policy the requirement to monitor for equality impacts is minimal.

*Guidance available from the Equality Monitoring Officer, Equality Unit.

Part 3 - Screening Team decision

Does this policy require an equality impact assessment? (Please mark an 'X' where appropriate)

Yes	No
	X

Reasons for the decision:

This is a technical policy and sets how the Housing Executive will meet its requirements, roles and responsibilities for the achievement of electrical safety and adherence to statutory requirements and best practice.

Part 4 - Approval and authorisation

Screened by: (Please insert name below)	Position/Job Title	Date
Graham Reid	Building Safety Manager	27/11/22
Lee Duffin	Equality & Safeguarding Manager	18/01/23
Approved by:		
Tony Steed	Head of EDIS	08/02/23