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# Island Communities Impact Assessments

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Version 2, updated April 2024



**SHETLAND**  
ISLANDS COUNCIL

## Island Communities Impact Assessment

### Commission Research into the Minimum Income Standard

PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS	Responses
Please provide a brief description or summary of the policy, strategy or service under review for the purposes of this assessment.	Commission Research into the Minimum Income Standard
STEP 1 - Develop a clear understanding of your objectives	Responses
What are the objectives of the policy, strategy or service?	To commission research to determine the Minimum Income required to have an acceptable standard of living.
Do you need to consult?	No
How are islands identified for the purpose of the policy, strategy or service?	Areas of the islands will be determined to be Town, Accessible to Town, Inaccessible to Town
What are the intended impacts/outcomes and how do these potentially differ in the islands?	Understanding of the higher cost of living in Scotland's Island Authorities, relative to the UK, and between different geographies within each Island authority.
Is the policy, strategy or service new?	The MIS for Remote Rural Scotland was undertaken in 2012/13, with a Policy Review in 2016. This MIS research will be new, but comparable to the previous research.
STEP 2 - Gather your data and identify your stakeholders	Responses
What data is available about the current situation in the islands?	The MIS for Remote Rural Scotland was undertaken in 2012/13, with a Policy Review in 2016.
Do you need to consult?	No
How does any existing data differ between islands?	The MIS 2013 and 2016 provided information on 4 geographies within Remote Rural Scotland, showing higher costs the more remote from Towns that householders live.
Are there any existing design features or mitigations in place?	Not in relation to the MIS research itself, but the research has been used to apply differential rent for social housing, for example.
STEP 3 - Consultation	Responses

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Who do you need to consult with?	None required.
How will you carry out your consultation and in what timescales?	N/A
What questions will you ask when considering how to address island realities?	N/A
What information has already been gathered through consultations and what concerns have been raised previously by island communities?	Consultation within the Council, with Shetland Partnership partners, Scottish Government and other local authorities in Remote Rural Scotland.
Is your consultation robust and meaningful and sufficient to comply with the Section 7 duty?	N/A
<b>STEP 4 - Assessment</b>	<b>Responses</b>
Does your assessment identify any unique impacts on island communities?	No
Does your assessment identify any potential barriers or wider impacts?	No
How will you address these?	N/A
<p><b>You must now determine whether in your opinion your policy, strategy or service is likely to have an effect on an island community, which is significantly different from its effect on other communities (including other island communities).</b></p> <p>If your answer is <b>NO</b> to the above question, a full ICIA will NOT be required and <b><u>you can proceed to Step SEVEN.</u></b></p> <p>If the answer is <b>YES</b>, an ICIA must be prepared and <b><u>you should proceed to Step FIVE.</u></b></p> <p>To form your opinion, the following questions should be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the evidence show different circumstances or different expectations or needs, or different experiences or outcomes (such as different levels of satisfaction, or different rates of participation)?</li> <li>• Are these different effects likely?</li> <li>• Are these effects significantly different?</li> <li>• Could the effect amount to a disadvantage for an island community compared to the mainland or between island groups?</li> </ul>	
<b>STEP 5 – Preparing your ICIA</b>	<b>Responses</b>
In Step Five, you should describe the likely significantly different effect of the policy, strategy or service:	

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Assess the extent to which you consider that the policy, strategy or service can be developed or delivered in such a manner as to improve or mitigate, for island communities, the outcomes resulting from it.	
Consider alternative delivery mechanisms and whether further consultation is required.	
Describe how these alternative delivery mechanisms will improve or mitigate outcomes for island communities.	
Identify resources required to improve or mitigate outcomes for island communities.	
<b>STEP 6 - Making adjustments to your work</b>	<b>Responses</b>
Should delivery mechanisms/mitigations vary in different communities?	
Do you need to consult with island communities in respect of mechanisms or mitigations?	
Have island circumstances been factored into the evaluation process?	
Have any island-specific indicators/targets been identified that require monitoring?	
How will outcomes be measured on the islands?	
How has the policy, strategy or service affected island communities?	
How will lessons learned in this ICIA inform future policy making and service delivery?	
<b>STEP 7 - Publishing your ICIA</b>	<b>Responses</b>
Have you presented your ICIA in an Easy Read format?	No
Does it need to be presented in Gaelic or any other language?	No
Where will you publish your ICIA and will relevant stakeholders be able to easily access it?	<a href="#">Island Communities Impact Assessments – Shetland Islands Council</a>
Who will sign-off your final ICIA and why?	Director of Development Services

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ICIAs must be signed off by the staff member who completes it. They must then be approved and signed off by an executive manager or director. If an executive manager completes the ICIA, then the director should approve the ICIA.

ICIA completed by:	Emma Perring
Position:	Team Leader – Community Planning
Signature:	Emma Perring
Date complete:	23/02/2026

ICIA approved by (Executive Manager or Director):	Neil Grant
Position:	Director
Signature:	
Date approved:	16/03/26

Once approved and both the signature boxes are complete, you should publish the ICIA in PDF format on the [Island Communities Impact Assessments](#) page of the Shetland Islands Council website. All services should have a staff member who can edit the website. If not, please contact Community Planning and Development.

Even if a full assessment is not required (where the answer to Step 4 is no), this should still be published.