

Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission




**ESR
Issue**

Northern Ireland has the UK's highest levels of poverty, mental ill-health and economic inactivity, particularly amongst people with disabilities. The UK's 2015 social security reform introduced payment delays and restrictions to entitlement. There have also been substantial real-terms cuts since 2010.


**NHRI
Action**

In 2012, the NHRI advised the Assembly to examine the human rights impact of proposed reforms and raised concerns about potential harm to vulnerable individuals and protected groups. Having influenced the development of a 2016-2020 mitigation package in 2019, the NHRI commissioned a cumulative impact assessment of tax and social security reform and the mitigations package.


Impact

In 2016, partly as a result of the NHRI raising concerns, the Northern Ireland Executive agreed a £585 million fund to mitigate hardship. New research by the NHRI has provided an evidence-base highlighting negative impacts on low-income households, women, those with children and persons with disabilities. The NHRI is seeking to influence a new package to mitigate losses arising from reform.



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