

Child Right Impact Assessment – European Network of Ombudsman for Children (ENOC) Template

This template is provided to help ENOC Members get started on undertaking a CRIA.

Impact Assessment by: Revenue Jersey and SPPP

Date: 16 September 2022

Date to be reviewed: N/A

Reviewed by: N/A

STAGE 1: SCREENING

Question 1: Name the measure / proposal and describe its overall aim
<p>In her Vision Statement of 27 June 2022, the Chief Minister proposed a “mini budget” to implement a suite of measures to address the cost-of-living crisis, with the aim of delivering targeted support to Islanders ahead of the winter.</p> <p>The mini-budget has been prepared at pace and if passed by the States Assembly it will put over £56 million back into the pockets of Islanders (Proposition 80/22). The impacts of the measures in the package will be positive for those to whom they apply.</p> <p>The mini-budget includes a number of tax measures contained within the draft Finance (Budget – Cost of Living) (Jersey) Law 202- (Proposition 81/22).</p> <p>Legislation has also been prepared at pace to implement several social security and benefits measures. (Propositions 82/22, 83/22, 84/22.)</p> <p>The legislative measures will be supported by wider communication activities, ongoing work and engagement with other key stakeholders.</p>

The mini-budget was developed in a matter of weeks to provide immediate support that would address an urgent need for action to help Islanders with the rising cost of living. The support package is targeted at those on lower incomes but will also address the cost of living squeeze hitting middle income families and households.

Ministers are continuing to work on longer-term measures for inclusion in the Government Plan and beyond to provide further support to households.

The Cost-of-Living Budget has three key components:

- increases above inflation to personal income tax allowances from 1 January 2023;
- reductions in social security contributions from 1 October to 31 December 2022; and
- significant increases to the value of certain social security benefits and also, if amendment number 3 to Proposition 80/2022 is approved, or the (agreed) COM amendment to amendment number 3 to Proposition 80/2022 is approved, extending their reach.

Each component will provide a positive impact.

The income tax increase to personal allowances will uprate the personal income tax thresholds and allowances by 12%, increasing the amount of money in people's pockets by reducing their tax liabilities. Single taxpayers will see a reduction in their tax liability of £520, while married couples and civil partnerships will see a reduction of £832.

The tax increases will have a particular (and positive) impact for families with children, with the increases to child allowance creating a reduced tax liability of over £100 per child. Those eligible for the Additional Personal Allowance, namely non-married parents and those with an incapacitated legal partner, will see a further reduction of £146. Finally, the increases to the maximum available childcare tax relief caps will provide further support up to a maximum of £202 for each school aged child, and more than £500 for pre-school age children.

The reduction in social security contributions is temporary for Q4 2022. A 2% cut in Class 1 employee and Class 2 contributions is proposed. If passed, these reductions will leave those earning the median household income (£53,000 p/a) with more than £250 extra between October and December 2022, to help with the cost of living. Young working people who make contributions will also benefit from more money in their pockets.

The doubling of the COLTS payments from £20 per month to £40 per month will provide direct support to lower earners through targeted payments. A low-income family of four will receive a total of £160 per month until the end of 2022. The doubling of the Community Costs Bonus for 2022 from £258.25 to £516.50 will also provide direct support to lower income families and households. In addition, work will be done to ensure greater awareness and uptake of the scheme and considerable additional funding has been allocated to meet the expected increase in applications. In addition to the increase to the Community Costs Bonus, pensioner households that are eligible for the Cold Weather Bonus (CWB) will see it set to £70 per month for this winter, with payments being made regardless of temperature – this change will also apply to Cold Weather Payments made under income support legislation (see below).

Income support components are tailored to each household's personal circumstances, and the proposed increases will ensure that families with children will get as much support as possible. From October, payments in respect of children, and to help with the cost of childcare, will be uprated, with further increases from January 2023. Along with other eligible groups, households with children under 3 are also eligible for Cold Weather Payments, which have been set at a fixed rate of £70 per month for six months to help with additional heating costs.

Families who have been resident for less than 5 years will benefit from the tax and social security contribution measures in the mini-budget. Means-tested benefits in Jersey are only available to people who have lived here for at least five years. The Mini-Budget includes proposals to fund a new scheme that will provide additional support to families who have lived here for less than five years. The details of the scheme will be developed in the coming months, with the aim to provide payments in January to parents looking after children on the Island.

Many private sector tenants have standard rental agreements that include annual RPI increases. The June RPI figure was 7.9%. The Government is working with landlords and estate agent representatives to encourage them to agree to minimise rental increases in the short-term. This will also benefit families with children.

Funding will be provided to support community organisations and publicity campaigns to ensure that good information is readily available to Islanders on price comparisons, Government benefits and support to help families, including families with children, with cost-of-living pressures. Over the coming months, we will be piloting further support channels including, for example, officers from Government visiting parishes to help parishioners with their tax affairs; and to help address cost-of-living worries.

While there are no measures designed specifically to provide a direct impact for children and young people, Ministers are confident that this package of measures will provide support to all Islanders, the positive, indirect impact of which will also be felt by children and young people.

Question 2: What children’s rights does it impact upon?

There are no direct impacts on children’s rights. Indirect (and positive) impacts can be seen to the rights set out at Articles 18, 24, 26, 27 & 31 of the UNCRC. See the table at Annex A for a breakdown of the measures and corresponding UNCRC rights.

Question 3: What children and young people will be affected?

This legislation has no direct impact on children or young people unless they are taxpayers or make social security contributions.

However, the increase to net income for Islanders as a result of these measures will indirectly impact children and young people who are cared for by those who will benefit from the measures. The package of measures will provide additional, targeted support to families on low and middle incomes which include children and young people. Indirect impacts will be positive.

Question 4: What is the likely impact of the proposal / measure on children?

In addition to the previous response, if a child or young person is a taxpayer or makes social security contributions, there is no different impact of the tax and social security measures on that group than for other taxpayers. All impacts will be positive.

Question 5: Is a full child rights impact assessment required? Explain your reasons

A full CRIA has been completed. Although there will be a ‘trickle down’ effect from the changes contained within the Cost-of-Living Budget, there are no direct impacts on children or young people as a result of this policy – unless they are taxpayers or make social security contributions. In all cases, direct and indirect impacts will be positive.

If a full child rights impact assessment is required proceed to stage 2

STAGE 2: SCOPING (Background and Rights Framework)

Question 6: Name the measure / proposal being assessed and describe the overall aim
See above answer to Q.1

Question 7: Which human rights instruments and articles are relevant to the measure / proposal?		
Human Rights Instrument	Article	Further analysis on the expected / actual effect
See attached Annex A which is a table detailing UNCRC Articles which may be engaged by the proposals.	Articles, 18, 24, 26, 27 & 31 plus general comment no. 3	Click or tap here to enter text.

STAGE 3: EVIDENCE

Question 8a: What quantitative evidence have you used to inform your assessment? What does it tell you?			
Evidence collected	Evidence source	Explanation of the importance	What are the data gaps, if any?
Given the time constraints, no new evidence was collected for the development of the mini budget. However, we do have existing evidence available.	<u>Household distribution</u>	The Household Income Distribution preliminary report highlights that 23% of children live in relative low-income households. The report also provides a breakdown of household income, which informs how best to target support to those with children. This was taken into consideration when analysing amendments lodged to the mini budget. The measures in the mini budget do target support to low and middle income families and households.	Click or tap here to enter text.

Question 8b: What key missing information / evidence would have been beneficial to your analysis?

The Government of Jersey does not hold data on household make-ups, except where households receive income support. As such, it is difficult to substantiate the impact of certain measures. It can also be difficult to collect data on eligibility for certain benefits – to understand how many more people or households might be eligible. One example would be a benefit that has a pre-condition for entitlement that no member of the household has a tax liability. Revenue Jersey does not hold data on people who do not pay tax and are not required to file a tax return.

Question 9a: What qualitative evidence have you used to inform your assessment? What does it tell you?

Evidence collected	Evidence source	Explanation of the importance
Given the time constraints, no new evidence was collected for the development of the mini budget. However, we do have existing evidence available.	<u>Life on the Rock – Money & Employment</u>	In the ‘Money & Employment’ section of ‘Life on the Rock’, respondents stress that additional support should be given to families, with one suggesting that a solution could be to ‘give money to the poor’. While it’s highlighted that the respondents generally weren’t aware of financial support available, the measures in the mini budget are in-keeping with the overall themes expressed, that support should be given to ensure that ‘families that don’t have as much money...are able to take part in everything’.

Question 9b: What key missing information / evidence would have been beneficial to your analysis?

With more time we would have spent longer assessing the evidence that already exists; see Annex B for details.

STAGE 4: SCRUTINISING CHILDREN’S INVOLVEMENT

Question 10: Has evidence from third party consultations with children and young people been considered in the development of the proposal or measure?

Groups consulted	Source of Information	Please provide a brief description of process	What were the findings?
Given the time constraints, no formal consultation was possible. Informal discussions were held with several stakeholders.	Third sector stakeholder	Conversation with 3 rd sector stakeholder	This was a conversation about the mini budget more generally; it was not focused on the impact it would have on children. Nevertheless, they emphasised the need to support people with less than 5 years' residence and the impact of income tax bills on households. Neither of these directly impact children but measures in the mini budget will provide support to households in these situations.
[add/delete rows as required] Click or tap here to enter text.	Third sector stakeholders	Conversation with 3 rd sector stakeholders	This was a conversation about the mini budget more generally; it was not focused on the impact it would have on children.

Question 11: What groups of children and young people have been directly involved in developing the proposal or measure?			
Groups involved [✓ if those affected by the proposal]	✓	How were they involved	What were the findings
Due to time constraints, no children or young people were directly involved in developing the proposals.		Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.

STAGE 5: ASSESSING THE IMPACT

Question 12: What impact will (or does) the proposal or measure have on children and young people's rights		
Type of impact <i>[please highlight]</i>	Justification for Argument	likely or actual short/medium/long-term outcomes

Positive	Please see the responses in Section 1 for further details.	The mini budget will put money back into the pockets of Islanders in the short and medium terms, with a particular focus for many of the measures being on families with children.
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Question 13: Will there be (or are there) different impacts on different groups of children and young people?		
Group of children affected	Initial analysis of the positive impact on rights	Initial analysis of the negative impact on rights
The impact of the measures on children will depend upon their household's circumstances. Children in relative low-income households will almost certainly be impacted by more than one measure.	The mini budget will put money back into the pockets of Islanders in the short and medium terms, with a particular focus for many of the measures being on families with children.	N/A

Question 14: If a negative impact is identified for any area of rights or any group of children and young people, what options are there to modify the proposal or measure to mitigate the impact?	
Negative impact	What options are there to modify the measure(s) or mitigate the impact?
There are no negative impacts identified.	Click or tap here to enter text.

STAGE 6: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Question 15: In summary, what are your key findings on the impact of the measure or proposal on children and young people's rights?

The proposals in the mini-budget will only have a direct impact on children and young people who are taxpayers or make social security contributions. All direct and indirect impacts will be positive. The mini-budget will put money back into the pockets of Islanders in the short and medium terms, with a particular focus for many of the measures being on families with children.

The measures are designed to give both targeted support through direct payments and indirect support through the tax and social security systems. Each of these measures will result in increased available monies for eligible households, the impact of which will no doubt be felt by children and young people.

While the impacts are likely to be limited, there will be an indirect impact upon a number of rights. Annex A sets out the detail of the relevant UNCRC Article against each of the measures proposed in the mini-budget.

In summary:

- A. 18(3) – support for working parents - the right to benefit from childcare services and facilities for which they are eligible
- A. 24 - the right to health care services
- A. 26 - the right to benefit from social security
- A. 27(1-3) - the right to an adequate standard of living
- General Comment Number 3 - the rights of the child during adolescence
- Arguably also A. 31 - right to leisure, play and participation in cultural and artistic activities

In all instances, the impact will be positive.

STAGE 7: PUBLISH CRIA

Question 16: Should the full assessment or a summary be published? Will a child-friendly version be produced?

This CRIA will be published on the GoJ internet pages that include information about the mini-budget and response to the cost-of-living crisis.

STAGE 8: MONITOR & REVIEW

Question 17: Have the recommendations made in Stage 6 been acted upon?
N/A

Question 18: Where recommendations have not been acted upon, is further action required?
N/A

Annex A

Measure	Applies to	UNCRC Article	Clusters
Increasing tax allowances above the rate of inflation will increase Islanders' disposable income effective January 2023	Children in relevant households (ie marginal rate taxpayer households)	Article 18(3) support for working parents Article 27(1)-(3) right to adequate standard of living. Arguably also: Article 31 right to leisure, play and participation in cultural and artistic activities	VI VII
Temporary reduction in Social Security contributions Oct-Dec 2022 will increase Islanders' disposable income during that period (until tax allowances change)	Children in working households	Article 18(3) support for working parents Article 27(1)-(3) right to adequate standard of living Arguably also: Article 31 right to leisure, play and participation in cultural and artistic activities	VI VII
Increase old-age pension	N/a	N/a	
Doubling Cost of Living Temporary Scheme (COLTS) to provide additional £20 per month to 11k individuals	Children in relevant households	Article 27(1)-(3) right to adequate standard of living Article 26 right to social security	V VI
Increase community costs bonus to benefit approx. 1k individuals and encourage more eligible households to apply	Children in relevant households	Article 27(1)-(3) right to adequate standard of living Article 26 right to social security	V VI
Additional uprate in income support components from January 2023	Children in households in receipt of income support	Article 27(1)-(3) right to adequate standard of living Article 26 right to social security	V VI
Increasing cold weather bonus/payments	Children under 3 years old or with a disability living in an Income Support household	Article 27(1)-(3) right to adequate standard of living Article 26 right to social security	
Support for families with <5 years' residence	Children of families with <5 years' residence	Article 27(1)-(3) right to adequate standard of living Article 26 right to social security	V VI

Free menstrual sanitary products in Jersey schools and colleges from Sept 2022	Pupils and students who menstruate	Article 24 right to health and health services General Comment No.3 on the rights of the child during adolescence	VI
Convene and communicate measures	Communication should ensure uptake of additional benefits which will support children in relevant households	All above	
Postponing GST registration for offshore retailers (effectively maintaining and not reducing current <i>de minimis</i> level)	Not a cost-of-living response. Small indirect impact on rights in the context of additional disposable income for families		

Annex B

Source document	What does it tell us	Relevant UNCRC articles
Life on the Rock Children's Commissioner for Jersey (childcomjersey.org.je)	Housing – children are aware of differences between different types of residency and in some cases have direct experience of housing insecurity	Article 27(1)-(3) right to adequate standard of living
	Money / Employment: children are cognisant of wealth disparity in Jersey, and the cost of food, leisure, energy, and housing. Flexible working hours are important.	Article 18(3) support for working parents Article 24 right to health and health services Article 27 (1)-(3) right to adequate standard of living
	Leisure time and activity – responses indicated class disparity due to costliness of certain leisure activities and parental supervision, issues of peer pressure and drug and alcohol misuse during teen years	Article 31 right to leisure, play and participation in cultural and artistic activities
R Jersey Children and Young People's Survey 20220309 SJ.pdf (gov.je)	Family finances - 1 in 5 children lacked 2 or more normal material belongings like personal devices 6% had black mould in their homes Correlation between lack of normal material belongings and low self-esteem.	Article 18 (1)(2) parental responsibilities and State's assistance Article 18(3) support for working parents
ID Children and Young People Plan 2019 to 2023 EW.pdf (gov.je)	Good quality of life - Jersey children's 'Health Related Quality of Life' index is slightly lower than European average. Low self-esteem is increasing amongst young people. 13% of children & young people live below relative low-income threshold. 44% single parents have difficulty coping financially. Access to communal spaces and	Article 3(2) state's obligations to ensure necessary care and protection Article 6 the right to life, survival and development Article 18(1) and (2) parental responsibilities and State's assistance Article 18(3) support for working parents

	<p>social/recreational activities are key factors contributing to quality of life.</p>	<p>Article 24 right to health and health services</p> <p>Article 27(1)-(3) right to adequate standard of living</p> <p>Article 31 right to leisure, pay and participation in cultural and artistic activities</p>
<p>island-wide-consultation-findings-full-report.pdf (childcomjersey.org.ie)</p>	<p>Access to primary healthcare: the affordability of GP visits, dental care and opticians is a real issue for CYP and their families on island.</p> <p>About 50% of CYP said making it free to go to the doctor should be a priority (30% said dentists should be free), and around 50% overall said more help for families who don't have enough money.</p>	<p>Article 3(3) standards for institutions services and facilities</p> <p>Article 6 the right to life, survival and development Article 18(3) support for working parents</p> <p>Article 24 right to health and health services</p>
	<p>Children growing up in poverty: around 50% CYP overall said more help for families who don't have enough money should be a priority.</p> <p>Affordable housing is an acute issue, with some families living in a single room with shared bathroom facilities and no cooking area. The lack of outdoor space for children to play is also an issue.</p>	<p>Article 2 non-discrimination Article 3(2) State's obligations to ensure necessary care and protection</p> <p>Article 6 the right to life, survival and development Article 18(3) support for working parents</p> <p>Article 26 right to social security Article 27(1)-(3) right to adequate standard of living</p>