

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

1. What is PIA?

PIA is the process by which Government Departments, Local Authorities and State Agencies assess policies and programmes at design, implementation and review stages in relation to the likely impact that they will have or have had on poverty and on inequalities which are likely to lead to poverty, with a view to poverty reduction.

2. In What Circumstances should a PIA be performed?

PIA should be carried out at every stage at which significant policy proposals or changes are being considered, including where a pre-existing policy is being evaluated with a view to possible change. PIA should not be considered as something to be done after a decision has been made but rather as an inherent part of the policy development and decision making process.

3. Who should carry out the PIA?

The area in which the policy or programme is being developed should perform its own PIA.

4. Where can I find Examples of PIA?

Completed worked examples of PIA's can be found on the OSI website www.socialinclusion.ie, under the heading Poverty Impact Assessment, Examples of completed PIA's <http://www.socialinclusion.ie/CompletedPIA.html>

5. Where can I find More Information on PIA?

On the OSI web-site: www.socialinclusion.ie under "Poverty Impact Assessment".

6. Is PIA the same as Poverty Proofing?

PIA is a further development of Poverty Proofing. Poverty Proofing may have been seen as an "add-on" at the end of a policy document but PIA is an in-built part of policy making. This ensures that the issue of Poverty is given thorough consideration in all aspects of policy. Unlike Poverty Proofing, the screening stage of the "PIA Screening Template" has been introduced under PIA to ascertain whether or not a full assessment is needed.

7. Where can I download the PIA Template?

The PIA template for completing a successful PIA can be downloaded from the OSI website www.socialinclusion.ie under Poverty Impact Assessment.

8. Does PIA apply to All Areas of Government?

Yes, PIA applies in all areas.

9. How are Vulnerable Groups to be considered when performing a PIA?

The structure of PIA (as outlined in the PIA Screening Template) lists the different Groups and in this way they can be more easily identified.

10. What are the Steps involved in a “Full” PIA?

These are the 7 Steps:

Step 1: Consultation (New – not in Poverty Proofing)

Step 2: Define Policy Aims and Target Groups

Step 3: Identify Available Data and Research

Step 4: Assess Impacts and Consider Alternatives

Step 5: Make Decision and Arrange Monitoring (New)

Step 6: Publish Results (New)

Step 7: Return Summary Sheet (New)