



Consideration of health in SEA on the island of Ireland



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Prepared by Teresa Lavin, Claire Higgins and Owen Metcalfe, Institute of Public Health in Ireland and Sarah Moore, Queen's University Belfast

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For further copies of this document please contact:

The Institute of Public Health in Ireland (IPH)

5th Floor
Bishop's Square
Redmond's Hill
Dublin 2

Tel: +353 1 478 6300

Fax: +353 1 478 6319

Forestview
Purdy's Lane
Belfast
BT8 7ZX

Tel: +44 2890 64 84 94

Fax: +44 2890 64 66 04

Email: info@publichealth.ie

www.publichealth.ie

Contents

Foreword.....	3
Introduction.....	4
Background.....	4
What is SEA?	4
SEA across the island of Ireland.....	5
Why consider health in SEA?	5
How is health considered in SEAs conducted elsewhere?	6
Methodology / Study design	7
Search strategy.....	7
Analysis of selected SEAs.....	9
Discussion.....	9
Recommendations	11
Conclusions.....	12
References.....	13
Appendix 1: SEAs identified	16
Appendix 2: Findings from analysis of selected SEAs.....	18

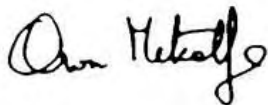
Foreword

The Institute of Public Health in Ireland (IPH) works to promote cooperation for public health between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland in the areas of research and information, capacity building and policy advice. Through this work we have developed an extensive work programme on health impact assessment (HIA) which supports a drive for healthy public policy by considering the health impacts of a proposal and making recommendations to maximise the health outcomes.

Across the island of Ireland there are numerous other impact assessments. In Northern Ireland, the policy toolkit combines 13 such assessments to support the development of effective policy. In the Republic of Ireland, assessments include statutory environmental impact assessment alongside regulatory impact analysis and poverty impact assessment. This presents policy-makers with a dilemma; which assessments to include and which to prioritise. In the majority of cases only those with statutory or mandatory requirements are undertaken.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is mandatory under European legislation and a number of assessments have now been undertaken across the island of Ireland. This provides an opportunity to consider health in environmental assessments thus supporting a drive for healthier public policy. In this research IPH explored the extent to which health was incorporated into SEA in a manner which would suggest a good understanding of social and economic factors which strongly influence health.

This report presents research which highlights that a consideration of health is not routinely included in SEAs. There is a need to build capacity and change mindsets in how SEAs are undertaken to more completely factor in the health impacts. A focus on integrating health into other assessments can make better use of our limited resources and we hope this report informs debate in the area to widen future opportunities for enhanced health.



Owen Metcalfe
Director

Introduction

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive was adopted by the European Commission in June 2001 and took effect in member states in July 2004. This presents a major opportunity for health to become a central part of environmental assessments of certain plans and programmes. Despite this, international research suggests that health has not been adequately considered in many SEAs conducted to date. (1-3)

To investigate the extent to which health is being considered in SEAs across the island of Ireland, the Institute of Public Health in Ireland (IPH) explored selected SEAs undertaken in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

The study involved four stages:

- A literature review was undertaken to provide better understanding of the issues of concern
- SEAs conducted across the island were identified using an agreed search strategy
- The identified SEAs were analysed using a specially designed questionnaire
- Results of the analysis were collated and a report written

This report presents the findings of the study and makes recommendations as to how SEAs undertaken across the island could be enhanced from a health perspective.

Background

What is SEA?

SEA is a methodology used to identify, assess and monitor the impacts of plans or programmes on the environment prior to their adoption. Legislative requirement for SEA is outlined in the European Directive 42/EC/2001 on SEA which seeks to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development. (4) The Directive also identifies human health as one of the substantive aspects to be considered. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe protocol on SEA (the Kiev protocol) also places special emphasis on protection and improvement of human health as an integral part of SEA. (5) Signed in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland in 2003 the protocol has not entered into force as it has not been ratified, accepted or approved by the relevant authorities.

A wide range of sectors including agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste, water, telecommunications, tourism and land use planning are now required to undertake SEA. Assessment must take into account impacts on a wide range of variables including human health and population as well as biodiversity, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural,

architectural and archaeological heritage and landscape. The interrelationship between these factors must also be considered. (4)

Conducting an SEA involves a number of stages including: screening of the plans, scoping of the SEA, identification, evaluation and mitigation of potential impacts and documenting this in an environmental report, consultation with environmental bodies and public consultees, revision and adoption of the plan and monitoring of significant environmental effects of the plan. The work required at each SEA stage is set out in Table 1.

Table 1: Stages involved in SEA (6)

SEA stage	Work required
Screening	Establish if certain plans must undergo an SEA.
Scoping	Determine key elements of the plan to be assessed. Develop indicators.
Identification, Prediction, Evaluation and Mitigation of Potential Impacts	Establish the baseline environment and identify and address the likely environmental impacts.
Consultation, Revision and Post-Adoption Activities	Carry out consultations with designated environmental authorities, the public and other bodies as necessary. Provide information when the plan or programme is adopted and show how results of the environmental assessment have been taken into account.
Monitoring	Monitor the significant environmental effects of implementing the plan.

SEA across the island of Ireland

The SEA Directive has been transposed into law across the island of Ireland. Under the SEA Regulations in the Republic of Ireland, three statutory environmental authorities have been designated, namely the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) and the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources (DCMNR). These designated environmental authorities must be consulted by plan/programme makers during the environmental assessment process. (7)

SEA regulations in Northern Ireland have designated the Northern Ireland Environment Agency in the Department of Environment (DOE) as the Consultation Body for the SEA process. The SEA Coordination Unit reviews SEAs from the responsible authorities undertaking SEA. (8)

Why consider health in SEA?

The environment is a major determinant of health, estimated to account for almost 20% of all deaths in Europe. Social inequalities, such as those related to income

and employment, education and profession, age, gender and a variety of other individual and social factors, lead to increased exposure to environmental risk factors, thus becoming a causal factor for health inequalities. (9) The main goals of healthy public policy are comparable to those of sustainable development. Principle 1 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development states *“Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature”*. (10)

Systematically incorporating health into SEA can bring a range of benefits to health, health equity and the economy including:

- Protection of human health
- Reducing the burden of ill health
- Coordination of action to improve health across various sectors
- Greater equity in health
- Elimination of costs to the healthcare sector of treating the health consequences of non-health policies that have been overlooked during planning and development
- Potential for reallocation of resources freed by the use of an integrated approach to policy development. (11)

How is health considered in SEAs conducted elsewhere?

Findings from research conducted to date suggest that while health is a formal component of environmental assessments, it is usually not addressed adequately. Most environmental assessments consider health impacts that result from changes in the physical environment such as air and water quality but fail to recognise or consider broader social, emotional and physical aspects of health. At the same time health expertise is infrequently sought during assessments. (1-3, 12)

To address this, the Department of Health in England published draft Guidance on Health in SEA in 2007. This highlights the benefits of integrating health assessment within SEA for plan makers and health organisations and provides detailed information on how this can be achieved. It recommends that organisations undertaking SEA need to be able to identify:

- Relevant health issues;
- The kinds of effects such plans or programmes might have; and
- How authorities can utilise health information to promote and enhance good health, and minimise or offset any adverse effects which may arise from their proposals. (13)

Further to this, Fischer et al (2009) in an assessment of health in SEA across Europe identified a range of facilitating factors for health inclusive SEA including:

- Involvement of health professionals and stakeholders
- Clear distinction of aspects that are likely to be of significance for anticipated options and impacts and those that are not
- Consideration of not only physical and natural factors; but also social and behavioural factors; always focusing on those that are relevant in a specific situation

- Use of SEA as an integrative instrument, aiming to achieve consistency of aims, objectives and proposed action of different decision tiers and sectors
- Co-ordination with other assessment tools if those are used
- Early application of assessment at a point when no decision on preferred aspects has been made yet (proactive approach)
- The release of specific guidance
- Institutional support for example by a dedicated body/commission. (1)

It is evident that to date health has not been considered routinely as part of SEA or approached in a systematic way. This research set out to determine the experience in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland and present recommendations for local action.

Methodology / Study design

Search strategy

Research for this study was conducted between May and December 2010. As there is no single repository of reports from SEAs conducted across the island a number of mechanisms were employed to identify potential SEAs for inclusion in the study. These included using key terms (Strategic Environmental Assessment/ SEA, Environmental Report, Ireland, Northern Ireland) to conduct a general desktop search as well as a more detailed search of websites thought to be particularly relevant such as the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and those of government departments (Transport, Agriculture, Regional Development etc) required to undertake SEAs of their plans and programmes.

The search yielded 36 SEAs undertaken between January 2003 and May 2010, 12 from Northern Ireland and 24 from the Republic of Ireland. These are listed in Appendix 1. Personal contact was established with the NIEA who confirmed that the list of SEAs identified (in Northern Ireland) was comprehensive. Full reports were not available for nine of these which precluded further consideration. Of the remaining 27, ten reports were selected for detailed investigation. Selection criteria included a balance between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, a range of different sectors (waste management, planning, transport, energy, fisheries and water management), and a range across the different levels (Local/ Regional/ National).¹ The reports selected for consideration as part of this review are listed in Table 2.

¹ In Northern Ireland, Local is defined as Local Government District, Regional when two or more Local Government Districts collaborate and National for Northern Ireland as a whole. In the Republic of Ireland, Local is defined as Local Authority Area, Regional as Regional Authority Area and National for the Republic of Ireland as a whole.

Table 2: Selected SEAs

No.	Sector	Level	Year	Title of SEA
1	Planning & development	Regional (ROI)	2010	Strategic Environmental Assessment Draft Environmental Report for the preparation of the Draft Regional Planning Guidelines for the West Region 2010 -2022 (14)
2	Planning & development	Regional (NI)	2009	Banbridge/Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015, Draft Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment (15)
3	Planning & development	Local (ROI)	2009	Environmental report of the Draft Dublin City Development Plan 2011-2017 Strategic Environmental Assessment (16)
4	Planning & development	Local (ROI)	2009	Environmental Report of the Draft Wicklow County Development Plan 2010-2016 Strategic Environmental Assessment (17)
5	Water	Regional (ROI)	2009	Strategic Environmental Assessment of the proposed Pollution Reduction Programmes for Waters Designated under the EU Shellfish Waters Directive. Cork Region (18)
6	Water	Regional (NI)	2003	Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Water Framework Directive River Basin Management Plans and Programmes of Measures - North Western iRBD (19)
7	Energy	National (NI)	2009	Strategic Environmental Assessment of Offshore Wind and Marine Renewable Energy in Northern Ireland. Environmental Report (10)
8	Energy	Regional (ROI)	2006	First Strategic Environmental Assessment for Oil and Gas Activity in Ireland's Offshore Atlantic Waters: IOSEA1 Slyne, Erris and Donegal Basins. Environmental Report (21)
9	Waste	National (ROI)	2007	Environmental report relating to the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Proposed National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2008-2012 (22)
10	Waste	Regional (NI)	2006	ARC 21 Waste Management Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report (23)

Analysis of selected SEAs

A framework for analysis of the selected SEAs was developed based on that used by Fischer et al. in their analysis of SEAs conducted across Europe. (1) The following issues were considered:

Table 3: Framework for analysis

A	Understanding of health
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. How is health and wellbeing understood/ interpreted in the SEA? How are the terms defined or described?2. Is HIA mentioned or used?3. SEA summary of determinant of health²4. Does the SEA identify an impact on population and human health?5. Does the SEA identify other impacts? If so list.6. Does SEA consider distributional impacts i.e. the impact on different groups of the population?
B	Health expertise
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">7. Were health professionals involved? (yes/no/not stated)8. If yes who and at what stage?
C	Health data
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">9. What if any explicit health data is used?10. If used, is the health data based on existing studies or is new data collected specifically for the SEA?
D	Monitoring of health
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">11. Do the SEA recommendations refer to health? If so list.12. Does the SEA make any recommendations regarding monitoring of health or health related impacts?

The selected SEAs were analysed according to the questions above. Findings are presented in Appendix 2.

Discussion

While the selected SEAs varied in their consideration of health a number of general observations can be drawn from their analysis. These are discussed collectively below according to the analysis framework.

A. *Understanding of health*

- Findings show an inconsistent understanding of health and wellbeing across the reviewed SEAs. In particular, differences were noticed between the understanding of health and assessment of health impacts between different sectors. For example SEAs conducted in the Planning & Development sector were likely to interpret health more broadly than those conducted in sectors such as Water, Waste and Energy which generally only considered impacts on

² A list of determinants of health was devised using the Institute of Public Health in Ireland, Health Impact Assessment screening tool available at www.publichealth.ie

physical health of a limited range of determinants, such as air quality, noise and light. This may be partly explained by the fact that certain plans would not be relevant to all the health determinants and that if health issues were not covered in the plan they would not be considered in the SEA.

- None of the SEAs conducted health impact assessment (HIA), however one report referenced the need for undertaking this type of assessment. (19)

Social and economic conditions

- Regarding social and economic conditions that influence health, education was the determinant most considered, followed by access to sports. Three SEAs considered impacts of health care, community services, community interaction and childcare on health and two considered the impact of access to fresh food on health. One SEA considered impacts of crime on health. None of the SEAs considered impacts on health of access to social welfare services or road safety which would be expected given four of the reports would influence the development of road infrastructure.

Structural determinants

- Regarding structural determinants of health, the determinant most considered was water quality, closely followed by air quality and waste management infrastructure. Three SEAs considered the impact of communications infrastructure, green space, public buildings, commercial buildings and light on health.

Individual or family issues

- None of the SEAs considered individual or family issues.

Overall in this section there does not appear to be any generic approach to the consideration of health in SEA. No SEAs considered distributional impacts on health. However it is recognised that this is not necessarily a requirement of the SEA. The exception to this is a recent SEA which considered the impact on surfers as a particular group who will be impacted upon. (20)

B. Health expertise

None of the SEAs explicitly stated the involvement of health professionals at any stage of the assessment.

C. Health data

There is no consistent approach to gathering health data in the SEAs.

- Four of the SEAs did not include any data under the heading of population and health while a further four included data related to determinants of health. Two included health data such as mortality and self reported health.
- All of the health related data collected was existing data such as the Census and also in one assessment, survey information (the Health and Wellbeing survey, Northern Ireland) was used.

- One SEA provided detailed baseline data which incorporated the wider determinants of health such as housing conditions and also included fuel poverty and health markers such as smoking rates and alcohol consumption.

D. Monitoring of health

- There was a wide variation in recommendations made between SEAs; some considered health and some did not and where considered, this was to different degrees. For example, case study 9 has health as a key area in the Environmental Monitoring Programme with detailed indicators and monitoring arrangements outlined. (22) This can be compared to case study 10 which also looks at waste management but does not explicitly put in place monitoring requirements for health.
- Most SEAs included monitoring impacts but not all explicitly referred to health. Indirect references and associations to health are made, for example the need to reduce health risks is identified in relation to ensuring negative changes such as air pollution are monitored. (23)

Recommendations

Overall findings closely reflect those found in studies conducted elsewhere and as such it is worth considering recommendations made in these reports as outlined in the earlier section: ‘How is health considered in SEAs conducted elsewhere?’

Broader understanding of health

It is clear that the definition of health used in SEAs conducted across the island of Ireland is too narrow in many cases. A broader understanding of health by SEA practitioners may help to widen consideration of health impacts to include social and economic determinants of health. Research identified that the area of individual and family health was not included in any assessment however SEA methodology does not necessarily indicate that this level of detail is required. Therefore a clear consideration of what areas are to be covered should be developed for practitioners. Adopting the Department of Health, England guidance document and putting it into regional context in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland would provide clearer guidance on how to assess health effects more effectively. (13)

Health expertise

Health organisations and institutions could have a more important role than they have done to date. Involvement of health professionals needs to be considered at the outset of undertaking SEA to support the scoping stage, gathering data and ensuring monitoring includes a consideration of health. Ensuring health expertise is involved in the assessment requires an acknowledgement of the implications for population health from the SEA assessor and also a clear framework for engagement from the health sector.

Health data

Health data needs to be broadened to include behavioural and social determinants. Across the island of Ireland, access to health data is increasing. However a clearer overview of what information is required is needed and therefore better dialogue with health professionals could help in both scoping of the data required and access to it.

Monitoring of health

The inclusion of stronger baseline health data as well as a broader understanding of health could help ensure that health impacts are more closely monitored in the future.

Conclusions

Research findings from this study mirror outcomes from other SEA studies undertaken across Europe. In this study it was determined 36 SEAs had been undertaken across the island of Ireland and ten were investigated covering a range of disciplines from waste, planning and water management. All of the SEAs covered physical and natural aspects related to health but these impacts were not investigated in any depth. Baseline data use also varied with four not including information in relation to population and health. Guidance on information required and where this may be sourced is clearly required to support practitioners undertaking SEAs.

Overall there is a need to strengthen the consideration of health in SEAs. This would be more cost effective as a comprehensive inclusion of health in SEAs would potentially cancel out the need for undertaking HIA. Alongside this, resources would be streamlined into undertaking one assessment and producing one set of recommendations for the policy-makers making it clearer how to enhance proposals.

Recommendations have been outlined in four key areas. The overarching message is the need to create dialogue between practitioners and localise the guidance developed to provide a reference guide for SEA practitioners across the island of Ireland.

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Appendix 1: SEAs identified

Sector	Level	Year	Policy SEA conducted on ³
Planning & development	National (NI)	2009	Draft Regional Development Strategy for NI (2002)
Planning & development	Regional (ROI)	2010	Draft Regional Planning Guidelines for the West Region 2010 - 2022 (14)
Planning & development	Regional (ROI)	2010	Regional Planning Guidelines for Greater Dublin Area 2010-2022
Planning & development	Regional (NI)	2006	Banbridge/Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015 (15)
Planning & development	Regional (NI)	2005	Northern Area Plan 2016
Planning & development	Local (ROI)	2010	Kildare County Development Plan 2011-2017
Planning & development	Local (ROI)	2010	Collinstown Local Area Plan 2009-2015
Planning & development	Local (ROI)	2009	Draft Dublin City Development Plan 2011-2017 (16)
Planning & development	Local (ROI)	2009	Draft Wicklow County Development Plan 2010-2016 (17)
Planning & development	Local (ROI)	2009	Draft Waterford County Development Plan for 2011-2017
Planning & development	Local (ROI)	2008	Westmeath County Development Plan 2008-2014
Planning & development	Local (NI)	2008	HMO subject plan for Belfast City Council Area 2015
Planning & development	Local (ROI)	2006	Greystones/ Delgany Local Area Plan 2006-2012
Planning & development	Local (NI)	2005	Magherafelt Area Plan 2015
Planning & development	Local (NI)	2008	The Craigavon Town Centre Boundaries and Retail Designations Plan
Planning & development	Local (ROI)	2003	Dublin Docklands Area Draft Master Plan 2008
Water	Regional (NI)	2009	North Eastern River Basin Management Plan Summary
Water	Regional (NI)	2009	North Western River Basin Management Plan Summary
Water	Regional (ROI)	2009	Pollution Reduction Programmes for Waters Designated under the EU Shellfish Waters Directive; Louth and Fingal Region

³ Full references for all SEAs examined are available on request from IPH.

Water	Regional (ROI)	2009	Pollution Reduction Programmes for Waters Designated under the EU Shellfish Waters Directive; Waterford and Wexford Region
Water	Regional (ROI)	2009	Pollution Reduction Programmes for Waters Designated under the EU Shellfish Waters Directive; Sligo and Donegal Region
Water	Regional (ROI)	2010	Pollution Reduction Programmes for Waters Designated under the EU Shellfish Waters Directive; Galway and Mayo Region
Water	Regional (ROI)	2010	Pollution Reduction Programmes for Waters Designated under the EU Shellfish Waters Directive; Cork Region (18)
Water	Regional (ROI)	2009	Ulster Canal (Upper Lough Erne to Clones) Restoration Plan
Water	Regional (NI)	2003	Water Framework Directive River Basin Management Plans and Programmes of Measures - North Western iRBD (19)
Water	Local (ROI)	2009	Freshwater Pearl Mussel Draft Derreen (Slaney) Sub-Basin Management Plan
Water	Local (ROI)	2009	Lough Oughter Navigation Plan
Water	Regional (ROI)	2008	River Dodder Catchment Flood Risk Management Plan
Energy	National (NI)	2009	Offshore Wind and Marine Renewable Energy in Northern Ireland. Environmental Report. (20)
Energy	National (NI)	2009	Offshore Renewable Energy Strategic Action Plan 2009-2020
Energy	National (ROI)	2009	Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan
Energy	Regional (ROI)	2006	Oil and Gas Activity in Ireland's Offshore Atlantic Waters: IOSEA1 Slyne, Erris and Donegal Basins. Environmental Report (21)
Waste	National (ROI)	2007	Proposed National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2008-2012 (22)
Waste	Regional (NI)	2006	ARC 21 Waste Management Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report (23)
Transport	National (NI)	2002	Draft Regional Transportation Strategy for NI
Transport	Regional (ROI)	2009	2030 Vision – Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy

Appendix 2: Findings from analysis of selected SEAs

Title of SEA	Outline of proposal	Who conducted the SEA	Understanding of health	Involvement of health professionals	Health data	Recommendations and monitoring of health
Environmental report of the Draft Dublin City Development Plan 2011-2017 Strategic Environmental Assessment (16)	This plan sets out the spatial framework for the city. It promotes the consolidation of the city, maximising efficient use of land and integrating land use and transport, within the context of an over-arching philosophy of sustainability and quality of life factors.	Dublin City Council, mentored by external specialist consultants	Human health impacts are largely seen as resulting from interaction with environmental contaminants, e.g. in air, water and soil. Impacts on the population of a broad range of social and economic conditions (employment, education, access to services, crime) are identified but no consideration is given to distributional impacts across different groups within the population.	Not stated	Baseline data for population and human health includes: demographic data (population density, average household size, population growth); recreational open space (number of playing fields, parks etc); and community facilities (places of worship, hospitals, educational institutions, childcare).	No health specific recommendations or mitigation measures. Four indicators are identified in monitoring future population and human health: Status of drinking water and drinking water sources; Status of bathing water; Ecological status of water bodies and; Average density of new residential development.
Environmental Report of the	This plan sets out an overarching vision,	Wicklow County Council	The impacts on the population of a broad	Not stated	Baseline data for population	No health specific recommendations

<p>Draft Wicklow County Development Plan 2010-2016 Strategic Environmental Assessment (17)</p>	<p>policies, strategies and objectives in the context of a coherent spatial framework crafted upon the principles of proper planning and sustainable development. The focus of the plan is on physical development and land use and how this can serve wider economic, social and environmental objectives.</p>		<p>range of social and environmental aspects of the plan are considered.</p>		<p>includes demographic data (Total population, population growth, population density). No specific health indicators but there is recognition that health has the potential to be impacted by air, water and soil quality of which there are baseline measures.</p>	<p>or mitigation measures. One health indicator for monitoring: Occurrence (any) of a spatially concentrated deterioration in human health</p>
<p>ARC 21 Waste Management Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report (23)</p>	<p>This plan provides a framework for waste management provision within the ARC 21 region for the next 15 years. It establishes the overall need for waste management capacity and details the proposed</p>	<p>ARC in consultation with DOE</p>	<p>Population benefits are the stated focus of the policy which also mentions ensuring equality in provision and access. However very few aspects of waste management are assessed in terms of health impact.</p>	<p>Not stated</p>	<p>Demographic data (population by age group, population projections to 2017, number and size of households). Health data (self reported health).</p>	<p>Health is mentioned generally in recommendations. Monitoring to include all baseline indicators.</p>

	arrangements to deal with the wastes produced.					
Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Water Framework Directive River Basin Management Plans and Programmes of Measures (POM) - North Western iRBD (19)	The plan and POM aim to protect and improve water quality and the water environment in the region for the period 2009-2015. Some issues consider longer term horizons up to 2027.	Northern Ireland Environment Agency	Health is discussed in relation to drinking and bathing water quality. The health impacts of air and water quality as well as waste management and energy sources are recognised. The need for HIA is recognised in a specific section dealing with usage and discharge of dangerous substances.	Not stated	Population data (population trends), Drinking water quality, Bathing water quality. Housing growth recognised as an existing pressure within population and human health.	Monitoring to include baseline indicators related to drinking water and bathing water quality as well as compliance with shellfish and freshwater fish directives.
Banbridge/ Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015, Draft Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment (15)	This plan will play a major role in guiding future development in the two district council areas until 2015. It will help give effect to the Regional Development Strategy 2025.	DOE Planning Service	Improving public health is associated with better housing conditions and increasing education and cultural facilities. Inter-relationships are identified between public health and water management, waste disposal, energy efficiency, urban environmental quality,	Not stated	Baseline health data (general health and long term illness, death rate per 1000, mortality rates by cause of death and gender, life expectancy aged 1).	Health is specifically mentioned in recommendations for zoning restrictions. Four health indicators identified in baseline health data to be monitored annually/ as available.

			unemployment and poverty, crime and housing conditions.			
Strategic Environmental Assessment Draft Environmental Report for the preparation of the Draft Regional Planning Guidelines for the West Region 2010 - 2022 (14)	These guidelines provide a framework for long term strategic development in the West Region.	West Regional Authority	Inter-relationships are identified between human health and biodiversity, landscape, soils, water, air, climate, material assets and cultural heritage and a connection is made between plans and the physical, natural, social determinants of health.	Not stated	Demographic data (population, employment) Other factors (Waste).	15 indicators related to four objectives regarding water, flooding, sustainable travel and good quality built environment.
Strategic Environmental Assessment of the proposed Pollution Reduction Programmes for Waters Designated under the EU Shellfish Waters Directive. Cork Region (18)	This is one of six regional programmes aimed to reduce pollution, address the key pressures on water quality such as marine/land based pressures and to ensure that designated shellfish waters in Ireland meet the water	RPS on behalf of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government	Inter-relationships are mentioned between health and soil, water, climate, cultural heritage and landscape, but water quality, waste issues and the effect of ingesting contaminated shellfish are the main impacts considered in relation to human health.	Not stated	No specific baseline health data.	No direct references to health.

	quality standards as required by the EU Shellfish Waters Directive.					
Strategic Environmental Assessment of Offshore Renewable Energy Strategic Action Plan (20)	The plan aims to optimise the contribution of offshore wind and marine renewable to Northern Ireland's proposed 40% renewable electricity target by 2020, enhance diversity and security of supply and reduce carbon emissions.	AECOM and Metoc on behalf of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment	Impacts on human health are considered as impact on: commercial fisheries, mariculture, shipping and navigation, recreation and tourism, radar interface, military practice areas and disposal areas but clear links to human health are not made.	Not stated	No specific baseline health data.	No direct references to health.
First Strategic Environmental Assessment for Oil and Gas Activity in Ireland's Offshore Atlantic Waters: IOSEA1 Slyne, Erris and Donegal Basins (21)	This plan is one of four in various offshore locations on the issuing of oil and gas exploration licenses.	ERT (Scotland) on behalf of the Petroleum Affairs Division, Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources	Human health and wellbeing are considered in relation to the impacts of noise generation, emissions and accidental events.	Not stated	No specific baseline health data.	No direct references to health.

<p>Environmental report relating to the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Proposed National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2008-2012 (22)</p>	<p>This plan addresses the requirement for prevention, collection, recovery and disposal of hazardous waste in Ireland and the requirements for dealing with sites where hazardous waste disposal took place in the past.</p>	<p>Environmental Protection Agency</p>	<p>Human health impacts are largely seen as resulting from interactions with environmental vectors e.g. flooding, noise (recognised to interfere with daily activities at work and school) and traffic hotspots along main road routes. The most significant interrelationship are recognised between human health and air and human health and water.</p>	<p>Not stated</p>	<p>No specific baseline health data.</p>	<p>Four indicators relevant to human health specified (all data collected by EPA): Dioxin in cow's milk; Estimation of unreported hazardous waste; Reports of large scale illegal disposal involving hazardous waste; and Number of complaints received relating to hazardous waste facilities.</p>
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The Institute of Public Health in Ireland:

5th Floor
Bishop's Square
Redmond's Hill
Dublin 2
Tel: +353 1 478 6300

Forestview
Purdy's Lane
Belfast
BT8 7ZX
Tel: +44 2890 648494

Email: info@publichealth.ie
www.publichealth.ie

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