



## 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 following information should be compiled in respect of each policy, strategy and plan which has been developed, adopted, implemented or revised and each public service which has been designed or delivered by the public authority during the reporting period.

<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>	<i>The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to<sup>2</sup>.</i>	<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>The <b>Business and Financial Planning Grant</b> (“BFPG”) is a Covid response intervention that can provide 80% grant assistance, up to £8k, to eligible businesses to engage a consultant to prepare a business plan to aid recovery due to adverse impacts caused by the Covid 19 pandemic.</p> <p>The scheme is targeted at micro, small and medium sized enterprises that are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing Invest NI Client Businesses. This includes Entry, Tracked, Export Opportunity and Account Managed Customers</li> <li>Potential Invest NI Client Businesses that meet the Invest NI qualifying criteria as outlined at <a href="http://investni.com">investni.com</a>*</li> </ul>	<p>Jobs and Employment</p>	<p>The scheme is open to all existing and potential Invest NI Micro / SME Client companies and also Micro / SMEs within the Manufacturing sector. The scheme is not open to large businesses, the majority of which are not situated in rural areas. Given the nature of the programme, it is not envisaged that there will be a disproportionate impact on rural communities.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Locally focussed manufacturers listed under Section C of the Standard Industrial Classification codes**</li> </ul> <p>* <a href="https://www.investni.com/about-us/how-we-support-business">https://www.investni.com/about-us/how-we-support-business</a></p> <p>**<a href="http://resources.companieshouse.gov.uk/sic/">http://resources.companieshouse.gov.uk/sic/</a></p> <p>Applicants must be able to demonstrate that they have had at least 40% reduction in turnover for the quarter April-June 2020 in comparison to the quarter April-June 2019.</p> <p>Application Process: businesses will apply through an online portal. Standard procedures will apply for onboarding non-client businesses.</p> <p>Consultancy process: in advance of applications opening a process will be undertaken to establish an approved list of consultants to undertake the work. The draft process for this is also attached.</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.