

# **Appendix C**

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

### **Rural Needs Impact Assessment Template**

(April 2018)



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

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

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

The Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (General) (Fitness to Practise and Disqualification) and (Continuing Professional Development) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2023

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

Developing a:	Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adopting a:	Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Implementing a:	Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Revising a:	Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Designing a Public Service		<input type="checkbox"/>				
Delivering a Public Service		<input type="checkbox"/>				

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

The policy aim is to ensure that all pharmacists have a sufficient knowledge of the English language to enable them to practise safely and effectively in Northern Ireland. The policy will provide further assurance to patients and pharmacy service users that pharmacists can practise safely.

The regulations will introduce new provisions requiring a person who wishes to be registered with the Society to satisfy the Registrar that they have the necessary knowledge of English for safe and effective practise. The regulations will also introduce a new ground for fitness to practise proceedings of not having the necessary knowledge of English.

Although all applicants and registrants must be able to show that they have sufficient knowledge of English for safe and effective practice, the evidence which can be used to demonstrate their language competence may vary depending on where the person qualified or has worked as a pharmacist.



[Empty rectangular box]

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

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

Other Definition (Provide details and the rationale below)

[Empty rectangular box for providing details and rationale]

A definition of 'rural' is not applicable<sup>1</sup>

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

**2A. Is the Policy, Strategy Plan or Public Service likely to impact on people in rural areas?**

Please Yes  No  explain:

The regulations will apply equally to all pharmacists practising or applicants seeking to practise in Northern Ireland regardless of location. Rural areas will not experience any adverse impact due to these regulations.

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

**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:**

[Empty rectangular box for explaining differential impact]

<sup>1</sup>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



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



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

**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?**

Yes

No

Please explain:

No specific exercises have been carried out that solely focused on the social and economic needs of those people in rural areas.

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

**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:**

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



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

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:

No issues identified.

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

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?

Yes

No

Please explain:

No rural needs identified.



## SECTION 6 – Documenting and Recording

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)

<b>Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:</b>	<b>Aislinn McAlister</b>
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<b>Division/Branch</b>	<b>WPD</b>
<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Aislinn McAlister</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>03/07/2023</b>
<b>Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:</b>	<b>Peter Barbour</b>
<b>Position / Grade:</b>	<b>Assistant Director</b>
<b>Division / Branch</b>	<b>WPD</b>
<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Peter Barbour</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>03/07/2023</b>

### Note 1

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

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