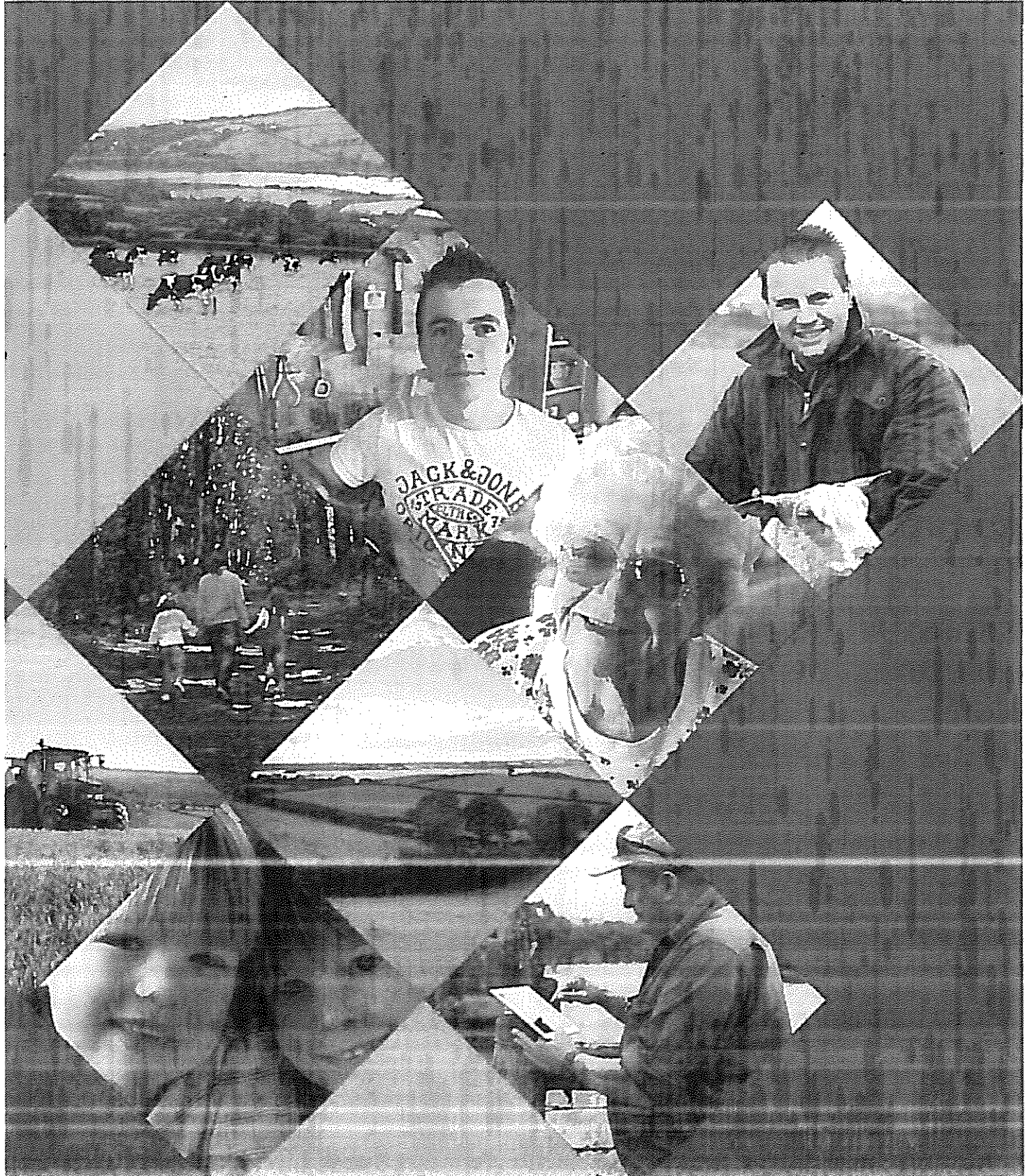


# Rural Needs Impact Assessment



Title of Strategy, Policy, Plan or Public Service:

Name of Organisation:

Invest NI

Title of Strategy, Policy, Plan or Public Service:

Brexit Preparation Grant

### Step 1: Define the Issue

Key questions to consider:

- *What are the objectives of the strategy, policy plan or service?*
- *What impact do you intend it to have in rural areas?*
- *How is 'rural' defined for the purposes of this policy/strategy/service/plan?*
- *What would constitute a fair rural outcome in this case?*

Invest NI recognises that with the scheduled Brexit date set for 29 March 2019 many client companies need to prepare for a range of changes and challenges relating to customs, supply chains, contracts, contingency plans and more to ensure competitiveness and sustainability in the future. Invest NI proposes to introduce the **Brexit Preparation Grant (BPG)** that will offer clients targeted support to plan for the post Brexit environment.

- BPG is being proposed to offer enhanced financial support to assist Clients prepare to operate / compete in the post Brexit environment. Provision of support under BPG will facilitate:-
  - (i) A tactical response to current circumstances;
  - (ii) The mitigation of constraints to growth and competitiveness post Brexit.

Projects to be assisted under BPG must seek to address potential issues arising from the challenges around Brexit and must satisfy Invest NI's intervention principles. BPG will be offered Northern Ireland

## Step 2: Understand the situation

Key questions to consider:

- *What is the current situation in rural areas?*
- *What evidence (statistics, data, research, stakeholder advice) do you have about the position in rural areas?*
- *If the relevant evidence is not available, can this be sourced?*
- *Do you have access to the views of rural stakeholders about the likely impact of the policy?*
- *Are there existing design features or mitigations already in place to take account of*

N/A This new product is being offered to Invest NI client companies irrespective of geographical location. There is no evidence of any specific rural needs or disadvantage at this stage, however we will keep this programme of support under review and where any indication of disadvantage emerges we will adapt its delivery accordingly. The current political uncertainty surrounding Brexit makes more specific anticipation of need more difficult.

### Step 3: Develop and appraise options

Key questions to consider:

- *Are there barriers to delivery in rural areas?*
- *If so, how can these be overcome or mitigated?*
- *Will it cost more to deliver in rural areas?*
- *What steps can be taken to achieve fair rural outcomes?*

N/A This new product is being offered to Invest NI client companies irrespective of geographical location. It is not anticipated to cost more in rural areas and even should this prove to be the case the cost will be met. It is believed that this programme is neutral in terms of rural outcomes.

#### Step 4: Prepare for Delivery

Key questions to consider:

- *Do the necessary delivery mechanisms exist in rural areas?*
- *Have you considered alternative delivery mechanisms?*
- *What action has been taken to ensure fair rural outcomes?*
- *Is there flexibility for local delivery bodies to find local solutions?*
- *Are different solutions required in different areas?*

N/A This new product is being offered to Invest NI client companies irrespective of geographical location, the regional offices will provide support across all of Northern Ireland and thus delivery is ensured for rural needs purposes. The support is tailored to local and individual business need.

## Step 5: Implementation & Monitoring

Key questions to consider:

- *Have you set any rural specific indicators or targets to monitor?*
- *How will the outcomes be measured in rural areas?*
- *Are there any statistics or data that you will collect to monitor rural needs and impacts?*

N/A This is a new product and so no data currently exists, but as stated above, we will monitor delivery and take customer feedback throughout the life time of the programme.

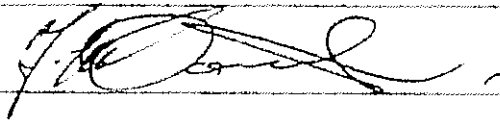


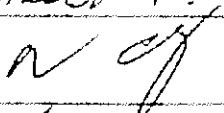
### Step 6: Evaluation & Review

Key questions to consider:

- What processes are in place to evaluate and review the implementation of the policy, strategy, plan or service?
- Have rural needs been factored into the evaluation process?
- How will lessons learned in relation to rural outcomes be used to inform future policy making and delivery?

All product offers of assistance are subject to Invest NI standard monitoring processes with an evaluation carried out after 12 months. Rural needs impact will be considered as part of this evaluation process.

Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:	Frankie McCourt
Position:	Programme Manager
Signature:	Frankie McCourt 
Date completed:	2 Oct 2018

Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:	NINA OREGAN
Position:	DIRECTOR
Signature:	
Date completed:	2/10/18

