

TEO Budget 2023/24 EQIA Consultation

RCN Zoom Workshop

31.05.23

Background

- Secretary of state set the budget in absence of an Executive 27.04.23
- Civil servants in NI Departments are now releasing Equality Impact Assessments to consult on impacts on S75 groups
- Short presentation on the budget and some of the cuts proposed.
- Discussion on impact on S75 groups in rural communities, mitigation and any other comments

TEO Budget 2023/24

- 3.9% reduction in TEO budget from 2022/23 from £78.8M to £75.8M in baseline resources.
- However TEO's spending requirements have risen to £85.2M
- So actual budget reduction needed is £9.5M or 11.1%
- Some TEO functions/activities ring-fenced
- Capital allocations “sufficient to meet projected needs”
- EQIA consultation comments deadline 07.06.23 to inform initial allocation of funds
- Comments open until 02.08.23

TEO Earmarked Funds

- HIA / Victims' Payments / Truth Recovery £98.9m;
- Communities in Transition £3.3m;
- Dedicated Mechanism £1.0m;
- NI Protocol £0.1m; and
- EU Peace Match Funding £2.7m

TEO Cuts Already Being Implemented

- Staffing for new areas of work resourced from re-deployment of staff within TEO
- Paused recruitment other than in instances of exceptional need
- Impact on staff wellbeing and TEO will reprioritise work to match resources available

TEO General Approach to Cuts

Two options were identified:

1. Apply a common reduction of 11.1% across all non-ringfenced business areas.
2. Use the EQIA to inform decisions on cuts that limited the impact on the most vulnerable people served by TEO

TEO prefers option 2 to attempt to mitigate disproportionate impact on S75 groups

TEO Further Resource Cuts being Considered

Following analysis TEO is considering the following measures:

1. continuing the moratorium on filling vacancies and new posts (other than in exceptional circumstances) – £2.9m
2. 10% top-slicing of the Department and ALBs (other than VSS) – £3.6m;
3. Reductions in GR work. Central GR Fund and District Council GR Programme - £3.5M

S75 Impacts identified by TEO EQIA

TEO identifying main impacts on Age Gender Disability & Dependent Status S75 categories:

- Religious Belief/political opinion greater impact on people who are Catholic as they are more likely to participate in CGRF & Planned Interventions Programme
- Racial Group as CGRF has significant participation from minority ethnic groups. DCGRP also has significant participation from minority ethnic groups
- Age – c. 2/3rds of CGRF participants u18. 1/3rd participants in DCGRP u18
- Gender – EVAWG reduction in funding negative impact on women and girls

Rural Issues of Concern

No mention of Rural Needs in the EQIA

- No actual RNIA published on the TEO website. Issues from a rural POV on:
- **Community Background:** Further reduction in Protestant community involvement in CGRF and DCGRP
- **Racial Group:** Potential difficulties in relation to promoting inclusion in rural areas of minority ethnic communities and danger of increase in racism
- **Sexual orientation:** not enough to say there is no evidence – if funding reduced to address homophobia or promote LGBTQI awareness then negative impacts
- **Disability:** compounded by cuts to public transport & community transport in rural

Rural Issues of Concern contd.

- **Age:** Also need to consider the current proposed cut to shared education – again this will have more serious implications in rural areas.
- **Gender:** additional challenges around violence against women and girls in rural communities

Next Steps

- Replies should be sent by 07.06.23 (first phase)
- Consultation will remain open until 02.08.23 (second phase)
- We will write up notes of our conversation this morning and circulate to everyone.
- We will share our draft response to the consultation.

Feedback/Discussion

Consultation Questions in EQIA are:

1. Has TEO gathered necessary data to inform decisions? If not what else?
2. Do you agree with TEO's assessment of budget reductions options? If not what other areas of spend should be considered?
3. Do you agree with TEO assessment of equality impacts of budget reductions considered? What other equality impacts does TEO need to take account of?
4. Are there additional mitigations TEO should consider?
5. Any other comments?