



Public Consultation

Draft Planning Policy Statement 16

Tourism

November 2010

How to give your views

You are invited to send your views on this Draft Planning Policy Statement, PPS16 'Tourism'.

Comments should reflect the structure of the document as much as possible with references to paragraph numbers where relevant.

All responses should be made in writing and emailed to:

planning.policy@doeni.gov.uk

or by post to:

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The consultation period will end on 25 March 2011

Draft PPS16 is available on the Planning Service website :
www.planningni.gov.uk or can be obtained by telephoning (028) 9025 6568,
textphone at (028) 9054 0642 or by writing to the above address.

This document is available in alternative formats; please contact us to discuss your requirements.

In keeping with our policy on openness, the Department may make responses to this consultation document publicly available upon request.

At the end of the consultation period the Department will consider all comments received, following which the draft document will be amended if necessary and, subject to Executive approval, published in final form.

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Preamble

The Department of the Environment (the Department) is responsible for planning control in Northern Ireland. The Planning Service, an Agency within the Department, administers its development management and development plan functions and is responsible for the regulation of development and land use.

The Department has a statutory duty, laid down in Article 3 of the Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1991, to formulate and co-ordinate policy for securing the orderly and consistent development of land and for the planning of that development. The Department is required to ensure such policy is in general conformity with the Regional Development Strategy.

The Department's planning policies are normally issued through Planning Policy Statements (PPS) and PPS 1 'General Principles' advises that:

"Planning Policy Statements set out the policies of the Department on particular aspects of land-use planning and apply to the whole of Northern Ireland. Their contents will be taken into account in preparing development plans and are also material to decisions on individual planning applications and appeals."

This Planning Policy Statement, PPS 16 'Tourism' sets out the Department's planning policy for tourism development and also for the safeguarding of tourism assets. It seeks to facilitate economic growth and social well-being through tourism in ways which are sustainable and compatible with environmental welfare and the conservation of important environmental assets. It embodies the Government's commitment to sustainable development and to the conservation of biodiversity.

When issued in final form, the policies of this Statement will supersede Tourism Policies SP10 and TOU 1 to TOU 4 of the Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland (PSRNI) and also policy CTY 1 of PPS 21 as it relates to tourism development and the tourism policies of PSRNI. The policies of this Statement will also supersede Coastal Policies CO 5 , 6 and 7 of PSRNI and also those elements of the remaining coastal policies insofar as they relate to tourism development or the protection of tourism assets from inappropriate development. Where the above policies are referred to elsewhere in PSRNI , the policies of this statement will take precedence.

The PPS has been subjected to an equality impact screening exercise in line with the statutory obligation contained in Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. The outcome of this exercise indicates that the PPS is unlikely to have significant adverse implications for equality of opportunity or community relations.

Nothing in this document should be read as a commitment that public resources will be provided for any specific project. All proposals for expenditure by the Department are subject to economic appraisal and will also have to be considered having regard to the overall availability of resources.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Tourism is defined by the World Tourism Organisation (WTO) as comprising the activities of persons travelling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes. The WTO further explains that “Tourism” refers to all activities of visitors including both “tourists (overnight visitors)” and “same-day visitors”. This definition has been adopted by the UK Government and the WTO definition of tourism is therefore used for the purpose of the PPS.
- 1.2 Tourism encompasses a very wide range of activities. It can include travel and visits for business, professional and domestic purposes as well as for holidays and recreation. Often, more than one purpose may be involved. The duration of tourist trips is also highly variable as it can include the annual family holiday as well as a wide range of shorter visits, weekend breaks and day trips. Tourism is therefore an extremely diverse form of activity which is subject to changing trends in the types, distribution and duration of tourist activity.
- 1.3 Tourism makes an important contribution to the Northern Ireland economy in terms of the revenues it generates, the employment opportunities it provides, and the potential it creates for economic growth. In 2005 Northern Ireland tourism supported 41,000 jobs (5.2% of total jobs) and contributed £889 million to the economy, this representing 3.7% Gross Value Added (GVA) to the economy. Tourism spending helps to support a wide range of economic activities. As well as direct spending on holiday accommodation and use of tourist amenities, tourism plays an important role in helping to support the viability of many local suppliers, services and facilities. It improves assets and provides infrastructure for local people and tourists, supports the vibrancy of Northern Ireland’s culture and heritage, and sustains communities.
- 1.4 Tourism is important in both urban and rural areas in Northern Ireland. Through utilising existing historical, cultural and geographic assets, it can be a key economic driver capable of stimulating further growth and development opportunities. In towns and cities tourism can contribute positively to urban regeneration. In rural areas tourism is important to the development of the rural economy and offers, for example, opportunities for farm diversification to supplement farm incomes or for broader rural diversification capable of providing employment. Tourism also has the potential to contribute to meeting broader government commitments aimed at relieving poverty and enhancing social inclusion in areas subject to problems of this type.
- 1.5 The land use planning system has a key role in managing tourism-related development through planning policies that provide a framework for identifying appropriate development opportunities and safeguarding tourism assets from harmful development. The planning system also has a role in securing high quality design and integrating tourism provision with necessary infrastructure. In discharging these functions the planning system will ensure that such development is sustainable and achievable without damaging those qualities

in the environment which are of acknowledged public value and on which tourism itself may depend.

2.0 Policy Context

Programme for Government

2.1 The Northern Ireland Executive's first Programme for Government (PfG), published in January 2008 sets out its plans and priorities for 2008-2011. Economic growth is stated as the Executive's top strategic priority. Improving the strength of the tourism sector is seen as an important element in this and the PfG provides the overall economic context for tourism policy in Northern Ireland. Under the PfG, funding has been made available to allow Northern Ireland to achieve enhanced tourism potential and targets have been set to grow tourism revenue by 40% and visitor volumes by 25%. Realising these targets will result in increasing the number of out-of-state tourists visiting Northern Ireland each year to 2.5million by 2011 from a baseline of 1.98 million in 2006 and increasing tourism revenue from out-of-state visitors to £520 million by 2011 from a baseline of £370 million in 2006.

Northern Ireland Tourism Strategy 2020

2.2 The Tourism Strategic Framework for Action 2004-2007 (SFA) set out priorities for tourism in Northern Ireland up to 2007. Since then much has changed both in terms of global trends in tourism and Northern Ireland as a destination presenting new opportunities for how a destination is developed, managed and promoted. These factors coupled with ongoing concerns such as the relatively low level of market share compared with competitor destinations and low levels of tourist spend have prompted a review of tourism strategy. The outcome of this is the government's Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland 2020 (TSNI) published in draft form in March 2010. The TSNI is intended to provide a vision and strategic direction for the development of Northern Ireland's tourism industry to 2020 and to achieve the commitment of the main stakeholders to a jointly owned and funded plan for action. The strategy includes new targets for increasing earnings from tourism from £536 million to £1 billion by 2020 and increasing visitor numbers from 3.2 million to 4.5 million by 2020.

Regional Development Strategy for Northern Ireland 2025

- 2.3 The Regional Development Strategy 2025 (RDS) published in 2001 and reviewed in 2008 provides an overarching strategic framework and spatial context for development plans and planning policies. By statute all new plans and policies must be in general conformity with the RDS.
- 2.4 Supporting the growth of tourism in Northern Ireland is one of two major economic development themes of the RDS. The RDS identifies the importance of tourism growth to economic and social development as follows :
- Increase in the contribution of tourism to the regional economy
 - The spreading of benefits across the region

- The role of tourism as a component of regeneration and local economic development
- The role of tourism in assisting with the diversification of the rural economy
- The role of tourism as a component in targeting social need

2.5 The RDS theme in supporting the growth of tourism is underpinned by three strategic planning guidelines set out in the first five year review, which provide a broad regional policy framework for tourism development in Northern Ireland, as follows :

- SPG-ECON 7 - To promote a sustainable approach to the provision of tourism infrastructure
- SPG-ECON 8 - To enhance and develop the 'distinctiveness' of the Region as a key element of its tourism product
- SPG-ECON 9 - To build a competitive advantage

2.6 The RDS aims to support the growth of tourism by increasing the potential of existing major tourism assets to attract international travellers and to meet their expectations. It also aims to exploit niche market potential, for example business tourism and cultural tourism, with a view to building competitive advantage in these sectors within Northern Ireland. In striving to meet these aims the emphasis of the RDS is on sustainable tourism development whereby economic and social benefits will be realised without detriment to the important natural and cultural resources on which tourism depends.

Other Government Strategies

2.7 In preparing this PPS, account has been taken of a number of other Government strategies.

Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy

2.8 The Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy sets out the Executive's commitment to conserve and enhance biodiversity in the region up to 2016. It calls for conservation of biological diversity to be fully integrated into policy making and proposes supportive measures for the period 2001-2016. In relation to tourism, the Strategy recognises that the maintenance of biodiversity can be seen as protecting an important economic resource. The potential for damage to fragile habitats through inappropriate tourism development is also highlighted. The Strategy recommends the integration of sensitivity zones and carrying capacity estimates into all Strategic and Area planning of tourism development.

'Everyone's Involved': Sustainable Development Strategy

2.9 Published in May 2010, the Northern Ireland Executive's Sustainable Development Strategy provides a policy framework intended to support and inform the decisions and actions taken by individuals, groups and organisations in progressing the sustainability agenda in Northern Ireland. The

document contains a commitment to publish an Implementation Plan setting out targets relating to the achievement of strategic objectives and identifying departments with responsibility for leading progress on each target. The SDS identifies sustainable development as a cross-cutting theme which underpins the Executive's strategic priorities and requires its effective integration into policy-making at all levels of government.

Transportation Policy

- 2.10 The Government's transport policy set out in the Regional Transport Strategy 2002-2012 is committed to greater integration of transport with land use planning in order to support more sustainable transport choices and reduce the need to travel. The Strategy encourages development to be sited where there is a choice of transport and the location is not dependent predominantly on access by car. Decisions on the location of tourism development likely to generate a significant volume of traffic should therefore take account of access to services and the overall need to reduce travel.

Rural Strategy

- 2.11 The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) Rural Strategy, published in October 2006, seeks to provide a broad strategic direction and framework for rural development policy in Northern Ireland and to facilitate a co-ordinated and co-operative approach to rural development over the period 2007-2013. Key themes include diversification of the rural economy, the protection of the rural environment and the need to sustain rural communities. In addition, DARD's Strategic Plan 2006-2011 seeks to strengthen the social and economic infrastructure of rural areas as well as the development of a more sustainable environment. The EU Rural Development Programme is intended to regenerate rural areas through the implementation of six key measures, one of which includes tourism. The diversification of the rural economy through sustainable tourism is therefore a key strand of rural policy in Northern Ireland.

Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion Strategy

- 2.12 The Government's Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion Strategy ('Lifetime Opportunities') was published by the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister in 2006. It outlines a set of long term goals and targets to work towards eliminating poverty and social exclusion in Northern Ireland by 2020. Public policy in general is expected to take account of anti-poverty / social inclusion considerations, for example through enabling disadvantaged groups and communities to benefit from better access to employment opportunities.

3.0 Policy Objectives

3.1 The aim of this Planning Policy Statement (PPS) is to manage the provision of sustainable and high quality tourism developments in appropriate locations within the built and natural environment.

3.2 The objectives of this statement are to:

- facilitate sustainable tourism development in an environmentally sensitive manner;
- safeguard tourism assets from inappropriate development ;
- utilise and develop the tourism potential of settlements by facilitating tourism development of an appropriate nature, location and scale;
- sustain a vibrant rural community by supporting tourism development of an appropriate nature, location and scale in rural areas ;
- ensure a high standard of quality and design for all tourism development.

4.0 The Role of Development Plans

- 4.1. Development plans set out how future development will be accommodated in the plan area over the plan period within the overarching strategic framework provided by the RDS.
- 4.2. The preparation of a development plan provides a key opportunity for planning authorities to consider how best to facilitate the growth of sustainable tourism in their areas.
- 4.3. There should be early consultation between the plan team and district councils, relevant government departments and other key agencies such as the Northern Ireland Tourist Board to assess potential and to identify opportunities and constraints relating to tourism development. This will, where relevant, assist in the formulation of a balanced tourism development strategy tailored to the needs and assets of the particular locality. Such a strategy could incorporate:
 - how future tourism demand is best accommodated ;
 - the safeguarding of key tourism assets
 - the identification of potential growth areas and activities ;
 - environmental considerations resulting from tourism development ;
 - the contribution of tourism to economic development, conservation and urban regeneration.
- 4.4. The extent to which a development plan engages in the preparation of a tourism development strategy and the associated tourism policies that flow from it is largely a matter for local determination and may depend upon existing or anticipated levels of tourism activity in the plan area or the identification of locally important tourism issues.
- 4.5. Plans will also need to consider how certain requirements of regional tourism policy as set out in PPS 16 are to be addressed locally, for example in regard to the safeguarding of tourism assets or the identification of suitable sites for new or large scale extensions to static holiday parks.

5.0 Consultation

- 5.1 In discharging its development management and plan functions relating to tourism development, the planning authority will ensure adequate and proportionate consultation with relevant bodies. Where a proposal is of regional importance it may be appropriate to consult with the Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment (DETI) and the Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB). This will allow informed consideration as to whether such a proposal is of genuine benefit for regional tourism, for example assisting in the realisation of the government's Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland. In consulting local councils on tourism applications, it will be important for the planning authority to secure responses that indicate the extent to which individual proposals will meet the objectives of a tourist development plan for which the Council is responsible.

6.0 Planning Policies

In exercise of its responsibility for planning control in Northern Ireland the Department assesses development proposals against all planning policies and other material considerations that are relevant to it.

The planning policies of this Statement must therefore be read together and in conjunction with the relevant contents of development plans and other planning policy publications, including the Regional Development Strategy. The Department will also have regard to the contents of published supplementary planning guidance documents.

The following policies set out the main considerations in assessing proposals for tourism development including tourist amenities and tourist accommodation. They also deal with the safeguarding of tourism assets. The provisions of these policies will prevail unless there are other overriding policy or material considerations that outweigh them and justify a contrary decision.

TSM 1

Safeguarding of Tourism Assets

Planning permission will not be granted for development within the visual setting of a tourism asset that would in itself or in combination with existing and approved development in the locality have an adverse impact on its value as a tourism asset.

This policy provides for the safeguarding of all tourism assets, including those which are subject to protection for other reasons under various legislative or policy instruments and those which are not subject to such protection.

Justification and Amplification

- 6.1 For the purposes of this statement, a tourism asset is defined as any feature associated with the built or natural environment which is of intrinsic interest to tourists.
- 6.2 The safeguarding of tourism assets from unnecessary, inappropriate or excessive development is a vital element in securing a viable and sustainable tourism industry. To allow such development could damage the intrinsic character and quality of the asset and diminish its effectiveness in attracting tourists.
- 6.3 There are many diverse features or combinations of features associated with the natural and built heritage in Northern Ireland which are of intrinsic interest to tourists.
- 6.4 Some tourism assets are already subject to protection from inappropriate or excessive development through statutory designation, existing planning policy, or development plans and sometimes by a combination of all of these measures. This policy is intended to complement such measures in the specific interests of tourism while affording protection to other undesignated environmental assets on the basis of their tourism value alone.

TSM 2

Tourism Development in Settlements

Planning permission will be granted for a proposal for tourism development (including a tourist amenity or tourist accommodation) within a settlement; provided it is of a nature appropriate to the settlement, respects the site context in terms of scale, size and design, and has regard to the specified provisions of a development plan.

Justification and Amplification

- 6.5 Tourism can be beneficial for urban areas and help to deliver development that is sustainable. It can support existing services and facilities such as retail, catering, entertainment, leisure, and transport as well as promoting a sense of urban vitality. In specific locations tourism can provide a focus for regeneration schemes or may be a key component of mixed use development. Conversely, towns and cities often provide opportunities for tourism to flourish. Tourism benefits from the synergy arising through the concentration of hotels, museums, art galleries, conference facilities, restaurants, bars, cinemas and theatres, often within town centres. Larger settlements, as transport hubs are also readily accessible by tourists.
- 6.6 While the policy will provide for tourism development within settlements, account will be taken of the nature, size, scale and design of the development and its impact on the appearance and character of the surrounding area and neighbouring residential amenity. Consideration will also be given to development plans, which may preclude tourism development from particular areas within settlements, for example through alternative land use zonings or designations safeguarding the integrity of specific sites such as those of nature conservation importance.

TSM 3

Tourism Development in the Countryside

Proposals for tourism development in the countryside will be permitted in accordance with the provisions of the following policies:

- **Tourist Amenities – Policy TSM 4**
- **Hotels – Policy TSM 5**
- **Multiple / Clustered Self Catering Units – Policy TSM 6**
- **Holiday Parks (Static Caravan, Chalet and Camping Parks) – Policy TSM 7**
- **Touring Caravan Sites – Policy TSM 7**

PPS 21 ‘Sustainable Development in the Countryside’

- **Tourism proposals associated with farm diversification schemes – Policy CTY 11**
- **Tourism proposals associated with Dispersed Rural Communities – Policy CTY 2**
- **Proposals involving the conversion and re-use of existing non-residential buildings for tourism purposes – Policy CTY 4**

PPS 4 ‘Planning and Economic Development’

- **Tourism proposals involving the redevelopment of an established economic development use in the countryside – Policy PED 4 (pending publication of PPS 4)**

All other proposals for tourism development in the countryside will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances.

Justification and Amplification

- 6.7 The Department is committed to facilitating opportunities for economic development and diversification in the countryside while maintaining and, where possible, enhancing the quality of the rural environment for local people and visitors. Tourism can provide opportunities for rural communities and may be especially important

to the local economy in more remote rural areas. However, tourism in rural areas is dependent upon pleasant and attractive countryside and a good quality environment to a greater extent than most forms of economic activity. Accordingly, the Department's general approach is to secure a sustainable balance with regard to tourism development in the countryside. This is essential for tourism to flourish and hence for rural communities to benefit from this form of economic activity.

- 6.8 Farm diversification, the re-use of rural buildings¹ and appropriate redevelopment and expansion schemes for tourism purposes will usually offer the greatest scope for sustainable development in the countryside.
- 6.9 Proposals for new buildings for tourism use will be considered where there is a functional need for a countryside location or where it is demonstrated that there is no opportunity within nearby settlements. However, there is a need, in the interests of rural amenity, wider sustainability objectives and tourism itself, to carefully manage the level of new building on greenfield sites outside settlements. In most cases, a new tourism development located on the fringes of a settlement will be preferable to one in the open countryside remote from a settlement, as this is likely to be a more sustainable option.

¹ Planning policy for farm diversification and proposals for the conversion and reuse of existing buildings in the countryside is contained in PPS 21

TSM 4

Tourist Amenities in the Countryside

NEW PROPOSALS

Planning permission will be granted for a tourist amenity in the countryside where it is demonstrated that:

- a) it is in association with and requires a site at or close to a particular tourism attraction located in the countryside ,
Or
- b) the type of tourist activity in itself requires a countryside location.

Proposals brought forward under circumstance (b) must demonstrate that there is no suitable site at the edge of a nearby settlement.

All proposals that include buildings must make provision in existing or replacement buildings, where possible.

Where a proposed tourist amenity is of regional importance or is otherwise significant in terms of the extent of new build or the scale of engineering operations it must demonstrate substantial benefit to regional tourism as well as sustainable benefits to the locality. Such applications must be supported by a tourism benefit statement and a sustainable benefit statement.

EXTENSION of an EXISTING TOURIST AMENITY

A proposal for the extension of an existing tourist amenity will be permitted where the scale and nature of the proposal does not harm the rural character or appearance of the local area.

Where possible, such proposals will be expected to be accommodated through the conversion, reuse or extension of existing buildings on site, unless it can be demonstrated that this is not a feasible option. In circumstances where the planning authority accepts a new or replacement building it should be sited and designed so as to integrate with the overall development.

Any conversion, extension or new building should respect the scale, design and materials of the original building(s) on the site and any historic or architectural interest they may have.

Justification and Amplification

- 6.10 A tourist amenity is defined by the Tourism (NI) Order 1992 as an amenity, facility or service provided primarily for tourists², but does not include tourist accommodation.
- 6.11 In order to promote sustainable tourism development and secure optimum levels of tourist spend, it is important that new tourist amenities are focused in settlements.
- 6.12 However tourist amenities are diverse in terms of their nature, scale and function and not all proposals will be suited to an urban location. For example, there may be a functional need for facilities associated with a mountain bike trail to be located in the countryside. A visitor centre may have a specific functional need to be located in close proximity to the particular countryside attraction it is intended to serve. The policy therefore provides for tourist amenities in the countryside where the tourism activity and associated facilities require a rural location in terms of their functional or site / area specific requirements.
- 6.13 The impact of proposals on rural character and landscape is an important consideration in their assessment, particularly within areas designated for their landscape, natural or cultural heritage qualities.
- 6.14 In order to facilitate assessment of regionally significant or large scale proposals, applications must be accompanied by a tourism benefit statement to demonstrate the value of the proposal in terms of tourism revenue and employment opportunity and also how it will further the aims of the Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland 2020. The planning authority will refer such proposals to the Northern Ireland Tourist Board for comment in regard to tourism benefit.
- 6.15 Regionally significant or large scale proposals are also required to deliver sustainable benefit to the rural locality and applications must be accompanied by a sustainable benefit statement to demonstrate such merits. Relevant considerations are set out in Appendix 3.

² Proposals providing for outdoor recreation, sport or other open space use in the countryside will be assessed under PPS 8 'Open Space , Sport and Outdoor Recreation', unless it is demonstrated that the primary use is for tourists.

TSM 5

Hotels in the Countryside

NEW HOTELS

Planning permission will be granted for a new hotel in the countryside in the following circumstances and will be assessed under the specified criteria:

Circumstances

- (a) The redevelopment of an existing rural building ;**
- (b) A new build proposal outside a village or smaller rural settlement**

Redevelopment of an Existing Rural Building

A firm proposal to redevelop an existing building in the countryside for a hotel will be permitted where it is demonstrated that all the following criteria are met:

- the building is of permanent construction;**
- the existing building and its replacement are both of sufficient size to facilitate use as a hotel**
- the existing building is not capable of conversion to a hotel at reasonable cost;**
- the redevelopment proposed will result in significant environmental benefit;**
- the overall size and scale of the new hotel development, including car parking and ancillary facilities, will allow it to integrate into the surrounding landscape and will not have a visual impact significantly greater than the existing building;**
- the design is of high quality, appropriate to the rural setting and has regard to local distinctiveness;**
- access, car parking and other necessary services are available or can be provided without significant adverse impact on the environment, the appearance and character of the locality and road safety.**

New Build Hotel outside a Village or Smaller Rural Settlement

A firm proposal to develop a hotel on land outside a village or smaller rural settlement will be permitted where it is demonstrated that all the following criteria are met:

- **there is no suitable site within the settlement or other nearby settlement;**
- **there are no opportunities in the locality to provide a hotel either through
(a) the conversion and re- use of a suitable building(s) Or
(b) the redevelopment of a suitable building(s);**
- **the development is clearly associated with the settlement, but will not dominate it, adversely affect landscape setting, or otherwise contribute to urban sprawl.**

Where the principle of a new hotel outside of a village or smaller rural settlement is established through meeting the above criteria, the planning authority will apply a sequential locational test, with preference being attributed to sites in the following order:

- **land adjacent to the existing settlement limit, subject to amenity and environmental considerations;**
- **a site close to the settlement limit which currently contains buildings or where the site is already in a degraded or derelict state and there is an opportunity to improve the environment;**
- **an undeveloped site close to the settlement where the development could be visually integrated into the landscape.**

Any proposed change of use of a hotel approved under this policy to a non tourism use will be resisted, unless it is demonstrated that:

- (a) the hotel is not viable in the long term, and**
- (b) there is sufficient alternative hotel provision in the locality to offset the loss of tourism benefit.**

EXPANSION of EXISTING HOTELS

A proposal for the expansion of an existing hotel development will be permitted subject to the following specific criteria:

- (a) new or replacement building(s) are subsidiary in terms of scale to the existing building(s) and will integrate as part of the overall development;**

(b) any extension or new building should respect the scale, design and materials of the original building(s) on the site and any historic or architectural interest the original property may have.

Justification and Amplification

Redevelopment of an existing rural building

- 6.16 The potential for the conversion and re-use of suitable rural buildings for tourism uses, including use as a hotel, will be assessed under PPS 21. Redevelopment of an appropriate building(s) for hotel use, will be favourably considered in circumstances where the environmental benefit of full or partial replacement will outweigh the retention and conversion of the building. The condition of the building and the economic feasibility of repairing and maintaining it will also be taken into account in assessing such proposals. Good design is of paramount importance and redevelopment proposals must be sensitive to the rural setting and local distinctiveness.

New Build Hotel outside a Village / Small Settlement

- 6.17 New hotels should be located within settlements in order to take advantage of existing services and facilities, provide ready access for visitors and employees and to minimise the impact on rural amenity and character. It is envisaged that there will be sufficient capacity in larger settlements such as towns and cities through the operation of the development plan process in providing for general development needs.
- 6.18 However, it is important that firm proposals for such projects are not impeded due to a lack of suitable land within smaller settlements. Where the case for a location outside of a village or small settlement can be clearly demonstrated, the selected site should be as close to the settlement as possible, subject to amenity and environmental considerations, as this is usually more sustainable than a more remote site.
- 6.19 A proposal must also respect the character of the settlement and its setting in the surrounding landscape. This in turn will require careful site selection, layout, design and landscaping. Development which individually or cumulatively mars a clear distinction between built-up areas and the surrounding countryside or creates urban sprawl will be unacceptable. A proposal for development which is over-dominant in relation to the size and character of the settlement will

also be resisted. Proposals which are deemed to be acceptable in principle will be required to include sufficient mitigation measures, including landscaping and design, to ameliorate any negative impacts and secure higher quality development.

- 6.20 To allow informed consideration all applications made under this policy will be expected to be accompanied with the following information:
- evidence to indicate how firm or realistic the particular proposal is and what sources of finance are available, including any grant aid, to sustain the project (business case),
 - clear demonstration, with reference to alternatives, that there is no suitable site within the settlement, or other nearby settlements,
 - justification for the particular site chosen and illustrative details of the proposed design and site layout,
- 6.21 The flexibility allowed for under this policy is intended to cater for firm proposals for sustainable tourism development in situations where there is no opportunity for a hotel within a village or smaller rural settlement. The grant of planning permission will not in itself allow for inappropriate alternative uses if an approved scheme for some reason does not go ahead. While the planning authority cannot require business enterprises which become uneconomic to continue, alternative land uses will only be approved if there is sufficient hotel accommodation in the locality to provide for tourism benefit in line with published government tourism strategy. The planning authority will consult with NITB in making this assessment.

TSM 6

Self Catering Accommodation – New Multiple or Clustered Self Catering Units in the Countryside

Planning approval will be granted for self catering units of tourist accommodation where they form a cluster of at least three units, and in one of the following circumstances:

- (a) the units are located within the grounds of an existing hotel or a proposed hotel that is acceptable in principle;**
- (b) the units are to be provided at or close to an existing or proposed tourist amenity that is / will be a significant visitor attraction in its own right;**
- (c) the restoration of an existing clachan or close, subject to the retention of the original layout of buildings and spaces and the use of original proportions, materials, finishes and boundary treatment.**

In either circumstance (a) or (b) above, self catering clusters are required to be subsidiary in scale and ancillary to the primary tourism use of the site.

Where a cluster of self catering units is proposed in conjunction with a proposed or approved hotel and / or tourist amenity, a condition will be attached to the permission preventing occupation of the units before the primary tourism use is provided and fully operational.

All permissions for self catering accommodation will include a condition requiring the units to be used for short term (maximum of 3 consecutive months in any one calendar year) holiday letting accommodation only and not for permanent residential accommodation.

The overall design of the self catering scheme, including layout, the provision of amenity open space and the detailed design of individual units, must deter permanent residential use. To this end, permitted development rights in respect of plot boundaries will also be removed.

Justification and Amplification

- 6.22 This policy provides for clusters of built units providing self catering tourist accommodation in the countryside at locations where there is a commitment to tourism development in the form of an existing or approved tourist amenity and / or a hotel. This can create synergy with the existing tourism enterprise enhancing its usage and attractiveness to tourists. Further, through focusing self catering development in existing nodes of tourism activity, random development throughout the countryside is avoided, thereby safeguarding the value of tourism assets.

- 6.23 Where self catering units are permitted on the basis of an associated hotel or tourist amenity, it is imperative that the primary tourism use which provides the justification is in place and functioning, before the units become operational. The policy therefore requires a condition to be attached to approvals to this effect. Exceptionally, such a condition may not be attached by the planning authority in circumstances where self catering units are to be provided in association with a tourist amenity, such as a golf course, which has a long lead in time prior to it becoming operational. However, this exception will only be applied where there is no hotel or other element of the overall development proposal that could provide a revenue source during the lead-in time required for the tourist amenity.
- 6.24 This policy requires that approved self catering units are retained in tourism use and not used for permanent residential accommodation or second homes. This will ensure that tourist accommodation is available to benefit local communities in rural areas and that the unauthorised use of approved tourist accommodation as a private dwelling(s) does not occur.
- 6.25 Permanent residential use of self catering units will also be deterred through design. Such units will be required to demonstrate an informal site layout with communal open space only. Informal road layout without designated car parking will also be required. Informal car parking provision should not, where possible, be directly associated with the units. DRD Roads Service will not adopt these access and parking areas. Individual units must be of appropriate design for holiday use, for example rural cottage style, with possible restrictions on floorspace and building height. Plot divisions between units by means of fences or walls will be prevented through the removal of permitted development rights.
- 6.26 The policies in PPS 21 relating to the conversion and reuse of rural buildings, farm or forestry diversification and development in dispersed rural communities may provide other opportunities for small scale self catering accommodation in the countryside.

TSM 7

Static Holiday Parks and Touring Caravan Sites in the Countryside

NEW STATIC HOLIDAY PARKS and LARGE SCALE EXTENSIONS

Planning permission will only be granted for a new static caravan park or a large scale extension on sites identified for such use in a development plan.

MINOR EXTENSIONS to STATIC HOLIDAY PARKS and TOURING CARAVAN SITES

A proposal for the minor extension of an existing static holiday park or touring caravan site will only be permitted subject to all of the following criteria being met:

- all extensions will be required to be appropriately sited and limited to small scale rounding off or infilling of existing development;
- the extension does not have an environmental impact significantly greater than the existing park;
- provision of appropriate screening so as to safeguard against visual intrusion in the landscape;
- any intensification of site usage does not prejudice safe access to the public highway network;

NEW TOURING CARAVAN SITES

Planning permission will only be granted for a new small scale touring caravan site (generally less than 1 hectare) and provided the following specific criteria are met:

- it is not located on or adjacent to the coastline or the shoreline of an inland lake / lough or river and otherwise (a) does not significantly interrupt views of these water features from a public road or public vantage point, or (b) visually impair views of the shoreline from the water;
- it is effectively screened by existing natural or built features so that caravans, motor-homes and ancillary buildings, infrastructure and storage areas are not significantly visible from any public place.

A larger touring caravan site will be allowed where, in addition, it can be demonstrated that:

- **the additional size of the development proposed, in excess of 1 hectare, will have no significantly greater material impact on visual amenity, rural character and the environmental quality of the surrounding countryside ;**
- **the tourism and environmental benefits of focusing such development in a single site outweigh the proliferation of touring caravan sites in the locality.**

Justification and Amplification

- 6.27 Holiday parks are important for the domestic tourism market in terms of the volume of rural tourism bed spaces they provide.³ Such parks may offer a range of accommodation, including static caravan holiday homes, holiday chalets and pitches for touring caravans, motor-homes and camping, as well as a diverse range of infrastructure and amenity provision.
- 6.28 The policy provides for the small scale extension of holiday parks where this can be achieved without damage to the visual quality of its setting in the landscape and the integrity of environmentally sensitive sites. In some instances, for example parks occupying exposed coastal sites, capacity for further expansion without detriment to the visual quality of the landscape is likely to have been reached and there will be little prospect of approval for further expansion. Conversely, parks occupying sites which are well integrated in the landscape, for example within a forested area, may present greater opportunities. Small scale 'rounding-off' to a natural boundary may be appropriate where site characteristics facilitate this without significant adverse impact upon visual amenity. Proposals to extend existing holiday parks may present opportunities to improve the attractiveness of such developments for the benefit of those who visit them and as features which enhance landscape value and biodiversity. In this regard there are several documents which provide advice on best practice and directed primarily at holiday park owners and developers.⁴
- 6.29 The scope for integrating a new static park or a large scale extension to an existing facility into the landscape is often limited by the extent and layout of such development, its static nature and by

³ In 2009 there were 142 holiday parks in Northern Ireland providing some 15000 caravan pitches or 60000 bedspaces.

⁴ Holiday Parks: Caring for the Environment – a guide to good practice – Countryside Commission of England and Wales 1991. Also Caring for the Environment 1994 – NCC and BHHPA in association with the English Tourist Board and the Countryside Commission of England and Wales

specific locational requirements such as proximity to the undeveloped coast. The best prospect for identification of suitable sites is through the development plan system and developers are therefore encouraged to engage with the planning authority in the early stage of Plan formulation.

- 6.30 Touring sites for caravans, camping or motor-homes tend to be more flexible in terms of locational requirements, are usually of smaller scale than static parks and are normally subject to seasonal usage. However, modern touring sites often require a range of 'on park' facilities, for example water connections, grey water waste and foul effluent disposal, electric connections, public toilets / showers, and laundry unit. Accordingly, appropriate site location remains crucial in order to ensure visual integration into the landscape of caravans, motor-homes and ancillary services and to avoid detrimental impact to environmentally sensitive sites.
- 6.31 While the policy provides mainly for small scale sites of less than 1 hectare, a larger site will be permitted where it has no significantly greater impact on the surrounding countryside and where the focusing of such development is likely to deliver tourism and broader environmental benefits. For example, a larger touring caravan site may be acceptable within a forest park where it does not impact on the public domain outside of the park and in circumstances where there are few alternative suitable sites for such development in the locality. Linkage with existing tourist amenities within the forest park or convenience to such attractions in the locality are also relevant considerations in the assessment of such proposals.

TSM 8

Criteria for Tourism Development

A proposal for a tourism use, in addition to the other policy provisions of this Statement, will be required to meet all of the following criteria:

Design Criteria

- (a) a movement pattern is provided that, insofar as possible, supports walking and cycling, meets the needs of people whose mobility is impaired, respects existing public rights of way and provides adequate and convenient access to public transport;**
- (b) the site layout, building design, associated infrastructure and landscaping arrangements (including flood lighting) are of high quality in accordance with the Department's published guidance and assist the promotion of sustainability and biodiversity;**
- (c) appropriate boundary treatment and means of enclosure are provided and any areas of outside storage proposed are screened from public view;**
- (d) appropriate use of surface materials to ensure adequate control of surface water run-off;**
- (e) is designed to deter crime and promote personal safety;**

In addition to the above design criteria, a proposal will be required to meet general criteria (f – n).

General Criteria

- (f) it is compatible with surrounding land uses and neither the use or built form will detract from the landscape quality and character of the surrounding area ;**
- (g) it does not harm the amenities of nearby residents;**
- (h) it does not adversely affect features of the natural or built heritage;**
- (i) it is capable of dealing with any emission or effluent in accordance with legislative requirements;**
- (j) access arrangements must be in accordance with the Department's published guidance;**
- (k) access to the public road will not prejudice road safety or significantly inconvenience the flow of traffic;**
- (l) the existing road network can safely handle any extra vehicular traffic the proposal will generate;**
- (m) access onto a protected route for a tourism development in the countryside is in accordance with the amendment to Policy AMP 3 of PPS 3, as set out in Annex 1 of PPS 21.**
- (n) it does not extinguish or significantly constrain an existing or planned public access to the coastline or a tourism asset, unless a suitable alternative is provided;**

Justification and Amplification

- 6.32 The design criteria are intended to achieve a high standard of design for all tourism development. These criteria will therefore be used to assess individual proposals for tourism development in conjunction with the other specific policy provisions.
- 6.33 The general criteria are intended to promote satisfactory forms of tourism development that take account of matters such as road safety, respect for nearby residential amenity, and safeguarding the integrity of valued environmental assets in the locality. Tourism development proposals may also offer opportunities to enhance the local environment and its inherent qualities.
- 6.34 Good design is important for tourism development projects because the ability to attract tourists will often be influenced by the visual quality of the development and its success in reflecting local character and distinctiveness. Accessibility and ease of use are also important design considerations. Developments that are easy to reach, particularly for pedestrians, cyclists, users of public transport and people with mobility impairments, are likely to be successful in attracting visitors in the first instance and encouraging them to return.
- 6.35 Sustainable development can be delivered through good design, for example the reuse of redundant buildings for tourism purposes rather than new build on greenfield sites. Sustainable development can also be promoted through design which secures good energy conservation and the use of renewable technologies such as wind power and solar gain to reduce future energy needs.

APPENDIX 1 – GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Tourism	The activities of persons travelling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes (World Tourism Organisation).
Tourism Asset	Any feature associated with the built or natural environment which is of intrinsic interest to tourists
Tourism Development	Development of a tourist amenity or tourist accommodation.
Tourist Amenity	An amenity, facility or service provided primarily for tourists, but does not include tourist accommodation (Art 2 Tourism NI Order 1992).
Tourist Accommodation	Overnight sleeping accommodation for tourists provided by way of trade or business (Art 2 Tourism NI Order 1992). &
Hotel	As defined by the Tourism (NI) Order 1992 – Categories of Tourist Establishment (Statutory Criteria) Regulations – Schedule 1 – Criteria for Hotels <i>A hotel shall provide overnight sleeping accommodation for visitors in separate rooms comprising not less than 15 double bedrooms, of which 100% shall have an ensuite bathroom*</i>

Self Catering Establishment As defined by the Tourism (NI) Order 1992 – Categories of Tourist Establishment (Statutory Criteria) Regulations – Schedule 4 – Criteria for Self Catering Establishments
A self catering establishment shall comprise one or more self contained units providing furnished accommodation (including sleeping accommodation and catering facilities) for visitors.

*

**

Holiday Park For the purposes of PPS 16, a holiday park is defined as a caravan site licensed under the Caravans Act (NI) 1963, which in addition to static caravans, may also contain holiday chalets or cabins, pitches for touring caravans, motor homes and tenting +

Touring Caravan Site For the purposes of PPS 16, a touring caravan site is defined as a caravan site licensed under the Caravans Act (NI) 1963, which provides pitches for touring caravans and may in addition also provide pitches for motor homes and tenting +

*Other criteria are listed under the Categories of Tourist Establishment (Statutory Criteria) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992

** The Tourism Order defines a self catering unit as including “houses, cottages, apartments or rooms, bungalows, chalets, cabins and caravans”. For the purposes of PPS 16, Policy TSM 7 excludes caravans and also self catering units within holiday parks.

+ Tourism developments that are not defined under the Tourism (Northern Ireland) Order 1992.

& The following categories of tourist accommodation established by the Tourism (NI) Order 1992 are not included in Draft PPS 16: Guest Houses and Bed & Breakfast Accommodation. Also excluded are new categories of tourist accommodation that may become established under Article 12 of the Tourism Order.

APPENDIX 2 – INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

Developers are advised to engage with the planning authority at an early stage to ensure that all necessary information required to determine the application is available from the outset. Information that may be required for certain tourism development projects is set out below.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Certain tourism developments, depending on their nature, scale or location may be likely to require Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) under the provisions of the Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999. Schedule 2 of the Regulations lists a number of categories of development, including defined tourism and leisure related projects⁵, which will be likely to require an EIA if they meet or exceed the thresholds specified in the Schedule. In addition, where such development is located within a “sensitive area”⁶, EIA will also be required if it is likely to have a significant effect on the environment. Development Control Advice Note 10 Environmental Impact Assessment provides general guidance for prospective developers on this matter.

Transport Assessment

Under PPS 3 ‘Access, Movement and Parking’, large scale development projects likely to generate significant volumes of traffic may require a transport assessment to be submitted along with the planning application. The Draft guidelines to Transport Assessment in Northern Ireland (2004) issued jointly by DRD and DOE provides detailed information on this process.

Tourism Related Information

Information may be sought for any tourism development proposal, as considered necessary by the planning authority, to determine an application. Information specifically required by Draft PPS 16 to facilitate assessment of applications for various forms of tourism development in the countryside is detailed in the document.

⁵ Ski-runs, ski lifts and cable cars and associated developments; Marinas; Holiday villages and hotel complexes outside urban areas and associated developments; permanent camp sites and caravan sites, theme parks.

⁶ The Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999 defines a sensitive area as: an Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI); an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB); a National Park; a World Heritage Site; a scheduled Monument; or European Sites as defined in regulation 9 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 such as a Special Protected Area (SPA) or a Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

APPENDIX 3 – TOURIST AMENITIES IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

Sustainability Assessment

Economic Sustainability

- the proposed development will result in locally significant employment and / or training opportunities;
- a significant level of spend expected to flow into the local economy;
- the proposal will enhance the range and quality of tourism attractions and facilities in the local area;
- the proposed development will extend the tourist season in the local area;
- significant utilisation of local goods and services, including trades and crafts;
- the proposal is an important element in farm or broader rural diversification.

Community / Social Sustainability

- the proposed development will, in addition to meeting tourist needs, provide facilities (recreational / cultural / social) that can be accessed by the local community;
- The proposal will contribute to a local community regeneration scheme.

Environmental Sustainability

- the proposed development will help to protect or improve an environmental asset associated with either the natural or built heritage;
- the proposed development will enhance biodiversity, for example through the creation or improvement of wetland or woodland habitat;
- utilisation of 'green' technology, for example recycling waste, utilisation of renewable energy, reduction of CO2 emissions;
- utilisation of sustainable urban drainage systems where appropriate (SUDS);
- sustainable design in line with BREEAM standards for the environmental performance of buildings;
- development of 'green' transport initiatives, for example dedicated rail or bus links between the amenity and a nearby settlement or linking several tourist amenities in the locality;
- use of a visitor management programme for larger scale proposals or to mitigate against damage to fragile sites;

Locational Sustainability

- the proposal is accessible by public transport, walking or cycling;

- large scale proposals are conveniently accessible from the regional strategic transport network;
- the proposed development is conveniently located with respect to existing tourism development in the local area.

APPENDIX 4 – DOE SECTION 75 EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY SCREENING ANALYSIS FORM

1.1 Please insert below a brief description of the policy/legislation, including the title and <u>all</u> the main aims and objectives	
Title	[draft] Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 16 Tourism
Aims	The aim of this Statement is to manage the provision of sustainable and high quality tourism developments in appropriate locations within the built and natural environment. The main objectives of the policies are to:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate sustainable tourism development in an environmentally sensitive manner;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguard tourism assets from inappropriate development;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilise and develop the tourism potential of settlements by facilitating tourism development of an appropriate nature, location and scale;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustain a vibrant rural community by supporting tourism development of an appropriate nature, location and scale in rural areas;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure a high standard of quality and design for all tourism development.

It is essential that all the aims/objectives of the policy be clearly and fully defined.

1.2 On whom will the policies/legislation impact? Please specify	
	The PPS sets out the main considerations the planning authority will take into account in assessing proposals for tourism development and any development proposals that impact upon tourism assets both in the countryside and urban areas.
	The policies will have direct implications for developers providing tourist amenities and / or various forms of tourist accommodation.
	The policy will also impact upon applicants seeking planning permission for any form of development that has a visual impact on features of the natural or built heritage which are of value in attracting tourists.

1.3 Who is responsible for (a) devising and (b) delivering the policy, eg is it DOE, a Whitehall Department or EU? What is the relationship and have they considered this issue and any equality issues?	
(a)	DoE
(b)	The policy will be implemented through the development management process by bodies with statutory responsibility for making planning decisions, currently DoE Planning Service, in conjunction (for appeal cases) with the Planning Appeals Commission

1.4 What linkages are there to other NI Departments/NDPBs in relation to this policy/legislation?	
	The draft PPS has been prepared in consultation with DoE Planning Service; Northern Ireland Environment Agency; Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment; Northern Ireland Tourist Board.

1.5 What data are available to facilitate the screening of this policy/ legislation?

There are a variety of information sources that can be drawn upon on the Section 75 groups from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) and the Planning Service database of development decisions. No detailed analysis of this data has been carried out at this stage as there are no anticipated impacts on equality

1.6 Is additional data required to facilitate screening? If so, give details of how and when it will be obtained.

This is not anticipated at this stage.

Section 2 – Screening Analysis

2.1 Is there any indication or evidence of higher or lower participation or uptake by the following Section 75 groups?

	Yes	No
Religious belief		✓
Political opinion		✓
Racial group		✓
Age		✓
Marital status		✓
Sexual orientation		✓
Gender		✓
Disability		✓
Dependants		✓

Please give details

The Department considers there is no evidence that draft PPS 16 'Tourism' will have a differential impact on any of the Section 75 groups in relation to lower participation or take up. The policy will be implemented by the planning authority through the development management and plan processes.

2.2 Is there any indication or evidence that any of the following Section 75 groups have different needs, experiences, issues and priorities in relation to this policy issue?

	Yes	No
Religious belief		✓
Political opinion		✓
Racial group		✓
Age		✓
Marital status		✓
Sexual orientation		✓
Gender		✓
Disability		✓
Dependants		✓

Please give details

Draft PPS 16 sets out the circumstances in which different types of tourism development will be considered appropriate from a planning and environmental perspective, subject to proposals meeting specified criteria. The policy therefore impacts primarily on the providers of tourist amenities or accommodation, rather than end users, and there are no discernible differential impacts in this regard.

While the various Section 75 groups may have different user needs in terms of the specific form or design of tourist amenity or accommodation, the policy does not seek to influence market supply to ensure that all such needs are catered for.

2.3 Have consultations with the relevant representative organisations or individuals within any of the Section 75 categories, indicated that policies of this type create problems specific to them?

	Yes	No
Religious belief		✓
Political opinion		✓
Racial group		✓
Age		✓
Marital status		✓
Sexual orientation		✓
Gender		✓
Disability		✓
Dependants		✓

Please give details of any consultations carried out, and any problems identified.
It has not been considered necessary to date to consult with any of the Section 75 groups on this matter. However, as part of the public consultation exercise the document will be forwarded to relevant Section 75 groups in the Department's Equality Scheme.

2.4 Is there an opportunity to better promote equality of opportunity or community relations by altering the policy, or by working with others, in Government, or in the larger community in the context of this policy?

Yes No ✓

Please give details
Not applicable

2.5 It may be that a policy/legislation has a differential impact on a certain Section 75 group, as the policy has been developed to address an existing or historical inequality or disadvantage. If this is the case, please give details below:

Please give details
Not applicable

2.6 Please consider if there is any way of adapting the policy to promote better equality of opportunity or good relations.

Please give details
Not applicable

2.7 In relation to Departmental obligations under Section 49A of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) (as amended by the Disability Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 2006), please consider if there is any way of adapting the policy to show due regard to the need to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people and/or encourage participation by disabled people in public life.

Please give details
Draft PPS 16 contains a general design criterion that all proposals for tourism development will be required to provide a movement pattern that, insofar as possible, meets the needs of people whose mobility is impaired.

Section 3 - EQIA Recommendation

3.1 Full EQIA procedures should be carried out on policies considered to have significant implications for equality of opportunity. Please fill in the following grid in relation to the policy/legislation.

Prioritisation Factors	Significant Impact	Moderate Impact	Low Impact
Social need			✓
Effect on people's daily lives.			✓
Effect on economic, social and human rights.			✓
Strategic significance			✓
Financial significance			✓

Please give details

There are no specific implications for equality of opportunity under any of the prioritisation factors listed above.

3.2 In view of the considerations in Section 3 and 4 do you consider that this policy/legislation should be subject to a full EQIA? Please give reasons for your considerations. If you are unsure, please consult with affected groups and revisit the screening analysis accordingly. Yes/No/Unsure

Draft PPS 16 should not be subject to a full EQIA as there is no evidence to suggest that the policy will have an adverse impact upon any of the Section 75 Groups.

3.3 If an EQIA is considered necessary please comment on the priority and timing in light of the factors in table 4.1.

N/A

3.4 If an EQIA is considered necessary is any data required to carry it out/ensure effective monitoring?

Please give details

N/A

Main Groups Relevant to the Section 75 Categories	
<u>Category</u>	<u>Main Groups</u>
Religious belief	Protestants; Catholics; people of non-Christian faiths; people of no religious belief
Political opinion	Unionists generally; Nationalists generally; members/supporters of any political party
Racial Group	White people; Chinese; Irish Travellers; Indians; Pakistanis; Bangladeshis; Black Africans; Black Caribbean people; people with mixed ethnic group
Gender	Men (including boys); women (including girls); trans-gendered people
Marital status	Married people; unmarried people; divorced or separated people; widowed people
Age	For most purposes, the main categories are: children under 18, people aged between 18-65, and people over 65. However, the definition of age groups will need to be sensitive to the policy under consideration
"Persons with a disability"	Disability is defined as: A physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities as defined in Sections 1 and 2 and Schedules 1 and 2 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995
"Persons with dependants"	Persons with personal responsibility for the care of a child; persons with personal responsibility for the care of a person with an incapacitating disability; persons with personal responsibility for the care of a dependant elderly person
Sexual orientation	Heterosexuals; bi-sexuals; gays; lesbians