

Policy Screening Form

Policy Scoping

Policy Title: Community Event to be held in respect of Armed Forces Day – 18 June 2022.

Brief Description of Policy (please attach copy if available). Please state if it is a new, existing or amended policy.

In October 2015, following a report to Governance, Policy and Resources Committee, Council agreed that an expression of interest be made to host a future Armed Forces Day within the Borough. Subsequently, at the Council meeting on 29 May 2018, a Notice of Motion was tabled and adopted as follows-

“This Council accepts that Armed Forces Day (AFD) has become a permanent and important date in the calendar for many within our society and across both communities; whilst being sensitive to those who may not wish to celebrate AFD that this Council registers its interest with RFCA NI to bring AFD to Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council.”

In September 2019, following a meeting of the Economic Development and Regeneration Committee the Council agreed to the request by the Reserve Forces and Cadets Association for Northern Ireland (RFCA NI) to hold Armed Forces Day in the Borough in June 2020. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the event did not take place. On 9 July 2020, the Economic Development and Regeneration Committee agreed to the request that Armed Forces Day be held in the borough in 2022. Subsequently, in association with RFCA NI, 18 June 2022 was confirmed as the date of the event.

The event, compered by UTV’s Paul Clark took place on 18 June 2022 from 10.30am to 5.15pm and was held in Banbridge Rugby Club. It had a community focus and attracted customers of all ages and the programme included by way of example:

- Drumhead Service
- Military Wife’s Choir
- RAF Falcons Parachute Display
- RLC Silver Stars Parachute Display Team
- RAF Red Arrows Fly Past
- Music and Entertainment – including The Red Hot Chilli Pipers, Ballroom Blitz NI and The Soda Popz
- Military stands and displays
- Food stalls
- Charity stands
- British Forces Broadcasting Service Radio
- Children’s activities
- Rugby 7s competition
- Vintage Aircraft and Vehicles
- Beating of the retreat with the Band of the Royal Irish Regiment

The RFCA NI organised and funded the core of the event, and the Council covered the costs of music, entertainment and family fun elements along with providing the event infrastructure and general marketing.

The RFCA NI suggested that the Council could fly the Armed Forces Day Flag from the Saturday before the event for one week. The former Craigavon Borough Council Flags policy which is still in place permits the Armed Forces Day Flag to be flown at Craigavon Civic Centre on an annual basis on days requested by the Ministry of Defence. This commitment is not in place for Armagh or Banbridge.

Intended aims/outcomes. What is the policy trying to achieve?

The national aim of Armed Forces Day is to boost public support and appreciation of all those who serve and have served in HM Armed Forces. It provides an opportunity for the public to recognise the contribution that the Armed Forces (serving personnel and veterans) make and have made to the nation. It also provides the Armed Forces with an opportunity to showcase the units and personnel based and recruited from here as well as the various cadet organisations who, although individual youth movements and not part of the MoD, are sponsored by the respective single Services.

Policy Framework

Has the policy been developed in response to statutory requirements, legal advice or on the basis of any other professional advice? Does this affect the discretion available to Council to amend the policy?

The policy was developed in response to a request by RFCA NI to hold Armed Forces Day in the Borough in June 2020 and was subsequently reviewed in advance of the staging of the event in June 2022

Are any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the policy? If so, please outline.

Armed Forces Day is considered to be more closely associated with the Protestant/Unionist Community. Due to the “legacy of the troubles” any events undertaken to acknowledge the role of the armed forces are less likely to be supported by the Catholic/Nationalist community. They are more likely to be supported by the Protestant/Unionist community. Protestants and Unionists may be expected to benefit from this policy. However, the event was designed to be as inclusive as possible and have a positive impact on a range of section 75 categories. It was suitable for all ages and reasonable adjustments are made where necessary to accommodate those with disabilities and their carers.

Who initiated or wrote the policy (if Council decision, please state). Who is responsible for implementing the policy?

Who initiated or wrote policy? The Council	Who is responsible for implementation? The Council is responsible for implementation.
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Are there any factors which might contribute to or detract from the implementation of the policy (e.g. financial, legislative, other)?

Financial implications. It cost the Council approximately £60,000 to host the event.

Main stakeholders in relation to the policy

Please list main stakeholders affected by the policy (e.g. staff, service users, other statutory bodies, community or voluntary sector, private sector)

Members of the public, staff members and the armed forces

Are there any other policies with a bearing on this policy? If so, please identify them and how they impact on this policy.

The Council's Good Relations Strategy
Former Craigavon Borough Council Flags Policy

Available Evidence

Council should ensure that its screening decisions are informed by relevant data. What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories.

Section 75 category	Evidence																		
Religious belief	<p>The 2011 Census showed that 43% of the population in the borough were either Catholic or brought up as Catholic and 52% belonged to or were brought up in Protestant, other Christian or Christian-related denominations. A further 1% belonged to or had been brought up in other religions, while 5% neither belonged to, nor had been brought up in, a religion.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Religion or religion brought up in</th> <th>Number</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Catholic</td> <td>85,770</td> <td>43%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)</td> <td>103,315</td> <td>52%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other religions</td> <td>1,590</td> <td>1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>None</td> <td>9,018</td> <td>5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All usual residents</td> <td>199,693</td> <td>100%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Table 1. Religion or religion brought up in, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, 2011. Source: 2011 Census (Table KS212NI), NISRA.</i></p> <p>Other evidence includes the Council's Good Relations Strategy and the former Craigavon Borough Council EQIA conducted on the Armed Forces Day Flag.</p>	Religion or religion brought up in	Number	Percentage	Catholic	85,770	43%	Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)	103,315	52%	Other religions	1,590	1%	None	9,018	5%	All usual residents	199,693	100%
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	Public Attitudes to the UK Armed Forces in Northern Ireland June 2018. (Waterhouse-Bradley et al.)																																				
Political opinion	<p>In the May 2019 Local Government Election 41 Councillors were elected for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="352 376 1152 907"> <thead> <tr> <th>Party</th> <th>Number of Councillors elected</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Democratic Unionist Party</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ulster Unionist Party</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sinn Fein</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Social Democratic and Labour Party</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alliance Party</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Independent</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>41</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Table 4. Results of Local Government Election May 2019, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council. Source: The Electoral Office for Northern Ireland. Note Eligible Electorate 147,977; Total Votes polled 79,309; Turnout 53.6%</i></p> <p>Other evidence includes the Council's Good Relations Strategy and the former Craigavon Borough Council EQIA conducted on the Armed Forces Day Flag. Public Attitudes to the UK Armed Forces in Northern Ireland June 2018. (Waterhouse-Bradley et al.)</p>	Party	Number of Councillors elected	Democratic Unionist Party	11	Ulster Unionist Party	10	Sinn Fein	10	Social Democratic and Labour Party	6	Alliance Party	3	Independent	1	Total	41																				
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Racial group	<p>The 2011 Census showed that 98.6% of the usually resident population of the borough were White (including Irish Traveller) and 1.4% were from minority ethnic groups. The main ethnic minorities were Mixed (605 individuals), Chinese (528 individuals) and Other Asian (463 individuals).</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="319 1485 928 2047"> <thead> <tr> <th>Ethnic Group</th> <th>Number</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>White</td> <td>196,777</td> <td>98.54%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chinese</td> <td>528</td> <td>0.26%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Irish Traveller</td> <td>136</td> <td>0.07%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Indian</td> <td>388</td> <td>0.19%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pakistani</td> <td>196</td> <td>0.10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bangladeshi</td> <td>25</td> <td>0.01%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Asian</td> <td>463</td> <td>0.23%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Black Caribbean</td> <td>32</td> <td>0.02%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Black African</td> <td>195</td> <td>0.10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Black other</td> <td>108</td> <td>0.05%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mixed</td> <td>605</td> <td>0.30%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Ethnic Group	Number	Percentage	White	196,777	98.54%	Chinese	528	0.26%	Irish Traveller	136	0.07%	Indian	388	0.19%	Pakistani	196	0.10%	Bangladeshi	25	0.01%	Other Asian	463	0.23%	Black Caribbean	32	0.02%	Black African	195	0.10%	Black other	108	0.05%	Mixed	605	0.30%
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Other	240	0.12%
All usual residents	199,693	100.00%

Table 5.. Ethnic Group, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Source: 2011 Census (Table KS201NI), NISRA.

Age

The population of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough was estimated to be 214,090 at 30 June 2018; the profile by age group is shown below. The majority of the population (63%) were aged 16 to 64 years.

Age	Mid-Year Estimate 2018	
	Number	Percentage
0-15	48,166	22%
16-39	65,515	31%
40-64	67,598	32%
65+	32,811	15%
All Ages	214,090	100%

Table 8. Mid-Year Population Estimates 2018 and Population Projection 2028 (2016 based), Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. Source: NISRA

Other evidence includes Public Attitudes to the UK Armed Forces in Northern Ireland June 2018. (Waterhouse-Bradkey et al.)

Marital status

The 2011 Census gives information on marital status. Over half (51%) of the population aged 16 and over in the borough were married, while just over a third (34%) were single (never married or never in a registered same-sex civil partnership).

Marital and Civil Partnership Status	Number	Percentage
Single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership)	52,296	34%
Married	79,220	51%
In a registered same-sex civil partnership	110	0.1%
Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a same-sex civil partnership)	5,639	4%
Divorced or formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved	8,087	5%
Widowed or surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership	10,135	7%
All usual residents aged 16 and over	155,487	100%

Table 9. Marital and Civil Partnership Status, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, 2011. Source: 2011 Census (Table KS103NI), NISRA.

Sexual orientation	<p>The Continuous Household Survey provides results on the sexual identity of persons aged 16 and over. In 2013/14 - 2015/16, 98% of respondents to the survey identified as Heterosexual/Straight and 1% as Gay/Lesbian.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="316 226 887 560"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sexual Identity</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Heterosexual/Straight</td> <td>98%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gay/Lesbian</td> <td>1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bisexual</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Don't Know/Refusal</td> <td>1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Persons aged 16 and over</td> <td>100%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Table 10. Sexual identity of persons aged 16 and over, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, 2013/14 - 2015/16. Source: Continuous Household Survey, NISRA. Base – 1,280 persons aged 16 and over.</i></p>	Sexual Identity	Percentage	Heterosexual/Straight	98%	Gay/Lesbian	1%	Bisexual	0%	Other	0%	Don't Know/Refusal	1%	Persons aged 16 and over	100%	
Sexual Identity	Percentage															
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Bisexual	0%															
Other	0%															
Don't Know/Refusal	1%															
Persons aged 16 and over	100%															
Men and women generally	<p>The 2011 Census showed that in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 49% (98,713) of usual residents were males and 51% (100,980) were females.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="316 846 960 1034"> <thead> <tr> <th>Gender</th> <th>Number</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Males</td> <td>98,713</td> <td>49%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Females</td> <td>100,980</td> <td>51%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All usual residents</td> <td>199,693</td> <td>100%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Table 12. Usual resident population, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, 2011. Source: 2011 Census (Table CT0106NI), NISRA.</i></p>	Gender	Number	Percentage	Males	98,713	49%	Females	100,980	51%	All usual residents	199,693	100%			
Gender	Number	Percentage														
Males	98,713	49%														
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Disability	<p>In 2011, one fifth (20%) of people (or 39,861 individuals) in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough had a long-term health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day activities.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="316 1332 968 1615"> <thead> <tr> <th>Long-term health problem or disability</th> <th>Number</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Limited a lot</td> <td>22,970</td> <td>12%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Limited a little</td> <td>16,891</td> <td>8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not limited</td> <td>159,832</td> <td>80%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All usual residents</td> <td>199,693</td> <td>100%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Table 13. Long-term health problem or disability limiting day-to-day activities, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, 2011. Source: 2011 Census (Table KS301NI), NISRA.</i></p>	Long-term health problem or disability	Number	Percentage	Limited a lot	22,970	12%	Limited a little	16,891	8%	Not limited	159,832	80%	All usual residents	199,693	100%
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Dependants	<p>Persons with a dependant are generally classified as persons with personal responsibility for the care of a child; the care of a person with a disability; or the care of a dependant older person.</p> <p>The 2011 Census showed that 36% of households (or 27,287 households) in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough contained dependent children.</p> <p>Respondents to the 2011 Census were asked whether they provide any unpaid help or support to family members, friends, neighbours or others because of long-</p>															

	term physical or mental ill-health / disabilities or problems related to old age. In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 12% of the population (or 23,101 individuals) provided such unpaid care.
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Needs, experiences and priorities

Taking into account the information gathered above, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories in relation to this particular policy/decision?

Section 75 category	Needs, experiences and priorities
Religious belief	<p>Although not all Protestants are necessarily Unionist and not all Catholics are Nationalist. Those from a Protestant, Unionist background are more likely to appreciate the significance of Armed Forces Day compared to those of a Catholic, Nationalist background. Due to the “legacy of the Troubles” any events undertaken to acknowledge the role of the armed forces are less likely to be supported by the Catholic/Nationalist community. However, the Council has adopted a Community Covenant which complements at a local level, the Armed Forces Covenant. The aim of the Covenant is to encourage local communities to support the armed forces community within their area and promote understanding and awareness amongst the public of issues affecting the armed forces community.</p> <p>The findings from the Northern Ireland Life and Times (NILT) Survey in 2017 showed there was a more positive opinion of UK Armed Forces now, compared to during the Troubles. In particular, one half of Catholic respondents had a negative opinion of how they acted during the Troubles, while 26 per cent thought this of Armed Forces today.</p> <p>This was the only event held in the Borough during Armed Forces Week. It had a community focus and was held in an area where the majority of residents are from the Protestant community.</p>
Political opinion	
Racial group	N/A
Age	The event was suitable for all ages. The findings from the Northern Ireland Life and Times (NILT) Survey in 2017 showed that younger age groups (those who had no experience of the troubles) were more likely to indicate that they did not know or had a neutral opinion of the UK Armed Forces.
Marital status	N/A
Sexual orientation	N/A
Men and women generally	N/A
Disability	Access to the event – parking and viewing and information prior to and during the event is considered and reasonable adjustments made where necessary.
Dependants	N/A

Screening Questions

1. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy for each of the Section 75 categories?

Category	Policy Impact	Level of impact (Major/minor/none)
Religious belief	Armed Forces Day is considered to be more closely associated with the Protestant/Unionist Community. However, the findings from the Northern Ireland Life and Times (NILT) Survey in 2017 showed there was a more positive opinion of UK Armed Forces now, compared to during the Troubles. In particular, one half of Catholic respondents had a negative opinion of how they acted during the Troubles, while 26 per cent thought this of Armed Forces today.	Minor
Political opinion		
Racial group	The event was designed to be as inclusive as possible and had a positive impact on a range of section 75 categories.	None
Age	The event planned was suitable for all ages. The findings from the Northern Ireland Life and Times (NILT) Survey in 2017 showed that younger age groups (those who had no experience of the troubles) were more likely to indicate that they did not know or had a neutral opinion of the UK Armed Forces.	None
Marital status	This event was designed to be as inclusive as possible and had a positive impact on a range of section 75 categories.	None
Sexual orientation		
Men and women generally		
Disability		
Dependents		

2. Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 categories?

Category	If yes, provide details	If no, provide reasons
Religious belief		No. Although the event is more closely associated with the Protestant/Unionist community, the event was designed to be as inclusive as possible and had a positive impact on a range of section 75 categories.
Political opinion		
Racial group		
Age		
Marital status		
Sexual orientation		
Men and women generally		
Disability		
Dependents		

3. To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion, or racial group?

Category	Details of Policy Impact	Level of impact (major/minor/none)
Religious belief	Armed Forces Day is considered to be more closely associated with the Protestant/Unionist community therefore a differential impact is likely to be experienced by the Catholic/Nationalist community.	minor
Political opinion		
Racial group	No impact	None

4. Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

Category	If yes, provide details	If no, provide reasons
Religious belief		No. Although the event is more closely associated with the Protestant/Unionist community as stated above, the event was designed to be as inclusive as possible.
Political opinion		
Racial group		

Multiple Identity

Generally speaking, people fall into more than one Section 75 category (for example: disabled minority ethnic people; disabled women; young Protestant men; young lesbian, gay and bisexual people). Provide details of data on the impact of the policy on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant s75 categories concerned.

A range of categories were represented and the Council acknowledges that no individual belongs exclusively to one equality group.

Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006

Is there an opportunity for the policy to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people?

Access to the event- parking and viewing and information prior to and during the event is considered and reasonable adjustments made where necessary.

Is there an opportunity for the policy to encourage participation by disabled people in public life?

Screening Decision

A: NO IMPACT IDENTIFIED ON ANY CATEGORY – EQIA UNNECESSARY

Please identify reasons for this below

Although not all Protestants are necessarily Unionist and not all Catholics are Nationalist. Those from a Protestant, Unionist background are more likely to appreciate the significance of Armed Forces Day compared to those of a Catholic, Nationalist background. However, the findings from the Northern Ireland Life and Times (NILT) Survey in 2017 showed there was a more positive opinion of UK Armed Forces now, compared to during the Troubles. In particular, one half of Catholic respondents had a negative opinion of how they acted during the Troubles, while 26 per cent thought this of the Armed Forces today. Younger age groups (those who had no experience of the troubles) were more likely to indicate that they did not know or had a neutral opinion of the UK Armed Forces.

The EQIA conducted on the former Craigavon Borough Council Armed Forces Day Flag, although restricted to assessing the impact of flying the Armed Forces Day Flag and not hosting an Armed Forces Day event did not reveal any significant impact for the Catholic Nationalist community. Two respondents (0.23%) from within the Borough felt the policy should be amended by Flying the Armed Forces Day Flag for a more limited duration. No responses were received in support of not flying the Armed Forces Day flag at all.

The Council has adopted a Community Covenant which complements at a local level, the Armed Forces Covenant. The aim of the Covenant is to encourage local communities to support the armed forces community within their area and promote understanding and awareness amongst the public of issues affecting the armed forces community. This was the only event held in the Borough during Armed Forces Week. It had a community focus,

was designed to be as inclusive as possible and had a positive impact on a range of section 75 categories. It was held in an area where the majority of residents are from the Protestant community. It was suitable for all ages and reasonable adjustments are made where necessary to accommodate those with disabilities and their carers.

B: MINOR IMPACT IDENTIFIED – EQIA NOT CONSIDERED NECESSARY AS IMPACT CAN BE ELIMINATED OR MITIGATED

Where the impact is likely to be minor, you should consider if the policy can be mitigated or an alternative policy introduced. If so, EQIA may not be considered necessary. You must indicate the reasons for this decision below, together with details of measures to mitigate the adverse impact or the alternative policy proposed.

C: MAJOR IMPACT IDENTIFIED – EQIA REQUIRED

If the decision is to conduct an equality impact assessment, please provide details of the reasons.

Timetabling and Prioritising

If the policy has been screened in for equality impact assessment, please answer the following questions to determine its priority for timetabling the equality impact assessment.

On a scale of 1-3 with 1 being the lowest priority and 3 being the highest, assess the policy in terms of its priority for equality impact assessment.

Priority criterion	Rating (1-3)
Effect on equality of opportunity and good relations	
Social need	
Effect on people's daily lives	

The total rating score should be used to prioritise the policy in rank order with other policies screened in for equality impact assessment. This list of priorities will assist the council in timetabling its EQIAs.

Is the policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities? If yes, please give details.

Monitoring

Effective monitoring will help the authority identify any future adverse impact arising from the policy. It is recommended that where a policy has been amended or an alternative policy introduced to mitigate adverse impact, monitoring be undertaken on a broader basis to identify any impact (positive or adverse).

Further information on monitoring is available in the Equality Commission's guidance on monitoring (www.equalityni.org).

Identify how the impact of the policy is to be monitored

Comments and Complaints from Attendees
Requests for reasonable adjustments prior to and during the event.

Approval and Authorisation

A copy of the screening form for each policy screened should be signed off by the senior manager responsible for that policy. The screening recommendation should be reported to the relevant Committee/Council when the policy is submitted for approval.

Screened by	Position/Job title	Date
Brian Johnston	Head of Tourism, Arts and Culture	12.05.22
Approved by	Position/Job Title	Date
Olga Murtagh	Strategic Director (Place)	12.05.22

Please forward a copy of the completed policy and form to:

mary.hanna@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk
who will ensure these are made available on the Council's website.

The above officer is responsible for issuing reports on a quarterly basis on those policies "screened out for EQIA". This allows stakeholders who disagree with this recommendation to submit their views. In the event of any stakeholder disagreeing with the decision to screen out any policy, the screening exercise will be reviewed.