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| **INITIAL EQUALITY SCREENING FORM** |
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| DIVISION**:** | Innovation, Research and Development | **TEAM:** | Energy and Resource Efficiency |
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| **Name of Policy/Decision/Practice to be Equality Screened** |
| Energy Efficiency Finance  |
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| **Is it New or Revised?** | New |
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| **Who Does the Policy Effect, e.g Service Users/Staff:** | Service users. |
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| **Question 1** – Define the aim of the Programme or . What is it trying to achieve? (Intended aims/outcomes) |
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| Energy Efficiency Finance aims to support Northern Ireland businesses that are eligible and have eligible projects (achieving cost savings, energy savings and carbon savings), to become more energy efficient, by offering financial support for the installation of energy efficient equipment. Energy Efficiency Finance will provide a grant to businesses, at a rate of up to 50% of the eligible project costs, dependent upon project, business size and available budget. Note there will be a cap on the grant amount. The percentage of remaining costs are incurred by the business applying to Energy Efficiency Finance. The objective of Energy Efficiency Finance support is to incentivise businesses to invest in energy efficient equipment such as; energy efficient lighting, replacement drives or motors, process efficiency investments, upgrades to building and renewable energy technologies, thereby reducing their energy consumption and contributing to the NI Energy strategy of “Delivering energy savings of 25% from buildings and industry by 2030”.Energy Efficiency Finance is a new scheme offering support to client and non-client businesses of Invest NI. The scheme is not connected to the Renewable Heat Incentive. This scheme offers a grant towards the eligible project costs, with the remaining project costs being paid by the business.  Energy Efficiency Finance will be available to customers engaged in industry, business and commerce as defined in the 2002 Industrial Development Act (NI). Energy Efficiency Finance is part of a wider suite of support provided by the Energy and Resource Efficiency Team, which includes; Technical Consultancy, Resource Efficiency Capital Grant and Resource Matching Through Industrial Symbiosis, which have all previously been subject to S75 screening, with no adverse impact upon any of the Section 75 groups. |
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| **Question 2** – Does the Programme or have the potential to have an impact on the promotion of equality impact for any of the Section 75 groupings? (See Question 4 for list of equality groups.) | ~~/~~No |
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| If no go to Question 9 – Rationale for Decision. | If yes please continue. |
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| **Consideration of Available Date/Research** |
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| **Question 3** – What  is there available – statistics or perception – to help you decide who the Programme or might affect the most? i.e. What evidence, qualitative or quantitative, have you gathered to inform your decision making process? |
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| **Assessment of Impact** |
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| **Question 4** – Explain if what you plan to do is likely to be perceived as having a high, medium or low impact upon the 9 Equality groupings according to their needs. Also if what you are planning to do is likely to be perceived as having a positive or negative effect upon the 3 different groups in relation to the promotion of good relations. |
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| **9 Equality Groups** | **Perceived Impact****High – (H)****Medium - (M)****Low – (L)** | **Why this rating?** | **Promotion of Good Relations****(Yes/No)** | **Why this rating?** |
| Religious Belief |       |       | - |       |
| Racial/Ethnic Group |       |       | - |       |
| Political Opinion |       |       | - |       |
| Age |       |       | - |       |
| Gender |       |       | - |       |
| Marital Status |       |       | - |       |
| Sexual Orientation |       |       | - |       |
| Disability |       |       | - |       |
| Dependants |       |       | - |       |
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| **Opportunities to better promote Equality of Opportunity** |
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| **Question 5** – Are there steps which could be taken to reduce any adverse impact upon the Section 75 groups as identified in Question 4? |
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| **Good Relations** |
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| **Question 6** – Is there an opportunity in what you are trying to do to better promote Good Relations between the 3 groupings as identified in Question 4? |
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| **Consultation** |
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| **Question 7** – Tell us about who have talked to about your proposals internally or externally to help you decide if the needs further or no further equality investigation. |
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| Consulted with the equality team.  |
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| **Question 8** – In light of the above should the be |
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| [x]  | Screened Out – No Equality Issues – Please provide rationale for this decision. |
| There is no evidence to suggest that the policy will lead to an adverse impact upon any of the categories. No specific needs identified in relation to this programme. No impact on equality of opportunity has been identified that would require to be screened for a deeper analysis of equality impact.Energy Efficiency Finance will be available to customers engaged in industry, business and commerce as defined in the 2002 Industrial Development Act (NI).   |
| [ ]  | Screened Out with some adjustments. – What adjustments have you made? |
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| [ ]  | Screened In for a deeper level of analysis of what is being considered or intended to be undertaken. (EQIA) – Please provide rationale for this decision. |
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| Signed: | Daniel Purdy  | Date: | 25/08/23 |
|  | Policy /Programme Owner |  |  |
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| Approved | Pamela Marron | Date: | 31/08/23 |
|  | Equality Manager |  |  |
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| Modifications made. | Date: |       |
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| Date: |       |
| Approved by Equality Manager |  |  |