



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY SCREENING

FOR

**NEW ELIGIBILITY CRITERION FOR FREE SCHOOL
MEALS AND UNIFORM GRANTS**

APRIL 2018 – VERSION 3

**SECOND UPDATE TO SCREENING POST POLICY
REVISION**

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Version History

Version	Date Approved	Notes
1 Pre-consultation	23 February 2017	
2 First Review - Post consultation	19 July 2017	Reviewed following comments received in consultation from NI ICTU and UNISON.
3 Second Review - Post Policy Revision	17 April 2018	Reviewed following request by Sinn Féin.

Index

		<u>Page</u>
1	POLICY SCOPING	3
2	EVIDENCE	7
3	SCREENING QUESTIONS	31
4	SCREENING DECISION	35
5	TIMETABLING AND PRIORITISING	35
6	MITIGATION	35
7	MONITORING	36
8	DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION	36
9	CONSIDERATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES	36
10	CONSIDERATION OF RURAL IMPACTS	37
11	APPROVAL AND AUTHORISATION	38

1. POLICY SCOPING

1.1 Title of Policy

New Eligibility Criterion for Free School Meals (FSM) and Uniform Grants.

The changes were introduced as a revision of the “*Approved Arrangements for the Provision of Milk, Meals and Related Facilities*”.

The consultation document related to the screening is available on the Department of Education website.

www.education-ni.gov.uk/consultations

1.2 Type of Policy Development

This is a revision of the “*Approved Arrangements for the Provision of Milk, Meals and Related Facilities*” made under Articles 58 and 59 of the Education and Libraries (NI) Order 1986, as amended.

1.3 Description of policy:

The UK-wide programme of welfare reform includes the roll-out of Universal Credit (UC) which will replace certain welfare benefits. Some of the benefits being replaced are currently used to assess eligibility for FSM and Uniform Grants. The Department is reacting to the change brought forward within these welfare reforms.

If the eligibility criteria are not updated to include UC, the Department will be unable to continue to target support to those most in need over the course of the UC roll-out as those in receipt of UC would not be eligible for FSM or Uniform Grants. By not including UC in the eligibility criteria, over time an increasing number of pupils will be unable to access FSM and Uniform Grants.

Background

FSM are aimed at those children deemed to be most in need of additional help and are provided to ensure that eligible children have access to a meal which is suitable as the main meal of the day.

Over 187,000 school meals, both free and paid, were taken by pupils [on census day](#) (information collected with a reference point of 7 October 2016 relating to all grant-aided schools in Northern Ireland). This equated to a school meals uptake level of 61.1% by pupils present for lunch on the day.

Across all school types, including special schools, 102,127 pupils were entitled to FSM. Uptake was 82.2%, equating to 83,091 FSM per year.

Current Eligibility Criteria for FSM

As part of the wider Welfare Reforms the following benefits are being replaced by a new single benefit –UC:

- (i) the pupil or the parent is in receipt of Income Support or Income based Jobseeker's Allowance; or Income related Employment and Support Allowance; or

- (ii) the parent receives Child Tax Credit or Working Tax Credit and have an annual taxable income not exceeding an amount as determined by the Department (currently £16,190); or
- (iii) the parent is in receipt of Working Tax Credit “run-on” – the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.

Similar eligibility criteria are used for uniform grants.

As the above benefits are the qualifying criteria for 99% of current claims for FSM, a new criterion is needed to ensure those pupils most in need continue to qualify for FSM and uniform grants.

UC is being introduced incrementally across the United Kingdom. Current planning for Northern Ireland (NI) is that UC will be rolled out to new claimants (on a geographical basis) between September 2017 and December 2018 and existing legacy benefit claims will migrate to UC from July 2019 to March 2022. The changes are being led by the Department for Communities (DfC).

As one of the affected NI Government Departments, the Department of Education is aiming to ensure access to FSM and uniform grants for those most in need as new claimants receive UC. A new criterion was therefore needed to be added to the existing criteria by 27 September 2017.

The use of eligibility of UC (as for the 5 benefits it is replacing) is a method for identifying pupils from families with levels of social deprivation, supporting our aim to target support through the provision of a nutritious FSM. Research demonstrates such provision generates positive impacts on behaviour, concentration, health and learning outcomes. Those who particularly benefit include those children from the most deprived backgrounds where the school meal may be the only meal they receive that day, and effectively reducing the financial pressure for lower income families to provide lunches for their children.

The Department’s primary aim is to ensure that those most in need are able to access free school meals and uniform grants following the introduction of Universal Credit.

In addition, the objectives are that the new criteria should:

- a) enable children from those families most in need to benefit;
- b) have due regard for equality of opportunity;
- c) be clear and easily understood by the public;
- d) be affordable with the anticipated budget envelope and be likely to be sustainable in future years; and
- e) be cost-effective to administer and should facilitate the collection/use of data.

New Free School Meals Eligibility Criteria

The most relevant data available to the Department was provided by DfC using the Family Resources Survey that was used in their policy/data simulation modelling. The DfC forecasts indicated that the number of pupils who would be eligible to receive FSM is likely to be similar to current levels at a net earnings threshold of £14,000 per annum, used alongside being eligible for UC.

At this threshold it is envisaged that, as far as possible, all pupils, parents and carers currently entitled to Income Support, Income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance, Income-related Employment and Support Allowance migrating to UC will continue to qualify for FSM. The change in profile

of FSM pupils would primarily affect those in receipt of tax credits.

Those families entitled to tax credits that have a gross annual earnings below £16,190 but net annual earnings higher than the net earnings threshold of £14,000 per annum may no longer qualify for FSM.

Those families entitled to tax credits that have a gross annual earnings exceeding £16,190 but net annual earnings less than the net earnings threshold of £14,000 per annum may become entitled to FSM.

At a net earnings threshold of £14,000 it is forecast that there would be a net increase of up to 2,000 pupils overall taking a FSM/claiming a uniform grant. This is the closest threshold as indicated by the DfC Model to keep numbers eligible as close as possible to current levels. The model indicates that the overall increase is comprised of 2,000 pupils who may no longer be entitled to FSM and uniform grants, and around 4,000 pupils would become newly entitled to FSM and uniform grants. These estimated numbers are anticipated to be the position at the end of the roll-out. It is anticipated most of those gaining or losing eligibility will occur during the re-assessment phase of those currently in receipt of the benefits UC will replace. This phase is currently planned to roll-out from July 2019 to March 2022.

In considering the equality impact of the proposed change to the eligibility criteria, the following information relating to the DfC Model is relevant:

- I. Projections can be made of UC recipients in NI at the end of the UC roll out in March 2022 by section 75 category.
- II. Projections can be made of UC recipients in NI with school age children at the end of the UC roll out in March 2022 by section 75 category.
- III. Projections cannot be made of UC recipients in NI with school age children who may or may not have previously been in receipt of the benefits UC replaced at the end of the UC roll out in March 2022 by section 75 category.

The reason point III. cannot be produced on a representative basis is due to the small sample size of the family resources survey used to inform the DfC model. To drill down to point III. to try to identify section 75 categories of those who may gain or lose out as a result of the change to UC, may produce different data when different samples are taken. However, the effect of changes will be monitored as roll-out progresses.

The DfC model is the most relevant data available to predict the effects of the roll-out of UC. There is other data available on FSM by section 75 category for the majority of the categories. For the categories where this is not available, more general data in relation to children and young people has been included. The data captured has been included in the evidence section of the screening. Using this more general data, it is possible to assess possible effects of the change to the eligibility criteria on each section 75 category.

There will be a transitional period as UC is rolled out to new claimants (on a geographical basis across NI) between September 2017 and December 2018. During this period the additional £14,000 threshold UC criterion will be relevant to these claimants. Those in receipt of any of the benefits being replaced by UC will continue to be eligible. Existing legacy benefit claims will migrate to Universal Credit from July 2019 to March 2022. When UC is fully introduced the criteria relating to Income Support, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income-related Employment and Support Allowance, Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit will be removed from the eligibility criteria. Existing claimants whose circumstances change, and who live in an area in NI changed over to UC, may move to UC from September 2017.

Any changes to eligibility for FSM will happen gradually from 2017-2022, lessening the effects of any loss in eligibility. The existing criterion remains where a meal is given to a child who presents hungry at school (reference ix in the new list of criteria).

1.4 What factors could contribute to, or detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy? (Please click on relevant boxes)

None	
Legislative	
Financial	✓
Others (please specify)	

1.5 Main stakeholders affected (Please click on relevant boxes)

Pupils (Actual or Potential)	✓
Parents	✓
Teaching Staff	
Trade Unions or Professional Organisations	
Other Public Sector Organisations – Education Authority	✓

1.6 Who is responsible for?

(a) Devising the policy; (b) Implementing it; (c) Explain the relationship?

Welfare Reform includes the roll-out of UC which will replace certain welfare benefits. Some of the benefits being replaced are currently used to assess eligibility for FSM and Uniform Grants. The Department is reacting to the change brought forward by Welfare Reform. If the eligibility criteria is not updated to include UC, the Department will be unable to continue to target support to those most in need over the course of the UC roll-out. By not including UC in the eligibility criteria, over time an increasing number of pupils will be unable to access FSM and Uniform Grants.

The Department is responsible for formulating and developing policy in relation to school meals and for setting in place the necessary administrative and financial arrangements. The Department provides funding for FSM to the Education Authority (EA). The EA have responsibility for the day to day operation of the school meals service, including FSM, in the controlled and maintained school sectors. Voluntary Grammar Schools (VGS) and Grant Maintained Integrated Schools (GMIS) are individually responsible for providing school meals and currently receive funding directly from the Department.

The EA and Boards of Governors of VGS and GMIS provide the service in accordance with the Departments “*Approved Arrangements for the Provision of Milk, Meals and Related Facilities*” made under Articles 58 and 59 of the Education and Libraries (NI) Order 1986, as amended. Amendments to the FSM eligibility criteria can be made through alterations to the Approved Arrangements without the need to make legislative changes.

1.7 Other policies or objectives with a bearing on this policy

DfC has responsibility for the introduction of UC in Northern Ireland. Decisions made by DfC in relation to the roll out of UC will have implications on passported benefits, such as FSM, over the transition phase.

2. EVIDENCE

2.1 What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy in respect of each of the categories?

Section 75 Category	Details of Evidence/Information
	<p>Information used to develop the option to update the eligibility criteria was gathered for those who apply for the FSM / uniform grant. This was considered as it is the applicant who is using receipt of a welfare benefit to provide the pupils they are responsible for with a FSM / uniform. The applicant may be entitled providing they meet the eligibility criteria but they do not receive the meal and the uniform. A FSM is therefore described as a “Benefit in Kind” as no monetary payment is provided to the approved applicant but rather the meal is provided directly to the pupil. Where an applicant is entitled to a uniform grant, a monetary payment is provided to the applicant to assist with the cost of providing a uniform for the pupil or pupils named on the application.</p> <p>In preparing for the introduction of UC, the Department for Communities (DfC) developed a model in conjunction with the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP). This model provided projections on numbers of applicants who may be in receipt of UC by different net earnings bands over the course of the roll-out period to March 2022. This model was regarded as the most relevant and up-to-date data on which to assess the options to update the eligibility criteria.</p> <p>Consider the assumption that pupils who receive the FSM/Uniform Grant are of the same section 75 category as those who make the application for them to receive it (usually the parent/guardian). If that is the case, when considering the impact of the change to the eligibility criteria, the DfC/DWP model offered the most relevant information with regard to section 75. However as the section 75 category of the pupil may not be the same as the applicant in all cases this may not be an absolute representation. However the model provided the first source of possible information.</p> <p>Upon further consideration it was discovered it is not possible to accurately identify those whose entitlement may change by section 75 category from the DfC/DWP model. This is due to the small sample size of the family resources survey used to inform the model. DfC advised that every time the sample was run it revealed a different section 75 profile.</p> <p>The next best source of statistically representative information for those who receive FSM/uniform grants is the NI Schools Census. Information on pupils who receive FSMs is available by some of the section 75 categories. Evidence is therefore provided of entitlement to FSMs by section 75 category, where this is available and is included in the evidence table below.</p> <p>For those areas that cannot be provided from the NI Schools Census, data was obtained from other more general sources. Unfortunately it was not possible to break these down to those entitled to FSM or uniform grants. However they provide the best indication of the breakdown in the areas in an age range closest to those who may be entitled to FSM/uniform grants.</p>
Religious Belief	<p>General Data</p> <p>The <i>2011 Northern Ireland Census</i> notes that the usual population of Northern Ireland was 1,810,863. The table shows the change in the religious make-up of Northern Ireland between the 2001 and the 2011 Census.</p>

Religion/ religion brought up in	Census 2001		Census 2011		%change
	Count	%	Count	%	
Protestant/other Christian / Christian related	895,377	53.1	875,717	48.4	-2.2
Roman Catholic	737,412	43.8	817,385	45.1	10.8
Other religions and philosophies	6,569	0.4	16,592	0.9	152.6
None - neither belonged to, nor had been brought up in, a religion	45,909	2.7	101,169	5.6	120.4

Prevalence rates for the following denominations/ religions/ philosophies were:

Census 2011	Percentage
Presbyterian	19
Church of Ireland	14
Methodist	3
Catholic	41
Other Christian or Christian-related denominations	5.8
Other Religions and Philosophies	0.8
No Religion or Religion Not Stated	17

The *Labour Force Survey Religion Report 2015* (last updated in January 2017) shows for the Protestant community 72% are economically active, with an employment rate of 68%. Similarly 72% of the Catholic community are economically active, with an employment rate of 67%.

Free School Meals Data

The *2015/2016 Annual NI School Census* shows the breakdown of those entitled to a free school meal is 25.6% Protestant, 34% Catholic and 29.4%

other.

Universal Credit

It is expected that the majority of those pupils who will lose eligibility will be in the period from 2019 to 2022 when current benefit claimant will be reassessed. Assuming a steady reduction over the 3-year period this could result in approximately 666 pupils losing eligibility per year. However, there is also forecast to be an increase of 1,333 pupils gaining eligibility over these years.

Comparison

Religious Belief	% General NI Population	% FSM
Protestant	48.4	25.6
Catholic	45.1	34
None / Other	6.5	29.4

Political Opinion

General Data

The *Electoral Commission's* data on the first-preference votes per party in the Northern Ireland Assembly Elections 2017 gives a good guide to political preferences in the province as a whole. However as the voting age is 18, these preferences will only represent a small proportion of those receiving FSM. It is estimated that 28.4% of those of the age of 18 receive a free school meal.

1,254,709 people were registered to vote. 812,783 votes were cast at the election, representing a turnout of 64.8%.

Political party	First preference votes per party in Northern Ireland Assembly Elections 2017	Percentage
Democratic Unionist Party	225,245	28.0
Sinn Fein	224,245	27.9
Ulster Unionist Party	103,314	12.9
Social Democratic and Labour Party	95,958	11.9
Alliance	72,717	9.1
Other	81,668	10.2
Total	803,147	100

The balance of votes were discounted as spoiled.

The *2011 Northern Ireland Census* reported the following relation to National Identity. This representative of all usual residents numbering 1,810,863. Some responses included more than one identity.

National Identity	Percentage
British	48.4
Irish	28.4
Northern Irish	29.4
Other	5.0

The *Labour Force Survey Religion Report 2015* (last updated in January 2017) shows for the Protestant community 72% are economically active, with an employment rate of 68%. Similarly 72% of the Catholic community are economically active, with an employment rate of 67%.

The *Cabinet Office's Ethnicity Facts and Figures* notes that over the UK in the period 2011-2015, households headed by a White person had lower rates of persistent low income than households headed by someone coming from any other ethnic group. The highest rates of persistent low income were found in households headed by people coming from the Black, Asian or Other ethnic groups.

Free School Meals Data

Religion is often taken as a proxy for political opinion. Therefore the same data has been considered for both religious belief and political opinion. In this context it is assumed data for protestant is a proxy for unionist, data for catholic is proxy for nationalist and data for other is proxy for other.

Universal Credit

It is expected that the majority of those pupils who will lose eligibility will be in the period from 2019 to 2022 when current benefit claimant will be reassessed. Assuming a steady reduction over the 3-year period this could result in approximately 666 pupils losing eligibility per year. However, there is also forecast to be an increase of 1,333 pupils gaining eligibility over these years.

Comparison of Political Opinion

Election	%	National Identity	%	% FSM (Proxy of Religious Belief)
Unionist (Democratic Unionist Party; Ulster Unionist Party)	40.9	British	48.4	25.6

Nationalist (Sinn Fein; Social Democratic and Labour Party)	39.8	Irish	28.4	34
Other (10.2)/ Alliance (9.1)	19.3	Other (5.0) /Northern Irish (29.4)	34.4	29.4

Racial Group

General Data

The 2011 Northern Ireland Census notes that English was not the main language for 3.1 per cent (54,500) of the resident population (as at 27 March 2011 aged 3 years and over, almost one quarter of whom (24 per cent) lived in Belfast LGD (Local Government District). The most prevalent main language other than English was Polish (17,700 people, 1.0 per cent).

Since the 2001 Census, there has been a marked change in Northern Ireland's ethnic diversity. On Census Day 2011, 1.8% (32,400) of the resident population belonged to minority ethnic groups, more than double the proportion in 2001 (0.8%). The main minority ethnic groups were Chinese (6,300 people), Indian (6,200), Mixed (6,000) and Other Asian (5,000), each accounting for around 0.3% of the population.

Changes in ethnic makeup of Northern Ireland between 2001 and 2011 census

Ethnic group	Census 2001		Census 2011		Difference
	Count	%	Count	%	Count
White	1,670,988	99.2	1,778,449	98.2	107,461
Chinese	4,145	0.2	6,303	0.4	2,158
Indian	1,567	0.1	6,198	0.3	4,631
Mixed	3,319	0.2	6,014	0.3	2,695
Other Asian	194	0	4,998	0.3	4,804
Other	1,290	0.1	2,353	0.1	1,063
Black African	494	0	2,345	0.1	1,851
Irish Traveller	1,710	0.1	1,301	0.1	- 409
Pakistani	666	0	1,091	0.1	425

Black other	387	0	899	0.1	512
Bangladeshi	252	0	540	0	288
Black Caribbean	255	0	372	0	117

(Source: NISRA, Table KS06 (2003); KS201 (2012))

Irish Travellers comprised 0.1% of the population. Since 2001, the minority ethnic count rose from 14,300 to 32,400. Increases were recorded for all groups with the exception of Irish Travellers, whose number fell from 1,700 in 2001 to 1,300 in 2011. Belfast (3.6%), Castlereagh (2.9%), Dungannon (2.5%) and Craigavon (2.1%) had the highest proportions of residents from minority ethnic groups.

Residents born outside Northern Ireland in March 2011 accounted for 11% (202,000) of the population, compared with 9% (151,000) in April 2001. This change resulted largely from inward migration by people born in the 12 countries that have joined the European Union since 2004 (EU 12). These accounted for 2% (35,700) of Northern Ireland residents on Census Day 2011, compared with 0.1% in 2001.

The rest of the population born outside Northern Ireland consisted of 4.6% born in Great Britain, 2.1% born in the Republic of Ireland, 0.5% born in countries that were EU members before 2004, and 2% born elsewhere.

Breakdown of country of birth for the population of Northern Ireland

Country of birth	Count	Percentage
Northern Ireland	1,608,853	88.8
Outside Northern Ireland	202,000	11.2
England	64,717	3.6
Scotland	15,455	0.9
Wales	2,552	0.1
Republic of Ireland	37,833	2.1
EU before 2004	9,703	0.5
EU 12	35,704	2.0
Other	36,046	2.0

(Source: NISRA (2012) Table KS204)

Other sources advise:

13,943 Newcomer pupils were enrolled in schools during 2016-17, an increase of 4.1% since the previous year (NI School Census data October 2016).

Most interpreting requests came from the primary school sector and the languages most requested for interpreting were Polish, Lithuanian and Mandarin.

According to the “*All-Ireland Traveller Health Study*” (AITHS), the Traveller population in Northern Ireland is estimated at 3,905, with 1,562 families. The age profile of this community is markedly different from that of the general population. Some 70% of Travellers are aged 30 or under, and only 1% are aged 65 and over. This partly reflects a higher birth rate, a higher death rate and inward migration.

The *Cabinet Office’s Ethnicity Facts and Figures* notes that over the UK in the period 2011-2015, households headed by a White person had lower rates of persistent low income than households headed by someone coming from any other ethnic group. The highest rates of persistent low income were found in households headed by people coming from the Black, Asian or Other ethnic groups.

Free School Meals Data

The 2015/2016 Annual NI School Census shows the breakdown of those entitled to a free school meal was 30.3% White and 34.8% Non-white.

Universal Credit

It is expected that the majority of those pupils who will lose eligibility will be in the period from 2019 to 2022 when current benefit claimant will be reassessed. Assuming a steady reduction over the 3-year period this could result in approximately 666 pupils losing eligibility per year. However, there is also forecast to be an increase of 1,333 pupils gaining eligibility over these years.

Comparison

Racial Group	% General NI Population	% FSM
White	98.2	30.3
Non-white (all other categories from 2011 census)	1.8	34.8

Age

General Data

The *Registrar General Report 2016* noted the following number of people:

Age	People	% of total population
All	1,862,137	
2	24,656	1.3
3	25,155	1.4
4	25,974	1.4

5	25,781	1.4
6	25,462	1.4
7	25,809	1.4
8	25,830	1.4
9	24,643	1.3
10	23,470	1.3
11	22,860	1.2
12	22,619	1.2
13	22,146	1.2
14	22,216	1.2
15	22,396	1.2
16	23,263	1.2
17	24,303	1.3
18	24,526	1.3
19	23,885	1.3
Total	434,994	23.4

NISRA's 2009 Mid-year Population Estimates noted that compared with the England, Scotland and Wales, Northern Ireland had the fastest-growing and youngest population between 2001 and 2011, with an estimated increase of 7.5%. It is projected to have the youngest population during 2011-2021. This equates to 24% or 432,814 children and young people aged less than 18 years.

Free School Meals Data

The age profile of those entitled to a free school meal is as follows in the *2015/2016 Annual NI School Census*:

Age 2	15.6%
Age 3	29.9%
Age 4	31.4%
Age 5	31.7%
Age 6	32.1%
Age 7	32.5%
Age 8	32.5%
Age 9	32.2%
Age 10	31.5%
Age 11	33.4%
Age 12	32.9%
Age 13	30.7%
Age 14	29.8%
Age 15	28.0%
Age 16	22.0%
Age 17	18.7%
Age 18+	28.4%

DE's School Meals in Northern Ireland 2016/17 Statistical Bulletin 4/17 shows entitlement as follows:

School Type	% Entitlement to FSM
Nursery	35.6
Primary / Prep	31.3
Non Grammar	40.6
Grammar	14.3
Special	54

Universal Credit

It is expected that the majority of those pupils who will lose eligibility will be in the period from 2019 to 2022 when current benefit claimant will be reassessed. Assuming a steady reduction over the 3-year period this could result in approximately 666 pupils losing eligibility per year. However, there is also forecast to be an increase of 1,333 pupils gaining eligibility over these years.

Comparison

Age	% General NI Population	Age	% FSM
2	1.3	2	15.6
3	1.4	3	29.9
4	1.4	4	31.4
5	1.4	5	31.7
6	1.4	6	32.1
7	1.4	7	32.5
8	1.4	8	32.5
9	1.3	9	32.2
10	1.3	10	31.5
11	1.2	11	33.4
12	1.2	12	32.9
13	1.2	13	30.7
14	1.2	14	29.8
15	1.2	15	28.0

16	1.2	16	22.0
17	1.3	17	18.7
18	1.3	18	28.4 (18+)
19	1.3	19	
Total	23.4	Average	29.0

School Type	Age Range	% of Population	% Entitlement to FSM
Nursery	Age 2-4	4.1	25.6
Primary	Age 5-11	9.4	32.3
Post Primary	Age 12-18	8.6	27.2

Marital Status

Marital Status of Young People in Northern Ireland

[Registrar General Annual Reports 2015 and 2016](#)

Category	2015	2016	2016 %
All Marriages	8,355	8306	
Males in marriages in age band 16-19	55	46	0.6
Females in marriages in age band 16-19	94	61	0.7
Total civil partnerships	178	168	
Males in civil partnerships in under 25 age band	10	8	4.8
Females in civil partnerships in under 25 age band	1	8	4.8

Marital Status of Northern Ireland residents aged 16+ years

Census 2011 NISRA (2012) Table KS103

Marital status	Count	Percentage
Married	680,831	47.6
Single	517,393	36.1
Same-sex civil partnership	1,243	0.1
Separated	56,911	4.0
Divorced	78,074	5.5
Widowed or surviving partner	97,088	6.8

The urban areas of Belfast and Derry/Londonderry had the largest proportions of single people (47% and 42% respectively), while Ards and Banbridge (both 54%) had the highest proportion of married people.

Estimated Population by sex and age

Registrar General Annual Report 2016 Population and Migration

Age	Males	% of 2016/17 school population of approx. 332,986	Females	% of 2016/17 school population of approx. 332,986
16	12,100	3.6	11,163	3.4
17	12,433	3.7	11,870	3.6
18	12,610	3.8	11,916	3.6
Total	37,143	11.2	34,949	10.5
Average of Males and Females as % of 2016/17 school population of approx. 332,986 = 10.9%				

Note: The percentages are subject to margin of error as not all people in these age groups are in education.

Free School Meals Data

As marital status is not a consideration in eligibility for FSM this information is not collected.

Universal Credit

It is expected that the majority of those pupils who will lose eligibility will be in the period from 2019 to 2022 when current benefit claimant will be reassessed. Assuming a steady reduction over the 3-year period this could result in approximately 666 pupils losing eligibility per year. However, there is also forecast to be an increase of 1,333 pupils gaining eligibility over these years.

	<p>Comparison</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="336 163 1270 734"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="336 163 794 383">Marital Status</th> <th data-bbox="794 163 1027 383">% General NI Population – Male or Female as indicated</th> <th data-bbox="1027 163 1270 383">% FSM</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="336 383 794 454">Married Males aged 16-19</td> <td data-bbox="794 383 1027 454">0.6</td> <td data-bbox="1027 383 1270 454">Not</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="336 454 794 526">Married Females aged 16-19</td> <td data-bbox="794 454 1027 526">0.7</td> <td data-bbox="1027 454 1270 526" rowspan="3">available</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="336 526 794 629">Civil Partnership Males aged under 25</td> <td data-bbox="794 526 1027 629">4.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="336 629 794 734">Civil Partnership Females aged under 25</td> <td data-bbox="794 629 1027 734">4.8</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Marital Status	% General NI Population – Male or Female as indicated	% FSM	Married Males aged 16-19	0.6	Not	Married Females aged 16-19	0.7	available	Civil Partnership Males aged under 25	4.8	Civil Partnership Females aged under 25	4.8
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Civil Partnership Females aged under 25	4.8													
Sexual Orientation	<p>General Data</p> <p>The <i>2016 Northern Ireland Young Life and Times</i> survey of 16 year olds showed 7 % of males and 15 % of females were same-sex attracted on at least one occasion.</p> <p>Complete figures are not available on the sexual orientation of the general population, and estimates vary considerably. The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA), along with other UK census offices, concluded that the census was not suitable for obtaining such information. The 2011 Census does provide some information, based on same-sex civil partnerships.</p> <p>Research by <i>HM Treasury</i> shows that from 5%–7% of the UK population say they are gay, lesbian, bisexual or ‘trans’ (transsexual, transgendered and transvestites).</p> <p>The <i>2010 Northern Ireland Life and Times</i> survey (1,205 adults) reported the figure as only 1%. The <i>Office for National Statistics 2010 report</i> (450,000 respondents) found that in Northern Ireland 92.5% said they were heterosexual and 0.9% of respondents said they were LGB, although 0.4% reported as ‘other’ and 6.2% said they didn’t know or refused to respond.</p> <p>Between 2006 and 2012, there were 715 recorded Civil Partnerships regionally. However, this is not indicative of the LGB population. There are no accurate statistics on sexual orientation in the community as a whole, it is however estimated that between 5% and 10% of the population would identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual.</p> <p>In the ONS Statistical bulletin on Sexual identity, UK: 2015 Northern Ireland 1.9% of the population identified as LGB.</p> <p>Free School Meals Data</p> <p>As sexual orientation is not a consideration in eligibility for FSM, data on this category is not collected. DE data relating to pupils entitled to FSM by Secondary (non-grammar) and Grammar school type in 2016/17 is shown below. Data for Nursery, Primary/Preparatory and Special school types have</p>													

not been included due to the nature of the section 75 category:

School Type	Number entitled to FSM	Percentage of pupils entitled to FSM of total 2016/17 enrolment of 332,986.
Secondary (non-grammar)	31,461	9.5
Grammar	8,978	2.7
Total	40,439	12.1

Universal Credit

It is expected that the majority of those pupils who will lose eligibility will be in the period from 2019 to 2022 when current benefit claimants will be reassessed. Assuming a steady reduction over the 3-year period this could result in approximately 666 pupils losing eligibility per year. However, there is also forecast to be an increase of 1,333 pupils gaining eligibility over these years.

Comparison

Sexual Orientation	% General NI Population	% Young People	% FSM
Same Sex Attracted	All 1.9 (ONS UK 2015)	M 7 F 15 (YLT 2016)	Not available
Average		11	

Men And Women Generally

General Data

The *Registrar General Report 2016* contains the following:

Age	Persons	Number of Males	Males % of total	Number of Females	Females % of total
All	1,862,137	915,213	49	946,924	51
2	24,656	12,639	51	12,017	49
3	25,155	12,787	51	12,368	49
4	25,974	13,315	51	12,659	49
5	25,781	13,103	51	12,678	49
6	25,462	12,988	51	12,474	49

7	25,809	13,253	51	12,556	49
8	25,830	13,227	51	12,603	49
9	24,643	12,663	51	11,980	49
10	23,470	12,041	51	11,429	49
11	22,860	11,803	52	11,057	48
12	22,619	11,664	52	10,955	48
13	22,146	11,299	51	10,847	49
14	22,216	11,352	51	10,864	49
15	22,396	11,475	51	10,921	49
16	23,263	12,100	52	11,163	48
17	24,303	12,433	51	11,870	49
18	24,526	12,610	51	11,916	49
19	23,885	12,334	52	11,551	48
Total	434,994	223,086	51	211,908	49

The population of Northern Ireland on *Census Day 2011* was 1,810,900. Males 887,300 (49%) and Females 923,500 (51%).

The *Labour Force Religion Report 2015* (last updated January 2017), shows 79% of working age protestant males and 78% of working age catholic males were economically active in 2015. In the same period, 66% of protestant females and 67% of catholic females were economically active.

People who Identify Transgender

Data on people who identify as transgender is limited for Northern Ireland. The UK 2021 Census topic consultation identified a need for gender identity data. However *the Gender Identity Research & Education Society (GIRES)* estimates that about 1% of the British population are gender nonconforming to some degree. The numbers of gender non-conforming boys and gender non-conforming girls are about equal.

Accurate figures on the number of transgender people are not currently available. *McBride (2011) 'Healthcare Issues for Transgender People Living in Northern Ireland'* estimates that the number of people who say they are transgender in Northern Ireland is 8 per 100,000 (120) people (aged 16 and over). There is a higher proportion of male to female transitions.

Negative attitudes are displayed towards transgender people, according to the *2016 Equality Awareness Survey by the Equality Commission*. This found that 14% of respondents would mind (a little or a lot) having a transgender person as a work colleague, while 15% would mind having one as a neighbour and 22% would mind having one as an in-law.

Free School Meals Data

The 2015/2016 Annual NI School Census reported that 30.5% of males and 30.4% of females are entitled to a free school meal.

Universal Credit

It is expected that the majority of those pupils who will lose eligibility will be in the period from 2019 to 2022 when current benefit claimant will be reassessed. Assuming a steady reduction over the 3-year period this could result in approximately 666 pupils losing eligibility per year. However, there is also forecast to be an increase of 1,333 pupils gaining eligibility over these years.

Comparison

Gender	% General Population	% FSM
Male aged 2 - 19	NI 51	30.5
Female aged 2 - 19	NI 49	30.4
Trans (NI)	NI 0.01	Not available
Non-conforming (UK)	UK 1	Not available

Disability

General Data

2011 Census figures show that just over one in five of the resident population (21%) had a long-term health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day activities, similar to the proportion in 2001 (20%). Strabane and Belfast (both 24%) had the highest proportions of residents with a long-term health problem or disability. Almost seven-tenths of usual residents (69 per cent) did not have a long-term condition.

The most common long-term conditions among the usually resident population were a mobility or dexterity problem (11 per cent) and long-term pain or discomfort (10 per cent). 12 per cent of household accommodation had been designed or adapted for wheelchair usage, other physical or mobility difficulties, visual difficulties, hearing difficulties or other circumstances.

Long-term health problem or disability of Northern Ireland Population
NISRA (2012) Table KS301 – Health and unpaid care

Disability	Count	Percentage %
Long-term health problem or disability: day-to-day activities limited a lot	215,232	11.9
Long-term health problem or disability: day-to-day activities limited a little	159,414	8.8
Long-term health problem or disability: day-to-day activities	1,436,217	79.3

not limited		
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According to a *NISRA survey* carried out in 2006; some 37% of households include at least one person with a disability and 20% of these include more than one disabled person.

The *Northern Ireland Survey of Activity Limitation and Disability (2006/07)* reported that for both men and women, the rate of disability increases with age. Women on average live longer than men therefore disability tends to be more common among women. The rate is particularly high for women aged 75 and above (at 62%). It is only among the youngest adults aged 16 to 25 that the rate for men (at 6%) is higher than for women (4%).

Some 32% of the 1,860 people receiving direct payments from their local Health and Social Care Trust have a physical or sensory disability (January 2011).

McConkey et al, 'Accessibility of healthcare information for people with a learning disability A Review and Discussion Paper' (2006) reported that in Northern Ireland there are about 16,500 people with a learning disability. This is predicted to increase by 20.5% by 2021.

Percentage of People in Northern Ireland population by type of long term condition or disability

2011 Northern Ireland Census

Type of long – term condition	Percentage of population with condition %
Deafness or partial hearing loss	5.14
Blindness or partial sight loss	1.7
Communication Difficulty	1.65
Mobility of Dexterity Difficulty	11.44
Learning, intellectual, social or behavioural difficulty.	2.22
Emotional, psychological or mental health condition	5.83
Long – term pain or discomfort	10.10
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing	8.72

Frequent confusion or memory loss	1.97
A chronic illness (such as cancer, HIV, diabetes, heart disease or epilepsy.	6.55
Other condition	5.22

Free School Meals Data

The *2015/2016 Annual NI School Census* reported that 48% of pupils with a special educational need (SEN) are entitled to a FSM compared to 26% of pupils who don't have a SEN.

The Education Authority confirmed that for approved FSM applications in 2017/18, 475 were for pupils requiring a special diet who hold a statement of special educational need. Out of the total number of approved applications which ran to 98528, this represents 0.48%.

The balance of those entitled, with a SEN, will be eligible by another criteria.

Pupils with a SEN may attend a special or mainstream school.

Universal Credit

It is expected that the majority of those pupils who will lose eligibility will be in the period from 2019 to 2022 when current benefit claimant will be reassessed. Assuming a steady reduction over the 3-year period this could result in approximately 666 pupils losing eligibility per year. There is also forecast to be an increase of 1,333 pupils gaining eligibility over these years.

Comparison

Disability	% General NI Population All Ages	% FSM
With Disability	21	48
Without Disability	79	26
Rate of disability for age group 16-25 is 6% for males and 4% for females, an average of 5%.		

Dependants

General Data

According to the *2011 Census*, Northern Ireland had the highest average number of people per household of the UK constituent countries at 2.5.

The [*ONS Statistical bulletin: Families and Households: 2015*](#) reported that the types of families in which dependent children live have changed significantly. The biggest change is for dependent children living in cohabiting couple families. In 2005, 11% of dependent children lived in such families and this rose to 15% by 2015.

Carers

The *2011 Young Life and Times Survey* (of 16 year old young people) reported one in ten of their respondents had caring responsibilities.

The *UK Family Resource Survey 2010 - 2011* reported 9 % of adults and 1% of children were carers.

The *2011 Northern Ireland Census* reported that an eighth (12 per cent) of the usually resident population in 2011 provided unpaid care (compared with 11 per cent in 2001), around a quarter (26 per cent) of whom did so for 50 or more hours per week.

Young Parents

The *Northern Ireland Registrar General's Annual Report 2016* reported:

Year	Number of live births to mothers under the age of 20	% of total live births	Number inside marriage	Number outside marriage
2016	791	3.3	21	770
2015	760	3.1	19	741
2014	839	3.4	13	826

Data has been provided by the EA:

EA Area	Date (Period)	Number
Belfast	2016/17	47
South Eastern /Dundonald	2016/17	28
North Eastern /Ballymena	2016/17	25
Western / Omagh	2016/17	20
Southern / Armagh	2016/17	16
Total	2016/17	136

Dependants

In the *2011 Census* respondents were asked whether they provided any unpaid help or support to family members, friends, neighbours or others because of long-term physical or mental ill-health/disabilities, or problems related to old age. Twelve per cent of the population (213,980) provided such unpaid care, around a quarter (26%) of whom did so for 50 or more hours a week, a total of 56,000 people.

Between the 2001 and the 2011 Census there was an increase in the number of

people providing unpaid care.

Changes in the provision of unpaid care in Northern Ireland between 2001 and 2011 census.

NISRA Univariate table UV021 (2001 numbers) and NISRA (2012) Table KS301 – Health and unpaid care (2011 numbers)

Care provided	2001 Census		2011 Census	
	Count	Percentage %	Count	Percentage %
Provides no unpaid care	1,500,201	89.0	1,596,883	88.2
Provides 1-19 hours unpaid care per week	110,407	6.6	122,301	6.8
Provides 20-49 hours unpaid care per week	28,000	1.7	35,369	2.0
Provides 50+ hours unpaid care per week	46,659	2.8	56,310	3.1
Total	1,685,267	100	1,810,863	100

Based on the most recent information from *Carers Northern Ireland (June 2011)*, the following facts relate to carers:

- 1 in every 8 adults is a carer;
- There are about 207,000 carers in Northern Ireland;
- One quarter of all carers provide over 50 hours of care per week;
- People providing high levels of care are twice as likely to be permanently sick or disabled as the average person;
- About 30,000 people in Northern Ireland care for more than one person; and
- 64% of carers are women; 36% are men.

In 2006 the DHSSPS published a *Survey of Carers of Older People in Northern Ireland*. Of which providing this care over three-quarters (77%) were female and almost a quarter were male. Fifteen per cent were aged 75 or over, 48% were aged 55-74, 35% were aged 35-54 and only 2% were aged under 35. Just over three-quarters of the male carers (76%) were aged 55 or more, compared with three-fifths (60%) of female carers. Almost a quarter (24%) of the male carers and 12% of the female carers were aged 75 or more.

The majority of informal care is provided by family members, usually spouses or adult children.

Free School Meals Data

As having dependents is not a consideration in eligibility for FSM this information is not collected.

Universal Credit

It is expected that the majority of those pupils who will lose eligibility will be in the period from 2019 to 2022 when current benefit claimant will be reassessed. Assuming a steady reduction over the 3-year period this could result in approximately 666 pupils losing eligibility per year. There is also forecast to be an increase of 1,333 pupils gaining eligibility over these years.

Comparison

Dependents	%	% FSM
Children who are Carers	1% of General NI Population	Not available
School age mothers	0.04% of 2016/17 School Enrolment of 332,986.	Not available

2.2 Taking into account the evidence gathered at 2.1 what are the needs, experiences and priorities of each category in relation to this particular policy?

Section 75 category	Needs/Experiences/Uptake/Priorities
Religious Belief	<p>Although complete data is not available to profile how those across this category may be affected by the application of the UC criteria, conclusions indicating possible effects may be drawn from other data gathered. However it is difficult to accurately assess the potential impact.</p> <p>Of the different religious beliefs shown in the data, those regarded as 'Other' are a much smaller percentage at 6.5% than the main religions of 'Protestant' (48.4%) and 'Catholic' (45.1%).</p> <p>However, the percentage of those entitled to a FSM 'other' beliefs is in a broadly similar range – 'Other' 29.4%, 'Protestant' 25.6% and 'Catholic' 34%.</p> <p>Eligibility for FSM and uniform grants target those most in need and this will continue with the revised criteria.</p> <p>Any changes to eligibility for Free School Meals and uniform grants will happen gradually over the next five years lessening the effects of any loss in eligibility. Lower numbers are anticipated in the earlier phase of the roll-out. It is expected that the majority of those who may gain or lose eligibility will be in the re-assessment phase from July 2019 to March 2022.</p>
Political Opinion	<p>Although complete data is not available to show how those across this category may be affected by the application of the UC criteria, conclusions indicating possible effects may be drawn</p>

	<p>from other data gathered. However it is difficult to accurately assess the potential impact.</p> <p>Of the election data, those regarded as 'Other' at 19.3% are around half of 'Unionist' (40.9%) and 'Nationalist' (39.8%). Of the National Identity data, those who identify as 'British' at 48.4% is higher than 'Northern Irish' at 29.4% and 'Irish' at 28.4, with the lowest of 5% who identify as 'Other'.</p> <p>However, the percentage of those entitled to a FSM is for 'Other' 29.4%, 'unionist' 25.6% and 'nationalist' 34%. Therefore when compared to both sets of general data, those in the 'Other' group are the lowest with election data showing 10.2% and national identity data showing 5%.</p> <p>Eligibility for FSM and uniform grants target those most in need and this will continue with the revised criteria.</p> <p>Any changes to eligibility for Free School Meals and uniform grants will happen gradually over the next five years lessening the effects of any loss in eligibility. Lower numbers are anticipated in the earlier phase of the roll-out. It is expected that the majority of those who may gain or lose eligibility will be in the re-assessment phase from July 2019 to March 2022.</p>
<p>Racial Group</p>	<p>Although complete data is not available to show how those across this category may be affected by the application of the UC criteria, conclusions indicating possible effects may be drawn from other data gathered. However it is difficult to accurately assess the potential impact.</p> <p>The 2015/2016 Annual NI School Census shows the breakdown of those entitled to a free school meal was 34.8% Non-white and 30.3% White.</p> <p>Of the different racial groups shown in the data, those regarded as 'non-white' are a vastly smaller percentage at 1.8% compared to 'white' at 98.2%. However, the percentage of those entitled to a FSM for both groups is in a similar range – 'non-white' the higher of the range at 34.8% and 'white' the lower of the range at 30.3%.</p> <p>Eligibility for FSM and uniform grants target those most in need and this will continue with the revised criteria.</p> <p>Any changes to eligibility for Free School Meals and uniform grants will happen gradually over the next five years lessening the effects of any loss in eligibility. Lower numbers are anticipated in the earlier phase of the roll-out. It is expected that the majority of those who may gain or lose eligibility will be in the re-assessment phase from July 2019 to March 2022.</p> <p>However with particular regard to this Section 75 category, the child of an asylum seeker also has eligibility to FSM if the parent/guardian is supported by the Home Office National</p>

	<p>Asylum Support Service (NASS) (current criterion viii). There are no current plans to change this criterion.</p>
<p>Age</p>	<p>Although complete data is not available to show how those across this category may be affected by the application of the UC criteria, conclusions indicating possible effects may be drawn from other data gathered. However it is difficult to accurately assess the potential impact.</p> <p>Of the different age ranges which correspond with the 3 school phases, the lowest, middle and highest percentages of population corresponds with the percentages of FSM – highest ‘Primary’, middle ‘Post Primary’ and lowest ‘Nursery’.</p> <p>Eligibility for FSM and uniform grants target those most in need and this will continue with the revised criteria.</p> <p>Any changes to eligibility for Free School Meals and uniform grants will happen gradually over the next five years lessening the effects of any loss in eligibility. Lower numbers are anticipated in the earlier phase of the roll-out. It is expected that the majority of those who may gain or lose eligibility will be in the re-assessment phase from July 2019 to March 2022.</p>
<p>Marital Status</p>	<p>Although complete data is not available to show how those across this category may be affected by the application of the UC criteria, conclusions indicating possible effects may be drawn from other data gathered. However it is difficult to accurately assess the potential impact.</p> <p>Of the marital status shown in the data, those regarded as ‘Married’ are a minor percentage and those in a ‘Civil Partnership’ are a small percentage, when both are compared to those unmarried.</p> <p>In addition the actual number of those who may be entitled to a FSM is smaller again when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • those outside the appropriate age are removed from the data; and • those outside the age of marital / civil partnership consent are removed from the school enrolment (2016/17 332,986 pupils). <p>Actual data on entitlement to FSM for those who either ‘Married’ or in a ‘Civil Partnership’ or ‘Unmarried’ is not collected.</p> <p>Eligibility for FSM and uniform grants target those most in need and this will continue with the revised criteria.</p> <p>Any changes to eligibility for Free School Meals and uniform grants will happen gradually over the next five years lessening the effects of any loss in eligibility. Lower numbers are anticipated in the earlier phase of the roll-out. It is expected that the majority of those who may gain or lose eligibility will be in the</p>

	re-assessment phase from July 2019 to March 2022.
Sexual Orientation	<p>Although complete data is not available to show how those across this category may be affected by the application of the UC criteria, conclusions indicating possible effects may be drawn from other data gathered. However it is difficult to accurately assess the potential impact.</p> <p>Of the different orientations shown in the data, those young people regarded as 'Same Sex Attracted' are a much smaller percentage at an average of 11%, if it considered the balance are 'Opposite Sex Attracted'.</p> <p>Actual data on entitlement to FSM for those who either 'Same Sex Attracted' or 'Opposite Sex Attracted' is not collected.</p> <p>Eligibility for FSM and uniform grants target those most in need and this will continue with the revised criteria.</p> <p>Any changes to eligibility for Free School Meals and uniform grants will happen gradually over the next five years lessening the effects of any loss in eligibility. Lower numbers are anticipated in the earlier phase of the roll-out. It is expected that the majority of those who may gain or lose eligibility will be in the re-assessment phase from July 2019 to March 2022.</p>
Men And Women Generally	<p>Although complete data is not available to show how those across this category may be affected by the application of the UC criteria, conclusions indicating possible effects may be drawn from other data gathered. However it is difficult to accurately assess the potential impact.</p> <p>Of the different groups shown in the data, those regarded as 'Transgender' or 'Non-conforming' are a much smaller percentage when the larger figure of 1% is assumed. In relation to the gender identity of 'Male' and 'Female', at 51% and 49% respectively of the general population, they are broadly similar.</p> <p>Data is not recorded on FSM entitlement for 'Transgender' or 'Non-conforming' groups. Data available for 'Male' and 'Female', at 30.5% and 30.4% respectively entitled to FSM, is very similar.</p> <p>Eligibility for FSM and uniform grants target those most in need and this will continue with the revised criteria.</p> <p>Any changes to eligibility for Free School Meals and uniform grants will happen gradually over the next five years lessening the effects of any loss in eligibility. Lower numbers are anticipated in the earlier phase of the roll-out. It is expected that the majority of those who may gain or lose eligibility will be in the re-assessment phase from July 2019 to March 2022.</p>
Disability	<p>Although complete data is not available to show how those across this category may be affected by the application of the UC criteria, conclusions indicating possible effects may be drawn</p>

	<p>from other data gathered. However it is difficult to accurately assess the potential impact.</p> <p>Of the different groups shown in the data, those regarded as 'With Disability' are a smaller percentage at around a fifth of the population at 21% than those 'Without Disability' at 79% of the population. However, the percentage of those entitled to a FSM for it is higher for those 'With Disability' at 48% than the 26% of those 'Without Disability'.</p> <p>Eligibility for FSM and uniform grants target those most in need and this will continue with the revised criteria.</p> <p>Any changes to eligibility for Free School Meals and uniform grants will happen gradually over the next five years lessening the effects of any loss in eligibility. Lower numbers are anticipated in the earlier phase of the roll-out. It is expected that the majority of those who may gain or lose eligibility will be in the re-assessment phase from July 2019 to March 2022.</p> <p>However with particular regard to this Section 75 category, there are separate eligibility criteria in respect of SEN (current criteria (vi) and (vii)). There are no current plans to change these criteria.</p>
Dependants	<p>Although complete data is not available to show how those across this category may be affected by the application of the UC criteria, conclusions indicating possible effects may be drawn from other data gathered. However it is difficult to accurately assess the potential impact.</p> <p>Of the different groups shown in the data, those regarded as 'Children who are Carers' is a small percentage of the general population and 'School Age Mothers' is a minor percentage of the total school population.</p> <p>Data is not recorded on FSM entitlement for 'Children who are Carers' or 'School Age Mothers' groups.</p> <p>Eligibility for FSM and uniform grants target those most in need and this will continue with the revised criteria.</p> <p>Any changes to eligibility for Free School Meals and uniform grants will happen gradually over the next five years lessening the effects of any loss in eligibility. Lower numbers are anticipated in the earlier phase of the roll-out. It is expected that the majority of those who may gain or lose eligibility will be in the re-assessment phase from July 2019 to March 2022.</p>

3. SCREENING QUESTIONS:

3.1 What is the likely impact of this policy on equality of opportunity for each of the Section 75 equality categories?		
Section 75 category	Level of Impact?	Details of policy impact
Religious Belief	There is no evidence to suggest an adverse differential impact.	<p>A broadly similar percentage across the religious beliefs are entitled to FSM according to the data provided in section 2.1. However there is no data available to indicate who will lose or gain entitlement. It is not possible to determine, and there is no evidence to suggest, that any religious belief will be impacted on more than another.</p> <p>The criteria will be monitored over the course of the roll-out of UC. It is expected that the majority of those who may gain or lose eligibility will be in the re-assessment phase from July 2019 to March 2022. Any necessary action will be considered as part of the monitoring process.</p>
Political Opinion	There is no evidence to suggest an adverse differential impact.	<p>A broadly similar percentage across political opinions are entitled to FSM according to the data provided in section 2.1. However there is no data available to indicate who will lose or gain entitlement. It is not possible to determine, and there is no evidence to suggest, that any political opinion will be impacted on more than another.</p> <p>The criteria will be monitored over the course of the roll-out of UC. It is expected that the majority of those who may gain or lose eligibility will be in the re-assessment phase from July 2019 to March 2022. Any necessary action will be considered as part of the monitoring process.</p>
Racial Group	There is no evidence to suggest an adverse differential impact.	<p>A broadly similar percentage across racial groups are entitled to FSM according to the data provided in section 2.1. However there is no data available to indicate who will lose or gain entitlement. It is not possible to determine, and there is no evidence to suggest, that any racial group will be impacted on more than another.</p> <p>The criteria will be monitored over the course of the roll-out of UC. It is expected that the majority of those who may gain or lose eligibility will be in the re-assessment phase from July 2019 to March 2022. Any necessary action will be considered as part of the monitoring process.</p>
Age	There is no evidence to suggest an adverse differential impact.	<p>According to the data provided in section 2.1 there are more primary pupils entitled to FSM than post-primary pupils. However there is no data available to indicate who will lose or gain entitlement. Therefore it is not possible to determine, and there is no evidence to suggest, that any age group will be impacted on more than another.</p> <p>The criteria will be monitored over the course of the roll-out of UC. It is expected that the majority of those who may</p>

		gain or lose eligibility will be in the re-assessment phase from July 2019 to March 2022. Any necessary action will be considered as part of the monitoring process.
Marital Status	There is no evidence to suggest an adverse differential impact.	<p>It has not been possible to include FSM entitlement data on marital status in section 2.1. In addition, there is no data available to indicate who will lose or gain entitlement. It is not possible to determine, and there is no evidence to suggest, that any marital group will be impacted on more than another.</p> <p>The criteria will be monitored over the course of the roll-out of UC. It is expected that the majority of those who may gain or lose eligibility will be in the re-assessment phase from July 2019 to March 2022. Any necessary action will be considered as part of the monitoring process.</p>
Sexual Orientation	There is no evidence to suggest an adverse differential impact.	<p>It has not been possible to include FSM entitlement data on sexual orientation in section 2.1. In addition, there is no data available to indicate who will lose or gain entitlement. It is not possible to determine, and there is no evidence to suggest, that any sexual orientation group will be impacted on more than another.</p> <p>The criteria will be monitored over the course of the roll-out of UC. It is expected that the majority of those who may gain or lose eligibility will be in the re-assessment phase from July 2019 to March 2022. Any necessary action will be considered as part of the monitoring process.</p>
Men and Women Generally	There is no evidence to suggest an adverse differential impact.	<p>A broadly similar percentage of men and women are entitled to FSM according to the data provided in section 2.1. However there is no data available to indicate who will lose or gain entitlement. It is not possible to determine, and there is no evidence to suggest, that men will be impacted on more than women or vice versa.</p> <p>It has not been possible to include FSM entitlement data on those regarded as transgender or non-conforming in section 2.1. In addition, there is no data available to indicate who will lose or gain entitlement. It is not possible to determine, and there is no evidence to suggest, that those regarded as transgender or non-conforming will be impacted on more than those not regarded as transgender or non-conforming.</p> <p>The criteria will be monitored over the course of the roll-out of UC. It is expected that the majority of those who may gain or lose eligibility will be in the re-assessment phase from July 2019 to March 2022. Any necessary action will be considered as part of the monitoring process.</p>
Disability	There is no evidence to suggest	According to the data provided in section 2.1 there are more of those regarded as with a disability entitled to FSM than without a disability. However there is no data

	an adverse differential impact.	<p>available to indicate who will lose or gain entitlement. Therefore it is not possible to determine, and there is no evidence to suggest, that those regarded as with a disability will be impacted on more than those without a disability.</p> <p>The criteria will be monitored over the course of the roll-out of UC. It is expected that the majority of those who may gain or lose eligibility will be in the re-assessment phase from July 2019 to March 2022. Any necessary action will be considered as part of the monitoring process.</p> <p>However, with particular regard to this Section 75 category, there are separate eligibility criteria in respect of SEN (current criteria (vi) and (vii)). There are no current plans to change these criteria.</p>
Dependants	There is no evidence to suggest an adverse differential impact.	<p>It has not been possible to include FSM entitlement data on those with dependents in section 2.1. In addition, there is no data available to indicate who will lose or gain entitlement. It is not possible to determine, and there is no evidence to suggest, that those with dependents will be impacted on more than those without dependents.</p> <p>The criteria will be monitored over the course of the roll-out of UC. It is expected that the majority of those who may gain or lose eligibility will be in the re-assessment phase from July 2019 to March 2022. Any necessary action will be considered as part of the monitoring process.</p>

3.2 Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equality categories?

Section 75 category	YES/NO	Provide Details
Religious belief	NO	<p>However consideration will be given to targeted awareness of FSM / Uniform Grant eligibility which may better promote equality of opportunity for pupils. In addition, monitoring of the award of UC applications using actual data, as opposed to projections based on general data, may help to determine if any groups within a category are disproportionately affected. This information could be used to report to the Minister to decide if changes should be made to the eligibility criteria in due course.</p>
Political opinion		
Racial group		
Age		
Marital status		
Sexual Orientation		
Men and Women generally		
Disability		
Dependants		

3.3 To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between: people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

Good relations category	Impact	Details of policy impact
Religious belief	None	No evidence of differential impact on good relations.
Political opinion		
Racial group		

3.4 Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

Good relations category	YES/NO*	Provide Details
Religious belief	NO	
Political opinion	NO	
Racial group	NO	

3.5 Additional considerations - Multiple identities

Please provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities and specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned.

Eligibility for FSM benefits all Section 75 categories as access to FSM and uniform grants will target those most in need.

In addition, monitoring of the award of UC applications using actual data is planned, as opposed to projections based on general data. This monitoring may help to determine if any groups within a category are actually disproportionately affected, and as result if combinations of particular categories are particularly vulnerable. This information could be used to report to the Minister to decide if changes should be made to the eligibility criteria.

4. SCREENING DECISION

Not to conduct an equality impact assessment; although there is a minor impact, on one or more of the equality of opportunities and/or good relations categories but mitigation/alternative policies will offset the minor adverse impact(s).

Details which support the screening decision

Current planning is that Universal Credit is being rolled out to new claimants (on a geographical basis) between September 2017 and December 2018 and existing legacy benefit claims will migrate to Universal Credit from July 2019 to March 2022. There was no intended instant loss of eligibility to FSM in September 2017 as any forecast changes in eligibility are due to take place over the full roll out period (until March 2022) with the majority of changes in the re-assessment phase of existing legacy benefit claims from July 2019 to March 2022.

The Department will seek to ensure that the most deprived families continue to receive FSM and uniform grants along the principles of current eligibility. The current eligibility criteria for FSM and uniform grants are based on a pupil, parent or carer being in receipt of certain means tested benefits and tax credits.

With the roll-out of UC, certain benefits and tax credits will no longer exist so new criteria was required to enable the Department to continue to target support to those most in need. There is no intention to restrict access or to cut budgets. The proposal indicates more of those in need will be supported.

5. TIMETABLING AND PRIORITISING

5.1 If the policy has been 'screened in' - 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 equality impact assessment.

Not applicable as policy screened out.

Criterion	Priority Rating
Effect on equality of opportunity and good relations	NA
Social need	NA
Effect on people's daily lives	NA
Relevance to a public authority's functions	NA
Total	NA

5.2 If the policy is affected by timetables established by other relevant Public Authorities please provide details

Not applicable.

Note: Details of the Department's Equality Impact Assessment Timetable will be included in a Quarterly Screening Report.

6. MITIGATION

If you conclude that the likely impact is '**minor**' and an equality impact assessment is not to be conducted, you should consider: mitigation to lessen the severity of any equality impact, or the introduction of an alternative policy to better promote equality of opportunity or good relations.

Why and how will the policy/decision be amended or changed or an alternative policy introduced to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations?

Consideration will be given to targeted awareness raising of FSM / Uniform Grant eligibility for those pupils from the groups where a minor impact has been identified from the general data available.

In addition, monitoring of the award of UC applications using actual data, as opposed to projections based on general data, may help to determine if any groups within a category are actually disproportionately affected. This information could be used to report to the Minister to decide if changes should be made to the eligibility criteria.

7. MONITORING

Effective monitoring will help identify any future adverse impact arising from the policy, as well as help with future planning and policy development.

Please detail what data you will collect in the future in order to monitor the effect of the policy on any of Section 75 equality categories

NI school annual census data provides a breakdown of FSM entitlement on gender, religion, ethnicity, special educational needs and age. The number of pupils eligible to FSM and impact of the threshold introduced will be reviewed annually during the phasing period. This will include close monitoring of claims, by the Education Authority (EA) and Department, from families earning around the £14,000 threshold.

8. DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION

8.1 Please state if the policy/decision in any way discourages persons with disabilities from participating in public life or fails to promote positive attitudes towards persons with disabilities.

Not applicable.

8.2 Please state if there is an opportunity to better promote positive attitudes towards persons with disabilities or encourage participation in public life by making changes to the policy/decision or introducing additional measures.

Not applicable.

8.3 Please detail what data you will collect in the future in order to monitor the effect of the policy with reference to the disability duties.

Not applicable.

9. CONSIDERATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

9.1 How does the policy/decision affect anyone's Human Rights?

The Human Rights Act (1998)	Neutral Impact
The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)	Neutral Impact
The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)	Neutral Impact
The United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)	Neutral Impact

9.2 If you have identified a negative impact who is affected and how?

Not applicable.

9.3 Outline any actions which could be taken to promote or raise awareness of human rights or to ensure compliance with the legislation in relation to the policy/decision.

Not applicable.

10. CONSIDERATION OF RURAL IMPACTS

Guidance on Rural Impact Assessment can be found in: [Thinking Rural: The Essential Guide to Rural Proofing](#). As adverse differential impacts cannot be accurately be identified for any particular Section 75 category using the DfC model provided to identify the option to broadly maintain numbers and costs, a reliable assessment of rural impacts cannot be made at this stage.

10.1 Is there potentially a direct, or indirect, impact on rural areas?

No. Update of criteria is intended to continue to support those most in need, along the lines of current eligibility.

10.2 If YES please attach a DARD Rural Issues Statement Pro-forma
(The Pro-forma can be found in TRIM Document DE1/14/117152)

11. APPROVAL AND AUTHORISATION

Screened by:	Position	Date
Nicola Adams	Deputy Principal / Transport and Schools Meals Team	16 November 2017 – 8 February 2018
Approved by:	Position	Date
Jonathan Boyd	Head of Transport and Schools Meals Team	14 December 2017 – 13 February 2018
Review and update approved by:	Position	Date
Margaret Rose McNaughton	Director of Children and Young People's Services	14 February 2018 – 15 February 2018

FOR COMPLETION BY EQUALITY TEAM

Screening Decision	Agreed	
Quality Assured by:	Richard Magowan	29/03/18
Click here to enter comments.		
Date Directorate/Team Informed:	29/03/18	

FOR COMPLETION BY POLICY TEAM

TRIM Ref No.	ED1/17/196367
Date screening form placed on Internet by policy team	30/04/18
Date email sent to S75 Consultees by policy team	To be arranged with Equality Team.