



Section 75 Policy Screening Form

Part 1: Policy Scoping

The first stage of the screening process involves scoping the policy or policy area. The purpose of policy scoping is to help prepare the background and context and set out the aims and objectives for the policy being screened. At this stage, scoping the policy will help identify potential constraints as well as opportunities and will help the policy maker work through the screening process on a step by step basis.

You should remember that the Section 75 statutory duties apply to internal policies (relating to people who work for the authority), as well as external policies (relating to those who are, or could be, served by the authority).

Information about the policy

Name of the policy or policy area:

**Investment in Amateur Boxing in the North of Ireland, through IABA
(2012-15)**

Is this an existing, revised or a new policy/policy area?

Existing	Revised	New
		X

This funding operates within existing Sport Northern Ireland's framework for providing capital and revenue investment in recognised sports through the offices of the sport's governing body. In this case, the recognised governing body is the Irish Amateur Boxing Association (IABA). Funding has been made available through the SNI Lottery Budget.

Brief Description

In response to an on-going dialogue at that time between DCAL and Sport Northern Ireland regarding the future development of amateur boxing, in 2011 Sport Northern Ireland was asked to prepare a Ministerial briefing outlining the information relating to the sport of amateur boxing in the Northern of Ireland (see Appendix 1). In Section 7 of this briefing, Sport Northern Ireland recommended that the Minister may consider commissioning a business case for funding the infrastructure required for the future development of the sport.

On the 17 August 2011, the DCAL Minister suggested to Sport Northern Ireland that she was content for Sport Northern Ireland to take forward this piece of work, but also indicated that capital funds were likely to be limited and that assistance may have to come from within existing budgets.

Sport Northern Ireland then explored funding opportunities and further to legal advice (see Appendix 2), made a proposal that Lottery funding could be a vehicle that could be used to provide all necessary support to the programme as defined by the business case prepared by Sport Northern Ireland (see Appendix 3).

Sport Northern Ireland developed a business case for an investment of £3.29m of Lottery funds into amateur boxing within Northern Ireland. The business case was based on the IABA Strategic Plan 2011-2016 and the Ulster Provincial Boxing Council Implementation Plan and identified two main areas for investment into the sport:

- Provision of equipment
- Capital development to include both minor and major redevelopment / new build projects.

In addition the business case also supported the employment of a Club Development Manager to work specifically with individual clubs to improve their governance, financial and coaching systems. Please note the post was not to be funded from the Lottery budget.

The measurable objectives of the preferred option within the business case are:

1. To develop and implement a capital funding Programme to ensure there is adequate equipment and ancillary facilities in up to 83 boxing clubs over the period 2012-2015, in line with the following indicative levels of support:
 - Up to 67 clubs to receive funding for new Equipment;
 - Up to 16 clubs to receive funding for premises repair; and
 - Up to 14 clubs to receive funding for new club Facilities.
2. To provide additional resources to the UBC that will ensure the capacity exists for clubs to avail of capital funding opportunities over the period 2012-2015;
3. To increase member participation by 10% from 1,995 boxers to 2,195 boxers by 2015;
4. To increase female participation by 20% from approximately 219 boxers to approximately 263 boxers by 2015;
5. To contribute to improved longer term outcomes of social regeneration of deprived communities and improvements in the health and mental well-being of local community by 2020.

This business case was approved by the Council in May 2012.

What is it trying to achieve? (intended aims and outcomes)

Operating within available resources and according to best practice procurement procedures, to provide appropriate levels of capital and revenue support for amateur boxing within Northern Ireland, in order to help promote and sustain the future of the sport for all.

Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy?

YES	NO	N/A
X		

If YES, explain how.

Yes.
According to the original Ministerial Briefing (see Appendix 1), although many of the clubs are located in areas deemed to have a high social need and in areas associated with a single tradition, the vast majority of clubs have a 'cross community' membership. Boxing is viewed by many as a sport that can reach into parts of the community that are not generally accessible by other sports. Work undertaken by those within the sport in 'bridging the social divides' has been recognised by many.

Who initiated or wrote the policy?

Further to on-going dialogue with the DCAL Minister regarding the future of boxing, Sport Northern Ireland explored possible funding opportunities for the programme, as set out in the business case (see Appendix 2). The funding proposal was set out in Sport Northern Ireland's Business Plan which was approved by Sport Northern Ireland's Board on 15/8/2012.

Who owns and who implements each element of the policy?

Sport Northern Ireland will oversee the management of the funding and procurement process

Implementation factors

Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision?

YES	NO	N/A
X		

If YES, are they

Financial: YES (If YES, please detail)

While the business case for boxing may be strong, this case has to be considered alongside competing demands from across the sporting community in Northern Ireland. With this in mind, although the business case identified a total need of £4.892m, Sport Northern Ireland made a decision to invest £3.27m from existing Lottery budget streams.

Legislative: Y / N (If YES, please detail)

As the proposed size of this targeted investment in boxing was likely to be exceptional, in keeping with previous large investments of this type (e.g. investment in Active Communities), the business case was subject to close scrutiny in order to confirm that it would be appropriate to use Lottery funding for this specific purpose. Legal opinion confirmed that Lottery funding could be used for this purpose.

Other, please specify:

Political – the particular focus on investment in boxing was highlighted initially by SNI, who identified the needs of boxing clubs. The DCAL Minister was supportive of this approach as it was in-line with the Programme for Government (2011-2015) and DCAL Corporate Strategy 2011 - 2015.

Main stakeholders affected

Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the policy will impact upon?

Staff:

All Sport Northern Ireland staff and Board members.

Service users:

All those with an interest in amateur boxing in the North of Ireland, and including: competitors, officials and supporters, DCAL and other Government Department, Sport Northern Ireland, Irish Amateur Boxing Association and Ulster Provisional Boxing Council.

Other public sector organisations:

Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Voluntary/community/trade unions:

Boxing clubs, Olympic Council of Ireland and Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Council.

Other, please specify:

Local, regional and national media and democratically elected representatives at a local, regional and national level.

Other policies with a bearing on this policy

What are they and who owns them?

The planned investment was informed by all policies and procedures operated by Sport Northern Ireland to ensure that sport investments are carried out fairly and according to good governance procedures.

Available evidence

Evidence to help inform the screening process may take many forms. You should ensure that the screening decision is informed by relevant data.

What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy? Specify details for relevant Section 75 categories.

Section 75 Category	Details of Evidence/Information
ALL	<p>The following internal and external data sources have been used to inform this screening exercise and relate to all nine s75 grounds:</p> <p>Sport Matters: The Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation, 2009 – 2019.</p> <p>SNI Corporate Plan EQIA 2012 - 2015</p> <p>SNI Business Plan 2012-13</p> <p>SNI Equality Action Plan 2012</p> <p>Irish Amateur Boxing Association Strategy 2011-16</p> <p>Ulster Provisional Boxing Council Implementation Plan (including SIA research) 2011 – 2016.</p> <p>Sport Northern Ireland Business Case for Investment in Amateur Boxing, 2012-15.</p> <p>National Lottery Distribution Guidance Notes</p>

Needs, experiences and priorities

Taking into account the information referred to above, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories, in relation to the particular policy/decision? Specify details for each relevant Section 75 category.

Section 75 Category	Details of Needs/Experiences/Priorities
ALL	<p>One aim of all SNI investment in sport is to ensure that sport is developed for all and that it is inclusive. This investment is designed to address physical infrastructure deficiencies within boxing facilities and through this to increase participation and improve sporting performance. It is recognised that boxing has a reputation for bridging social divides, in particular within disadvantaged communities, Sport Northern Ireland has been made aware of tensions between clubs of different community backgrounds and has made offers to help resolve these tensions. The issues have attracted considerable political and media attention in recent months especially in light of assertions that boxers of different community background may be more or less advantaged by affiliation with IABA¹. The IABA is an all-island organisation, which currently has no constitutional links with UK governing bodies.</p>

¹ Sport NI continues to operate a policy of recognising only one governing body per sport. This policy was put in place to help promote good relations within sport and avoid divisions. In the case of Amateur boxing the recognised governing body is the IABA.

Part 2: Screening Questions

Introduction

1. If the conclusion is **none** in respect of all of the Section 75 categories, then you may decide to screen the policy **out**. If a policy is 'screened out', you should give details of the reasons for the decision taken.
2. If the conclusion is **major** in respect of one or more of the Section 75 categories, then consideration should be given to subjecting the policy to an EQIA.
3. If the conclusion is **minor** in respect of one or more of the Section 75 categories, then consideration should still be given to proceeding with an EQIA, or to measures to mitigate the adverse impact; or an alternative policy.

In favour of a 'major' impact

- a) The policy is significant in terms of its strategic importance;
- b) Potential equality impacts are unknown, because, for example, there is insufficient data upon which to make an assessment or because they are complex, and hence it would be appropriate to conduct an EQIA;
- c) Potential equality and/or good relations impacts are likely to be adverse or are likely to be experienced disproportionately by groups of people including those who are marginalised or disadvantaged;
- d) Further assessment offers a valuable way to examine the evidence and develop recommendations in respect of a policy about which there are concerns among affected individuals and representative groups, for example in respect of multiple identities;
- e) The policy is likely to be challenged by way of judicial review;
- f) The policy is significant in terms of expenditure.

In favour of 'minor' impact

- a) The policy is not unlawfully discriminatory and any residual potential impacts on people are judged to be negligible;
- b) The policy, or certain proposals within it, are potentially unlawfully discriminatory, but this possibility can readily and easily be eliminated by making appropriate changes to the policy or by adopting appropriate mitigating measures;
- c) Any asymmetrical equality impacts caused by the policy are intentional because they are specifically designed to promote equality of opportunity for particular groups of disadvantaged people;
- d) By amending the policy there are better opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

In favour of none

- a) The policy has no relevance to equality of opportunity or good relations.
- b) The policy is purely technical in nature and will have no bearing in terms of its likely impact on equality of opportunity or good relations for people within the equality and good relations categories.

Taking into account the earlier evidence, consider and comment on the likely impact on equality of opportunity / good relations for those affected by this policy, by applying the following screening questions and the impact on the group i.e. minor, major or none.

Screening questions

1 What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 grounds? Minor/Major/None		
Section 75 Category	Details of Policy Impact	Level of Impact? Minor/Major/None
Religious belief	<p>Boxing is recognised as a sport that attracts cross-community membership and competition, although clubs tend to be based within local communities that are often predominantly single identity. Investment in clubs that have an affiliation with the IABA will have a positive effect on both communities.</p> <p>Historically, the IABA as an all-Ireland body has encouraged affiliated clubs, and hence their members, to represent Ireland and not Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Where an individual member of a club that is affiliated to the IABA should choose to compete for Great Britain and Northern Ireland then at the present time there is no mechanism by which he or she can achieve this aspiration. By providing funding through the IABA as the sport's recognised governing body then Sport Northern Ireland may be disadvantaging those who would regard themselves as Unionist and British and are predominantly Protestant.</p>	<p>Minor (positive)</p> <p>Major (negative)</p>
Political opinion	<p>Historically, the IABA as an all-Ireland body has encouraged affiliated clubs, and hence their members, to represent Ireland and not Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Where an individual member of a club that is affiliated to the IABA should choose to compete for Great Britain and Northern Ireland then at the present time there is no mechanism by which he or she can achieve this aspiration. By providing funding through the IABA as the sport's recognised governing body then Sport Northern Ireland may be disadvantaging those who would regard themselves as Unionist and British and are predominantly Protestant.</p>	<p>Major (negative)</p>

Racial group	<p>Historically, the IABA as an all-Ireland body has encouraged affiliated clubs, and hence their members, to represent Ireland and not Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Where an individual member of a club that is affiliated to the IABA should choose to compete for Great Britain and Northern Ireland then at the present time there is no mechanism by which he or she can achieve this aspiration. By providing funding through the IABA as the sport's recognised governing body then Sport Northern Ireland may be disadvantaging those who would regard themselves as Unionist and British and are predominantly Protestant.</p> <p>There is evidence to indicate that boxing attracts considerable support from minority ethnic communities (e.g. Irish Travellers), and hence appropriate investment will have a positive impact on members of these communities.</p>	<p>Major (negative)</p> <p>Minor (positive)</p>
Age	While competitors tend to be below the age of 30, those involved in boxing, including coaches, administrators and officials, a wide variety of ages.	None
Marital status	n/a	n/a
Sexual orientation	Not known	None
Men and women generally	Further to the 2012 Olympics women's boxing has become increasing popular and a growing number of women are taking up the sport. Any investment will encourage this trend and hence will increase women's participation in sport generally.	Major (positive)
Disability	New facilities will be developed mindful of accessibility and disability legislation.	Major (positive)
Dependants	n/a	None

2 Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within any of the Section 75 categories?		
Section 75 Category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide reasons
Religious belief /Political opinion	Investment in the sport must have due regard to the fact that most clubs are located in areas of single identity. At the same time competitions present an opportunity for bridging social divides.	
Race	Minority ethnic group members may benefit from increased investment in the sport.	
Gender	The growing number of women boxers will benefit from this investment.	
Disability	Facilities will be more accessible for those with a disability	

3 To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group? Minor/Major/None		
Good Relations Category	Details of policy impact	Level of impact Minor/Major/None
Religious belief	At the present time there are high profile differences within amateur boxing attaching to community background. These differences are attracting considerable political and media interest. Notwithstanding these concerns, amateur boxing as a sport is recognised as having the potential to bridge social divides and the future investment programme should proceed mindful of this potential but also with a recognition as to how the policy can be used to help address these differences. Working in conjunction with the IABA and UPBC, Sport Northern Ireland is keen to continue to explore	Minor (positive)

	positive ways to address these differences and promote good relations.	
Political opinion	See above	Minor (positive)
Racial group	Further investment in amateur boxing may help engage with those sportspeople from minority ethnic backgrounds and including Irish travellers	Major (positive)

4 Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?		
Good relations category	If Yes , provide details	If No , provide reasons
Religious belief / Political Opinion	Through the careful management of the investment programme, by Sport Northern Ireland working along with the IABA and UPBC, it is hoped that good relations can be promoted and better relations established between clubs. This will require the full cooperation of the boxing clubs.. Given the effectiveness of the policy in addressing contentious issues across all sports in the past, Sport Northern Ireland will continue to operate a policy of only recognising one governing body per sport and hence only clubs that are affiliated to the IABA will be eligible for support. Sport Northern Ireland will work with the IABA, County Boards and the UPBC to find ways to promote the sport for the benefit of all citizens of Northern Ireland.	

Additional considerations

Multiple identity

Generally speaking, people can fall into more than one Section 75 category. Taking this into consideration, are there any potential impacts of the policy/decision on people with multiple identities?

(For example; disabled minority ethnic people; disabled women; young Protestant men; and young lesbians, gay and bisexual people).

Young Protestant men and women from predominantly single identity communities may feel that investment in IABA affiliated clubs could disadvantage them as they may aspire to represent Northern Ireland or Great Britain and Northern Ireland, rather than Ireland.

Provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned.

Young Protestant men and women - The recent report (September 2012) from Sandy Row Amateur Boxing Club, highlighting incidents of perceived sectarianism within the sport over the previous decade.

Part 3: Screening Decision

In light of your answers to the previous questions, do you feel that the policy should: (please underline one):

1. Not be subject to an EQIA (with no mitigating measures required)
2. Not be subject to an EQIA (with mitigating measures /alternative policies)
3. Not be subject to an EQIA at this time
- 4*. **Be subject to an EQIA**

If 1. or 2. (i.e. not be subject to an EQIA), please provide details of the reasons why:

If 2. (i.e. not be subject to an EQIA), in what ways can identified adverse impacts attaching to the policy be mitigated or an alternative policy be introduced?

In light of these revisions, is there a need to re-screen the revised/alternative policy at a future date? YES

If YES, when & why?

If 3. or 4. (i.e. to conduct an EQIA), please provide details of the reasons:

At this time, while the proposed investment will benefit all those clubs and members involved with amateur boxing in Northern Ireland, this benefit will only accrue where the club is affiliated to the recognised governing body for amateur boxing, the IABA. It is recognised that this affiliation may have the potential to cause difficulties for certain community members and continued investment in the sport through the offices of the IABA may create statutory difficulties for Sport Northern Ireland in relation to both Section 75 and Section 76 (by inciting the IABA to discriminate on grounds of religious belief / political opinion through the investment programme). Sport Northern Ireland commits to working with the IABA to help address these difficulties while at the same time proceeding with the development of the Boxing Investment Programme. An EQIA may help to identify any significant adverse impacts that may attach to the proposed funding programme, and Sport Northern Ireland commits to working in partnership with DCAL to bring forward this EQIA in a timely and appropriate manner.

Timetabling and Prioritising EQIA

If 3. or 4., is the policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities? YES

If YES, please provide details:

The timing of this investment programme will be contingent on other investments made through Lottery, and the DCAL Strategy for Sport.

Please answer the following questions to determine priority for timetabling the EQIA. On a scale of 1-3, with 1 being the lowest priority and 3 being the highest, assess the policy in terms of its priority for EQIA.

Priority criterion	Rating (1-3)
Effect on equality of opportunity and good relations	3
Social need	2
Effect on people’s daily lives	1
Relevance to a public authority’s functions	2

Note: The Total Rating Score should be used to prioritise the policy in rank order with other policies screened in for EQIA. This list of priorities will assist you in timetabling the EQIA. Details of your EQIA timetable should be included in the quarterly Section 75 report.

Proposed date for commencing EQIA: To be discussed with DCAL

Any further comments on the screening process and any subsequent actions?

Part 4: Monitoring

Effective monitoring will help identify any future adverse impacts arising from the policy which may lead you to conduct an EQIA, as well as help with future planning and policy development. You should consider the guidance contained in the Commission’s Monitoring Guidance for Use by Public Authorities (July 2007). The Commission recommends that where the policy has been amended or an alternative policy introduced, then you should monitor more broadly than for adverse impact (See Benefits, P.9-10, paras 2.13 – 2.20 of the Monitoring Guidance).

Please detail proposed monitoring arrangements below:

Should the funding programme be put in place then Sport Northern Ireland will continue to monitor those who take part in the sport through these clubs and venues using its existing and extensive monitoring procedures.

Part 5: Approval and Authorisation

Screened by:	Position/Job Title	Date
Approved by:		

Note: A copy of the Screening Template, for each policy screened should be ‘signed off’ and approved by a senior manager responsible for the policy, made easily accessible on your website as soon as possible following completion and made available on request.

