



Appendix 2 - Template for Information to be Compiled

Information to be compiled by Public Authorities under Section 3(1)(a) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.

(To be completed and included in public authorities' own annual reports and submitted to DAERA for inclusion in the Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Report).

Name of Public Authority:

Southern Health and Social Care Trust

Reporting Period:

April 20 19 to March 20 20

The Trust is committed to its reporting and monitoring obligations in accordance with Rural Needs Act (NI) (2016). The Trust has carried out the following activity to comply with and mainstream the duties.

- The Trust's Senior Management Team has been briefed to ensure ownership of these duties at strategic level. The definition of "rural" (the default definition for the public sector has been adopted) and was agreed by the Trust.
- The Directorate of Performance & Reform is responsible for central co-ordination of the monitoring report on behalf of the Trust.
- HSC Trusts have worked collaboratively to ensure the rural needs assessment template is user-friendly and relevant to HSC business. The key components of the template issued by DAERA have been used in compliance with the legislative obligations.
- Advice and guidance is provided on the Trust's Sharepoint site to raise awareness and support staff when completing rural needs assessments.
- To ensure effective mainstreaming the Trust's mandatory policy development process includes a section on requirements relating to the Rural Needs Act.

- This Annual Monitoring report on rural needs has been considered by Trust Board before submission to DAERA and monitoring information in this report will be included in the Trust’s Annual Report

The Trust is committed to promoting and upholding its duties in relation to the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 and will have due regard to rural needs in the development of all our policy and public service delivery decisions. The Trust is mindful that the level of ‘regard’ due will depend on the circumstances and, in particular, on the relevance of rural needs to the decision or function in question. The greater the relevance and potential impact for people in rural needs, the greater the regard required by the duty. In the table below, the Trust has provided detail on those policies which were considered as having a bearing on rural needs and therefore subject to a rural needs assessment. In preparing this monitoring template the Trust considered policies in respect of the social and economic needs of persons in rural areas and for the majority, no rural needs were identified. Many of these policies are clinical or technical in nature and have no bearing on rural needs. In the interests of openness and transparency, the Trust has provided the following hyperlinks to S75 equality screenings of Trust policies.

[Southern Trust Equality Policies screened](#)

The following information should be compiled in respect of each policy, strategy and plan which has been developed, adopted, implemented or revised and each public service which has been designed or delivered by the public authority during the reporting period.

<i>Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016¹.</i>	<i>The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to².</i>	<i>Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service³.</i>
NIL		

NOTES

1. This information should normally be contained in section 1B of the RNIA Template completed in respect of the activity.
2. This information should normally be contained in section 2D of the RNIA Template completed in respect of the activity.
3. The information contained in sections 3D, 4A & 5B of the RNIA Template should be considered when completing this section.