

## **DE/2026-007 – Freedom of Information Request**

### **Request:**

Please confirm whether the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education (NICIE) was designated as a public authority under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 at any time between 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2024.

Please provide a copy of any Equality Scheme approved by the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland that was in force for NICIE at any time between 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2025.

If no such Equality Scheme existed during any part of that period, please confirm this and provide any correspondence between the Department of Education, The Executive Office, the Equality Commission and NICIE regarding the absence, non-approval or non-operation of an Equality Scheme.

Please provide copies of any Equality Impact Assessments (EQIAs) or equality screening documents submitted by NICIE to the Department of Education between 2019 and 2026.

Please provide any internal DE risk assessments, governance reviews, audit findings or sponsorship correspondence relating to NICIE's compliance with Section 75 duties during 2019–2026.

### **Department Response:**

Thank you for your request for information relating to the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education (NICIE), Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and equality compliance matters. The request was received by the Department on 10 January 2026.

I can confirm that the Department holds the information requested and have attached responses to your queries to this letter in **Annex A**.

### **Annex A**

**1) Please confirm whether the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education (NICIE) was designated as a public authority under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 at any time between 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2024.**

**Response:** The Department can confirm that the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education (NICIE) was not designated as a public authority for the

purposes of Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 at any time between 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2024.

**2) Please provide a copy of any Equality Scheme approved by the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland that was in force for NICIE at any time between 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2025.**

**Response:** The Department can confirm that no Equality Scheme approved by the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland was in force in respect of NICIE at any time between 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2025.

As NICIE is not a public authority designated under Section 75, it is not required to have an Equality Scheme approved by the Equality Commission.

**3) If no such Equality Scheme existed during any part of that period, please confirm this and provide any correspondence between the Department of Education, The Executive Office, the Equality Commission and NICIE regarding the absence, non-approval or non-operation of an Equality Scheme.**

**Response:** The Department does not hold correspondence between the Department of Education, The Executive Office, the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland and NICIE regarding:

- the absence of an Equality Scheme;
- the non-approval of an Equality Scheme; or
- the non-operation of an Equality Scheme.

As NICIE is not designated under Section 75, there was no requirement for such correspondence to take place.

**4) Please provide copies of any Equality Impact Assessments (EQIAs) or equality screening documents submitted by NICIE to the Department of Education between 2019 and 2026.**

**Response:** The Department holds no Equality Impact Assessments (EQIAs) or Section 75 equality screening documents submitted by NICIE to the Department of Education between 2019 and 2026.

NICIE is not subject to Section 75 duties and therefore is not required to undertake or submit such assessments.

**5) Please provide any internal DE risk assessments, governance reviews, audit findings or sponsorship correspondence relating to NICIE's compliance with Section 75 duties during 2019–2026.**

**Response:** The Department does not hold risk assessments, governance reviews, audit findings or sponsorship correspondence relating specifically to NICIE's compliance with Section 75 duties during the period 2019–2026.

As NICIE is not subject to Section 75 duties, the Department does not monitor or assess NICIE's compliance with those duties.