

**The Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016**

**Draft Rural Needs Impact Assessment**

**SECTION 1 - Defining the activity subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016**

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| **1A. Name of Public Authority - Department of Health** |

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| **1B. Please provide the official title/ description of the Strategy, Policy, Plan or Public Service document or initiative:** |

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| Proposal to make amendments to the pension rules of the HSC Pension Scheme regarding inflation, update the member contribution tables following the AfC pay award and a number of minor amendments. |

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| **1C. Please indicate which category the activity specified in Section 1B above relates to -** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Developing a: | Strategy |  | Policy |  | Plan |  |
| Adopting a: | Strategy |  | Policy |  | Plan |  |
| Implementing a: | Strategy |  | Policy |  | Plan |  |
| Revising a: | Strategy |  | Policy | x | Plan |  |
| Designing a Public Service |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Delivering a Public Service |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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| **1D. Please provide the aims and/or objectives of the Strategy, Policy, Plan or Public Service:** |

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| The proposed amendments seek to change the pension rules regarding inflation, aligning timings to ensure annual allowance measure only the growth that occurs above inflation. They also seek to update the member contribution tables following the Agenda for Change pay award that was announced and a number of other technical amendments which will allow the HSC Pension Scheme to operate correctly. |

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| **1E. Which definition of ‘rural’ is the Public Authority using in respect of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?:** |

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Population Settlements of less than 5,000 (Default definition)

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Other Definition (Provide details and the rationale below)

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| x |

A definition of ‘rural’ is not applicable[[1]](#footnote-1)

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| **SECTION 2 – Understanding the impact of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service** |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Yes |  | No | x |   **2A. Is the Policy, Strategy Plan or Public Service likely to impact on people in rural areas?**  **Please explain:** |

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| The amendments are being applied to HSC Pension Scheme members of the HSC Pension Scheme regardless of location. |

**If the response is NO after entering explanation GO TO Section 3**

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| **2B. If the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently from people in urban areas, please explain how it will impact people in rural areas differently:** |

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| No |

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| **2C. Please indicate the rural policy areas the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on (see list at note 1):** |

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| --- |
| None |

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| **SECTION 3 – Identifying the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas** |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **3A. Has the Public Authority taken steps to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas that are relevant to the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?**   |  | | --- | |  | | x |   **Yes**  **No Please explain:** |

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| The amendments are related to the HSC Pension Scheme and will be applied across all of its members.  No Rural impacts were identified. |

**If the response is NO please explain above and GO TO Section 4**

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| **3B. Please indicate which methods or information sources were used to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas (see note 2 for examples) and provide details including relevant dates, names of organisations, titles of publications, website references, details of surveys or consultations undertaken etc:** |

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| **3C. Please provide details of the social and economic needs of people in rural areas which have been identified:** |

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| **SECTION 4 – Considering the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas** |

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| **4A. Please provide details of the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas identified by the Public Authority:** |

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| No consideration necessary as the amendments do not change or impact disproportionally anything in relation to persons living in rural areas. |

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| **SECTION 5 – Influencing the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service** |

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| **5A. Has the development, adoption, implementation or revision of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, been influenced by the rural needs identified?**   |  | | --- | |  | | x |   **Yes**  **No Please explain:** |

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| No rural needs have been identified. |

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| **SECTION 6 – Documenting and Recording** |

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| |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **6A. I confirm that details of the Rural Needs Impact Assessment will be recorded on the Public Authority’s Annual Monitoring Return and the RNIA Template retained by the Public Authority (**please check box**)** |  | |  | | --- | | x | | |

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| **Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:** | **Jenna Allen** |
| **Position / Grade:** | **DP** |
| **Division/Branch** | **Pension Policy Unit** |
| **Signature:** | **Jenna Allen** |
| **Date:** | **16/01/2023** |
| **Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:** | **Siobhán McKelvey** |
| **Position / Grade:** | **G7** |
| **Division / Branch** | **Pension Policy Unit** |
| **Signature:** | **Siobhán McKelvey** |
| **Date:** | **25/01/2023** |

**Note 1**

**Rural Policy Areas (relates to question 2C):**

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| --- | --- |
| * Rural Businesses * Rural Tourism * Rural Housing * Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas * Education or Training in Rural Areas * Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas | * Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas * Health or Social Care Services in Rural Areas * Poverty in Rural Areas * Deprivation in Rural Areas * Rural Crime or Community Safety * Rural Development * Other (Please specify) |

**Note 2**

**Examples of methods or information sources used (relates to question 3B):**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * Consultation with Rural Stakeholders |  | * Published Statistics |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| * Consultation with Other Organisations |  | * Research Papers |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| * Surveys or Questionnaires |  | * Other Publications |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| * Other Methods or Information Sources (include details) | | |  |

1. *If a definition of ‘rural’ is not applicable, the policy is unlikely to fall under the scope of the Act and you should be able to screen out at this stage* [↑](#footnote-ref-1)