

Dear Sir/Madam

SCREENING OF POLICIES

This letter refers to the results of the screening of SIB policies and the draft EQIA Programme. If you need to see the letter in an alternative format – such as Braille, large print, audio cassette, disk or in a minority language – please let us know and we will arrange to make this available to you as quickly as possible. Contact information is given below.

In January 2006 a report was circulated for consultation setting out information about all current SIB policies and those being developed. Responses were received from 6 organisations.

A further report setting out the results of applying the screening criteria to the policies, preliminary conclusions on the policies to be subjected to equality impact assessment (EQIA) and the proposed timetable for these assessments was circulated for consultation in September 2006. Responses were received from 3 organisations.

In the second report SIB indicated that EQIA would be undertaken in respect of two policies –

- criteria for the selection of supported projects
- equal opportunities policy

and that the iteration of the Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland (ISNI 2) would be screened and an EQIA would be conducted if appropriate.

Towards the end of 2006, we gave further consideration to the policy on the selection of supported projects. The criteria were established by the SIB Board some time ago, when the operating strategy of the company was being developed. However, they have never actually been applied. Projects are supported either because there is a directive from a Minister or as a result of a request from a Permanent Secretary. To date all requests have been acted upon. The only situation in which SIB might be faced with any form of selection is where there are insufficient resources to support all projects. Following discussion with the OFMDFM, it has been agreed that, if this situation ever arises, SIB should seek direction from the appropriate Minister, rather than make a unilateral decision. This position supersedes the criteria in the existing policy.

In the light of these discussions, it has been decided that it would not be appropriate to undertake an EQIA on the selection of supported projects. SIB therefore proposes to bring forward the EQIA of the equal opportunities policy and complete it in 2007.

A copy of the final screening report is now available on our website at www.sibni.org

If you would like a hard copy or a version of the report in an alternative format, please contact:

Name	Una Short
Title	Human Resources Manager
Address	Strategic Investment Board Limited Clare House, 303 Airport Road West Belfast BT3 9ED
Tel	028 9081 6603
Fax	028 9081 6603
E-mail	una.short@sibni.org

Yours faithfully

Una Short
HR Manager