Consultation on the establishment of a Just Transition Commission

Department of
Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
An Roinn
Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe
Depairtment o'
Fairmin, Environment an' Kintra Matthers
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

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Email: Climatechangediscussion@daera-ni.gov.uk

Telephone: 028 9056 9708 or 028 9056 9567 and talk to one of the Consultation Team.

If you have a hearing difficulty, you can contact DAERA via **Text Relay**.

- Dial 18001 028 9056 9708

Post: Just Transition Commission Team
Climate Change and Green Growth Policy Division
1st Floor Clare House
303 Airport Road West
Sydenham Intake
Belfast
BT3 9ED

Contents

Ministerial Foreword 5
Document overview 7
Introduction 8
Aim of the Consultation 8
Scope of the Consultation 8
Illustrative draft Regulations 9
How to Respond to this Consultation 10

Part 1: 12

1. Summary of Proposals 13

Part 2: 16

2. A Just Transition for Northern Ireland 17
2.1 What is a 'Just Transition'? 17
2.2 The benefits of a Just Transition 18
2.3 Just Transition Commissions in other jurisdictions 19
2.3.1 Scotland - Just Transition Commission 20
2.3.2 Wales - Just Transition 21
2.3.3 England - Just Transition 21
2.3.4 Ireland - Just Transition Commission 22
2.3.5 International Examples 22
2.3.6 Pre-consultation engagement 23

Part 3: 25

3. The Law: Climate Change and Just Transition 26
3.1 Carbon Budgets 26
3.2 Climate Action Plan 26
3.3 Sectoral Plans 26
3.4 Just Transition Fund for Agriculture 27
3.5 The Just Transition Principle and Objectives 27
3.6 Section 37: The Just Transition Commission 28
3.6.1 Type of Public Body 30
3.6.2 Commission Oversight functions 32
3.6.3 Commission Advisory functions 34

3.6.4 Climate adaptation 34
3.6.5 Influence and Authority 35
3.6.6 Representation on the Commission 36
3.6.7 Commission Members: time commitment and remuneration 39
3.6.8 Location 39
3.6.9 Recruitment, Appointment and Term of Office 39
3.6.10 Number of Members 40
3.6.11 Committees or Specialist advice 41
3.6.12 Secretariat support 41
3.6.13 Governance, Accountability, Reporting and Record Keeping 42
3.6.14 Governance 43
3.6.15 Budget 43
3.7 How the Commission will work with Other Bodies 43
3.7.1 Interactions and context 43
3.7.2 Relationship with Northern Ireland Climate Commissioner 44
3.7.3 Relationship with the Office of Environmental Protection 44
3.7.4 Relationship with UK Climate Change Committee 44
3.7.5 Other Just Transition Commissions and bodies 45
3.7.6 Other Public Bodies 45
3.8 NI Executive's draft Programme for Government 45

Part 4: 46
4. Consultation 47
4.1 About You 47
4.2 How to complete the consultation 47
4.3 Consultation questions 48

Part 5: 51
5. Next Steps 52
Glossary of Terms 53
Publication of Responses 55
Appendix A 57
Example of Draft Regulations 57

Ministerial Foreword

Climate change is an unprecedented challenge for everyone, including Northern Ireland. In recent years, we have begun to see the very real impact of climate change, both locally and globally. From more frequent and more significant flooding events impacting local businesses and communities, to extreme heat contributing to wildfires causing damage to our wildlife and our countryside, as well as the increasingly evident biodiversity crisis as seen at Lough Neagh.

In February 2020 the Northern Ireland Assembly stood together to declare a climate emergency. In June 2022, the Assembly passed the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (the Act) which sets out the framework for tackling climate change and reducing emissions, including setting a target to deliver net zero emissions in Northern Ireland by 2050.

Since coming into office, I have started to deliver on each of the requirements of the Act. In May, I introduced legislation for climate change reporting for public bodies that will help public bodies take informed and timely climate action. I am engaging with my Executive colleagues now to set our carbon budgets and interim emissions reduction targets for 2030 and 2040 and hope to soon bring these before the Assembly.

I am also engaging with my Ministerial colleagues to expedite our Climate Action Plan development. Identifying policies and proposals for inclusion in the Climate Action Plan is a legal responsibility shared by all departments and the plan will include actions from across all of government. The draft Climate Action Plan will need to be agreed by the Executive, prior to its publication for the required 16-week consultation. By publishing Northern Ireland's first draft Climate Action Plan, I will be setting out our proposed pathway to meeting the first carbon budget. Meeting carbon budgets will require ambitious policies and proposals that can be operationalised at pace. This is a challenge for all sectors, both in the current fiscal context but also in terms of capacity, but it is one that I am determined we will deliver on. I believe that we can do this together, and that in taking positive climate action to reduce our emissions that we can start to take advantage of and deliver on the significant benefits not only environmentally, but socially and economically.

On delivering on our climate targets, it is essential that we do so in a way that is fair and just. This is a key requirement of the Act. A just transition is one which ensures that the transition to a net zero society is one where the costs and the benefits of decarbonisation and the removal of greenhouse gases from our atmosphere are shared equitably across the economy and across society, ensuring that no-one is left behind.

To ensure that future Executive policies and plans safeguard this just and fair transition, I am establishing the Just Transition Commission, fulfilling a key duty placed on my Department by the Act.

This consultation offers you the opportunity to have your say on the creation of this important new body, its constitution, and responsibilities. I urge you, whether in a personal capacity or as an organisation or sector representative, to engage with this consultation and to provide us with your feedback. Once the legislation is agreed, my department will swiftly establish the Commission and continue to fulfil our obligations as set out in the Act.

Ensuring that the process of how we transition to a lower carbon society is fair and just is key to making it work for all our communities. A cleaner, greener, net zero future is an ambition we all share, both across society and in the Executive. I thank you for taking the time to read this document and look forward to receiving your responses.

Andrew Muir MLA
Minister for the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

Document overview

This consultation seeks to gather views to help inform final policy development and decisions to be made by the DAERA Minister and the Northern Ireland Executive in relation to the establishment of the Just Transition Commission for Northern Ireland.

A brief overview of this consultation document and the draft Regulations, (**Appendix A**) are provided as follows:

Introduction: This section provides detail on the aims and scope of the consultation and how to respond:

Part 1: Provides a **Summary of the policy proposals** to establish the Just Transition Commission and what it will look like.

Part 2: Provides information on **a just transition** and detail on how other jurisdictions have approached a just transition.

Part 3: Provides definition of **the Law related to climate change and just transition**. This section also provides information on the policy development to date, detail on all of **our policy proposals and information on what the Commission may look like**.

Part 4: Poses the **consultation questions**, gathering the views of stakeholders and the public. The consultation questions cover the general make-up of the Commission, the sectors to be represented on the Commission and how the Commission provides its oversight and advisory functions.

Part 5: Details the **Next Steps** which will follow the completion of the consultation.

Appendix A - This Appendix includes **illustrative draft Regulations** that would establish the Commission and are to help show what the final Regulations might look like. They are subject to change.

Introduction

The Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (the Act) sets out Northern Ireland's framework for tackling climate change and reducing emissions. The Act places requirements on all Northern Ireland departments relating to delivering just transition objectives, and it also includes requirements for the establishment of a Just Transition Commission, a Just Transition Fund for Agriculture and an independent Northern Ireland Climate Commissioner (NICC).

The Just Transition Commission (the Commission) and the NICC are key bodies that will provide independent advice, support and challenge to the NI Executive and departments, as they work to fulfil their legal requirements under the Act.

The establishment of the NICC is being taken forward by The Executive Office (TEO).

The duty to establish the Commission is the responsibility of DAERA. The Act states that the functions of the Commission will include overseeing the implementation of the just transition elements of the Act and to provide advice to departments on how to ensure that their emissions reduction policies and plans required under the Act including Climate Action Plans (CAP) comply with the just transition principle.

Ensuring that Northern Ireland reaches its net zero goal in a way that is fair, sustainable and balanced is a priority for the NI Executive and the establishment of the Commission is an essential element in supporting the delivery of that ambition.

Aim of the Consultation

The aim of this consultation is to gather respondents' views on the establishment of the Commission for Northern Ireland and on the draft Regulations which have been prepared to establish and govern the functions of the body.

Responses to this consultation will be used to inform the work being conducted by DAERA to establish the body, as well as informing the new Commission of the views of the public as to what duties and responsibilities are seen as being important in conducting its role.

This consultation will focus on the proposals for the Regulations to establish the Commission i.e., the legislation that will set out the type of public body the Commission should be, its composition, the Commission's role and legislated functions, the proposed sectors to be represented, its reporting arrangements and the secretariat and support required.

Scope of the Consultation

The scope of this consultation is to gather views that will help inform the DAERA Minister and the Northern Ireland Executive on the establishment of the Commission.

This consultation does **not** seek the views on other bodies to be established under the Act such as the NICC.

Whilst the Commission may have oversight of any Just Transition Funds that may be established in future, e.g. the Just Transition Fund for Agriculture, this consultation does **not** seek views on proposals to establish such funds.

Illustrative draft Regulations

Draft Regulations have been prepared and presented at **Appendix A**. These are to illustrate the type of provisions that will be included in the final draft Regulations that the DAERA Minister will take to the NI Assembly.

They have also been prepared and are being consulted on alongside the policy proposals in order that DAERA can amend as required, and then move swiftly to the next step to progress the legislation as quickly as possible through the Assembly process to ensure that the Commission is established as soon as possible.

How to Respond to this Consultation

This consultation will run for a **9-week period** from **11 November 2024** to **13 January 2025**. We encourage early responses, and responses should be no later than **23:59 on Monday 13 January 2025** to ensure they can be fully considered. There are several ways in which you can provide your response, and these are listed below.

We encourage you to respond to this consultation document directly through the online survey. A copy of the questions included in the survey are detailed in **Part 4** of this document.

By Online Survey

The primary response method for this consultation is through the online survey on the Citizen Space Hub @ https://consultations2.nidirect.gov.uk/daera/6ee7e7b5

You can also access the online survey from the DAERA consultation webpage @ https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-establishment-just-transition-commission

By Email

You can obtain a response template by emailing the consultation team at: climatechangediscussion@daera-ni.gov.uk, and you can email your response to this email address, or alternatively by hard copy to the postal address below. If a large volume of email responses is received, they may take significantly longer to process than online responses and so we encourage you to use the Citizen Space Hub online survey.

By Post

Please be aware that postal responses will take longer to receive and process and so we encourage you to use the Citizen Space Hub online survey. Please allow adequate time for delivery.

Responses can be posted to: Just Transition Commission Team
Climate Change and Green Growth Policy Division
1st Floor, Clare House
303 Airport Road West
Sydenham Intake
Belfast
BT3 9ED

Guidance is provided on Confidentiality and your Privacy on our website for your reference - see our Privacy Notice. Also, if you require any further information, please contact a member of the consultation team on 028 9056 9708 or by emailing climatechangediscussion@daera-ni.gov.uk.

Closing date:

Responses must be received by **23:59 on Monday 13 January 2025**.

By responding to this consultation, you are agreeing that any information gathered may be shared with other NICS departments.

Part 1: Summary of Policy Proposals

1

1. Summary of Proposals

This section provides a summary of the proposals on how we will establish the Just Transition Commission and what it will look like. The proposals detailed here will be delivered through Regulations (**Appendix A**), and a Terms of Reference or through a Partnership Agreement between the Commission and the Department. The draft Regulations are subject to change following analysis of the consultation responses and as the legislation progresses through the Assembly and becomes law.

To establish a Just Transition Commission, it is proposed that:

Advisory Non-Departmental Public Body:

- The Commission will be established in statute (i.e. on a legal basis) by Regulations.
- The Regulations will make provision for the constitution of the Commission.
- The Commission will have a role across all Departments.
- The Commission will be established as an Advisory NDPB.

Oversight Role:

- The Commission will undertake an oversight role of the just transition elements of the Act.
- The Commission will have oversight of the following elements to ensure the just transition requirements of the Act have been met:
    - Sectoral plans,
    - Climate Action Plans,
    - Soil quality and biodiversity targets, and
    - Any scheme made under section 31 of the Act, the Just Transition Fund for Agriculture.

Advisory Role:

- The Commission will undertake an advisory role for Northern Ireland departments.
- Specifically, the Commission will provide advice to departments on how to ensure that proposals, policies, strategies and plans required under the Act comply with the just transition principle.

Membership:

- The Commission will be composed of approximately 14 members, including a chairperson and deputy chairperson.
- Commission membership must include those 7 sectors specified in the Act – agricultural, fisheries, academia, trade unions, youth groups, civic society and environmental groups.
- This does not prevent the Commission having further non-legislated representation from other sectors/areas such as e.g. Energy, Transport, Green Finance, Building or Planning and views are being sought through this consultation around extending the mandatory membership beyond those sectors specified in the Act.

Recruitment and Appointment:

- The Commission Members will be appointed by the DAERA Minister following a public appointments process in compliance with CPANI guidance.[1]
- The Commission Members will typically serve terms of 5 years with the option to be renewed for one further term only. This may be included in a Terms of Reference or Partnership Agreement rather than on the face of the regulations.

Budget, Remuneration and Support:

- The Commission Members will be recruited on a part-time basis (required to provide approximately 15 days commitment per year).
- Commission Members will be remunerated on a regular basis in line with current DoF public appointee renumeration levels.[2]
- The Commission will be supported by an administrative secretariat of three staff.
- The Secretariat will be supplied from the NICS on a secondment basis and will provide administrative support as the Commission sees fit to support its work programme including organising meetings, engagement, communication and commissioning research.
- DAERA will provide funds to the Commission to meet costs for the secretariat, IT support, operational costs as required and fees and expenses for Commission Members in line with DoF guidance.

1 Code of Practice for Ministerial Public Appointments in Northern Ireland | The Commissioner for Public Appointments for Northern Ireland (publicappointmentsni.org)
2 FD (DoF) 09/24 - Remuneration of Chairpersons and Members of Public Bodies and other Fee Rates - Daily rates with effect from 1 August 2023 (finance-ni.gov.uk)

Proceedings:

- The Commission will meet approximately 15 days per year.
- The Commission may meet in person, remotely online, or on a hybrid system and will be able to make use of existing DAERA and NICS meeting rooms.
- The Commission may wish to hold meetings, gather evidence, or host engagement sessions in various locations across NI relating to its work.
- The Commission will have a small physical presence, possibly in a central location such as Belfast with strong public transport access.
- The Commission may establish working groups or commission expertise as required, relating to its work programme.

Governance and Accountability:

- The Commission Members will be appointed by and accountable to the DAERA Minister. DAERA may terminate the appointment if a Commission member fails to meet the terms and conditions of appointment.
- The Commission will report to the NI Assembly.

Working with other bodies:

- It is expected that the Commission will work collaboratively with other climate, environment, commissions and regulatory bodies. How this works may be covered in a Terms of Reference or the Partnership Agreement.

Part 2:
A Just Transition

2

2. A Just Transition for Northern Ireland

In March 2022, the Northern Ireland Assembly passed the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022, committing the region to a target of net zero emissions by 2050. Each Northern Ireland department is required to provide DAERA with policies and proposals within their area of responsibility for inclusion in Climate Acton Plans (CAP).

The Act requires all Northern Ireland departments to have regard to the 'just transition principle' when deciding on their proposals and policies to be included in CAP. Each CAP must explain how these policies and proposals take account of the just transition principle.

The just transition principle aims to promote fairness during the transition from a high-emissions to low-emissions economy and to ensure support is provided to those who are most affected by climate change, particularly those who may have done the least to cause it or may be the least equipped to adapt to its effects. High-level objectives include taking action to reduce emissions in a manner which helps to support environmentally sustainable jobs, low-carbon investment, and infrastructure.

To help meet these requirements, the Act places a duty on DAERA to establish a Just Transition Commission for Northern Ireland. The functions of the Commission under the Act are to oversee the implementation of the just transition elements, and to provide advice to departments on how to ensure that all their climate related policies required under the Act comply with the just transition principle. The Act is clear on the role and functions that the NI Assembly envisaged for the Commission:

- The Commission, once established, will be responsible for reviewing and assessing each CAP to ensure NI departments are having due regard to the just transition principle, and that the plans adequately demonstrate how they have taken account of that principle.
- The Commission will also give advice to departments on just transition issues to help ensure departments are adhering to the just transition principle and the objectives it aims to achieve.

2.1 What is a 'Just Transition'?

A 'Just Transition' can mean different things to different sectors or groups depending on the type of change or transition envisaged, and the mitigation or pathway taken to deliver that change. There has been a great deal of discussion about the term with consistent themes emerging from the policy approaches that various countries and regions have taken that help to define a common understanding of what a just transition involves.

The UK's parliamentary website describes it as: *"the aim of just transition approaches is to address potential sources of unfairness to provide better outcomes for different groups of people"*[3], while the International Labour Organisation (ILO) states that it is the *"greening of the economy in a way that is as fair and inclusive as possible to everyone concerned, creating decent work opportunities and leaving no one behind."*[4]

The Paris Agreement preamble reflects the close links between climate action, sustainable development, and a just transition, with Parties to the Agreement *"taking into account the imperatives of a Just Transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs in accordance with nationally defined development priorities"*.[5]

Delivering a just transition for Northern Ireland is based on our understanding that significant change is required to meet net zero goals and the necessary and measurable interim targets along the way. Just transition in this respect is about the transition being fair, just, and that the costs (and benefits) are shared.

2.2 The benefits of a Just Transition

In 2015, the International Labour Organization, which brings together governments, employers and workers from 187 Member States released "Guidelines for a Just Transition". In this document, it established just transition as a process *"towards an environmentally sustainable economy which needs to be well managed and contribute to the goals of decent work for all, social inclusion and the eradication of poverty."*

According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in their Climate Promise definition of "*What is a Just Transition*" they offer the following potential benefits of a Just Transition:

- If governments can demonstrate the socio-economic benefits afforded by a green transition – including economic benefits and new green jobs – they can build a broad base of public support for higher climate ambition as citizens will be more likely to get behind the associated policies and investments.
- Governments need to support a green jobs revolution in which the alternative jobs created have guaranteed living wages, proper workplace safety protections, and health benefits. These quality jobs will lift people, their families, and their communities up. But they will also help attract the workers needed for the economic transformation.
- With transparent planning and the active participation of a broad range of stakeholders, governments can minimize the apprehension, opposition, and inter-

3 https://doi.org/10.58248/PN706
4 https://climatepromise.undp.org/news-and-stories/what-just-transition-and-why-it-important
5 https://ukcop26.org/supporting-the-conditions-for-a-just-transition-internationally/

community and generational conflict that may upend the move away from fossil fuels of old and other harmful activities that are warming our planet, such as deforestation and wasteful production practices.

- By applying a just transition lens to climate action and undergoing the consultative processes associated with achieving just transition countries can better understand the impacts (positive and negative) of bold climate action and then identify the best solutions for their context, thereby helping to unlock the greatest benefits.
- Transitions are often disruptive and deliberate effort is needed to make them smooth. A just transition strategy, embedded within short and long-term climate plans will help leaders stay focused on the urgent task at hand of rapid decarbonisation, while also striving for fair and inclusive outcomes.

These benefits align with the draft Green Growth Strategy, that subject to the Executive's consideration will set out the multi-decade strategy for climate, the environment and the economy. Its aim is to ensure future government policy making here has climate and environmental action at its core, embracing and enabling science and innovation to drive solutions.

2.3 Just Transition Commissions in other jurisdictions

The strong emphasis on just transition in the Act has attracted interest and praise from academics and from other countries across the world as it provides a statutory framework and lens through which to maximise the social benefits of decarbonisation policies and actions, whilst managing and mitigating the risks and challenges.

In preparing the proposals for the Commission, DAERA has looked at how just transition has been taken forward in other jurisdictions. The UK government, the devolved administrations in Scotland and Wales, and the Republic of Ireland apply just transition principles to their various climate plans and policies, although they take differing approaches to their implementation of it.

There are lessons to be learned from case studies of fossil fuel-driven economies transitioning to a low-carbon industry, and examples of good practice in the UK, Europe, and other parts of the world.

The approach taken to Just Transition Commissions or similar bodies in Europe, the UK, Ireland, and internationally, for example in South Africa and New Zealand, have been studied in preparing this document and in preparing the draft Regulations. DAERA officials met with counterparts in Scotland[6] and Ireland who were or are directly involved in setting up Just Transition Commissions to learn from their experiences.

6 The Scottish Gov. reviewed Just Transition in other countries and published findings https://www.gov.scot/publications/transitions-comparative-perspective/documents/

2.3.1 Scotland - Just Transition Commission

Scotland was the first government across these islands to establish a dedicated Just Transition Commission. The first Scottish Just Transition Commission was set up by the Scottish Government at the end of 2018. In February 2020[7], they released their first report which explored approaches to just transition that have been taken or are being developed in other nations or regions and provided a literature review, examining evidence from government interventions seeking to manage or minimise the disruption to workers and communities caused by any economic structural change as a result of climate-related policy implementation.

The second, and current, Scottish Just Transition Commission was established in 2021 and works with Scottish Ministers to provide practical, realistic, and affordable recommendations for action that will:

- maximise the economic and social opportunities that the move to a net zero economy by 2045[8] offers;
- build on Scotland's existing strengths and assets; and
- understand and mitigate risks that could arise in relation to regional cohesion, equalities, poverty (including fuel poverty), and a sustainable and inclusive labour market.

The Scottish Government provides their Commission with a dedicated secretariat of three members of staff, drawn from civil servants working in the Scottish administration.

The secretariat has access to independent legal advice though the Scottish Government legal services framework. The secretariat acts as the first point of contact for the Commission and co-ordinates meeting requests from Ministers and the Scottish Government.

The Scottish Government provides the Commission with a budget to deliver its remit including Commission members expenses and fees, meeting costs, travel costs, research costs, website, communications and publications. This budget is managed by the secretariat and if the Commission requires additional resources a funding request can be made by the secretariat to the Scottish Government.

The Scottish Government also provides the Commission with contracted services including digital and communications services, and design and delivery services. The contractors providing these services are operationally accountable to the secretariat for the delivery of contracts and for associated performance standards.

7 https://www.justtransition.scot/publication/interim-report-first-just-transition-commission/
8 Climate change - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)

2.3.2 Wales - Just Transition

There is currently no Just Transition Commission in Wales. However, the Welsh Government has established a Future Generations Commissioner for Wales with the remit to promote the sustainable development principles, to be a guardian of future generations and to encourage public bodies to take greater account of the long-term impact of the things they do. The Future Generations Commissioner does not have a specific role in respect of climate change or a just transition, but its remit will likely cross-over into these issues.[9] The Commissioner has significant powers of research, advisory, awareness raising and investigatory powers of formal investigation.

In 2023 the Welsh government consulted on a 'Just Transition Framework' for Wales[10] which considered:

- Setting out a shared vision about the way Wales will deliver the changes needed for net zero;
- How to bring coordination and coherence to the way we think and act about those changes; and
- Providing a source of information and guidance (including a toolkit) to enable those driving the change to do so in a way which seeks to address current inequalities and avoid creating new inequalities.

The Well-Being of Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015 (WFGA) legislation attempts to incorporate socio-economic, spatial, and environmental justice in decision-making and also intergenerational justice. The Welsh Government have stated that WFGA can provide proponents of a 'Just Transition' with a clear legislative basis for embedding principles of equity and fairness into decarbonisation efforts.

2.3.3 England - Just Transition

There is currently no Just Transition Commission in England, but some sectors and organisations have indicated support for the establishment of such a body. In January 2021, the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Local Authority Pension Funds published a report into 'Responsible investment for a Just Transition'.[11] The report is based on evidence sessions and written submissions from investors, industry, academics, community groups, trade unions, and other non-government organisations gathered during the course of an inquiry. The inquiry report seeks to inform politicians, policymakers, stakeholders and the public on the roles and responsibilities that investors can play, with the support of their members and government, in enabling a just transition to net zero carbon emissions.

9 Climate and Nature – The Future Generations Commissioner for Wales
10 Just Transition Framework (gov.wales)
11 Responsible-Investment-for-a-Just-Transiiton-report.pdf

2.3.4 Ireland - Just Transition Commission

The Irish Government recently announced the formation of the Just Transition Commission for Ireland.[12] The Irish Just Transition Commission will:

- Prepare and analyse strategic evidence-based research in relation to just transition, to anticipate and inform long-term climate policy and investment planning.
- Evaluate, advise and comment on policy planning, implementation and progress on the application of Ireland's Just Transition principles into national and sectoral climate policies, based on high-quality, evidence-based analysis.
- Provide strategic advice and engagement on the Just Transition; the Commission will support the National Dialogue on Climate Action, as well as any dialogue on climate/ just transition matters within individual sectors.
- The Commission may undertake proactive engagement with particular communities, sectors or regions facing specific acute or long-term challenges arising from the transition and advise Government on interventions or targeted supports which may be helpful to address the challenges being faced by that community, sector or region.

The Irish Government has indicated that it has embedded the need for Just Transition into all climate policy. The Irish government has also established a Just Transition Fund as part of the EU Just Transition Mechanism[13] and Ireland is set to receive up to €84.5 million from that Fund over the period from 2021 to 2027. With the Government of Ireland's match funding using Exchequer resources, up to €169 million will be available.

The Commission has not been established by statute. Ireland has just recently formed a secretariat to support the Commission. The cost of the secretariat is not factored into the running cost of the Commission as the secretariat will be seconded from the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. The small secretariat will be similar to the Scottish model, providing an independent-of-government service to the Commission. On 22 October the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications announced the approval of a number of members to the Just Transition Commission.[14]

2.3.5 International Examples

Internationally just transition has been addressed in different ways. There are examples of just transition approaches in Germany, Nigeria, Brazil, Mexico, New Zealand and the Western Cape as well as many others. South Africa in particular has, in the words of the World Resources

12 Just Transition Commission for Ireland.
13 The EU has adopted a 'Just Transition Mechanism' which aims to address the social and economic effects of the transition, focusing on the regions, industries, and workers who will face the greatest challenges.
14 https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/f208b-government-approves-membership-of-new-just-transition-commission/

Institute, emerged *"as a pioneer in the global just transition movement that other countries can learn from as they embark on their own just transition efforts".*[15] South Africa have established a Just Transition Framework which sets out a shared vision for a just transition, principles to guide the transition, and policies and governance arrangements to give effect to the transition.

Many of the approaches to just transition in relation to climate are relatively new and recent and DAERA has considered the different approaches taken and the varying degrees of success that each have had to date.

2.3.6 Pre-consultation engagement

In addition to engagement with our counterparts in the Scottish and Irish governments on their Just Transition Commissions, and with the Scottish Just Transition Commission itself, DAERA officials, in preparing this consultation document, has had helpful meetings with several academics from Queen's University Belfast and Nottingham University, key sectoral and representative organisations here and many others. The Department would like to express our thanks to all of those who spoke to us and for their proactive engagement. We will continue this engagement as part of this consultation process.

The Department also heard from the public and stakeholders through an earlier consultation on proposed carbon budgets.[16] The need for a fair and just transition was raised at all of the 21 consultation events, and many respondents raised the importance of establishing the Commission in their written responses. It was also frequently raised though the carbon budget consultation that many of the suggested planned actions to reduce emissions were seen as positive in terms of the co-benefits of improved health, social and educational outcomes, and could have positive equality impacts.

The pathway to ensuring a just transition for Northern Ireland will require a whole society approach and the intention is that ongoing and wide engagement on just transition should continue as part of this consultation and beyond.

Summary: Proposed Just Transition Commission model for Northern Ireland

The Scottish Just Transition Commission has been established since 2018 with the second Just Transition Commission for Scotland appointed in December 2021. It is regarded as a successful model with notably the World Resource Institute Report on the Commission undertaken in 2021[17] commenting on the strengths of the Commission through its *'whole of government approach'* and its inclusive engagement that *'has fostered debate among unions, industries and the government about their priorities for a just transition'.*

15 What lessons have we learned from South Africa's just transition? | World Economic Forum (weforum.org)
16 https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/summary-responses-consultation-on-emissions-reduction-targets-and-carbon-budgets
17 Scotland's Just Transition Commission: Guiding a Green Recovery and Seizing the Climate Opportunity | World Resources Institute

The Just Transition Commission in Scotland is clearly an effective model that works and is our preferred policy approach in terms of the models considered. Having reviewed the different ways that other jurisdictions have dealt with just transition and those that have established Just Transition bodies as well as consideration of the views of key academics and some stakeholders, the intention of the draft Regulations is to establish a Just Transition Commission on a similar basis as that which exists in Scotland, albeit Northern Ireland's Commission will be on a statutory basis.

Establishing the Commission in statute reinforces the NI Executive's commitment to ensuring that there is long-term commitment and approach to a just transition.

Part 3: The Law of Climate Change and Just Transition

3

3. The Law: Climate Change and Just Transition

The Act sets a target for net zero GHG emissions by 2050 as well as emissions reduction targets for 2030 and 2040. The Act builds upon and complements Northern Ireland's requirements set out in the UK Climate Change Act 2008.

Our local Act is recognised as one of the most advanced in its consideration of social justice issues, particularly with the significance of a just transition that runs through key components of it, the inclusion of the just transition principle and objectives, and not least with the requirement to establish the Commission.

3.1 Carbon Budgets

DAERA is required to make Regulations which set the maximum total amount of permitted GHG emissions in Northern Ireland over five-year periods, known as carbon budgets. Carbon budgets are the mechanism to ensure and provide the trajectory for Northern Ireland to meet the 2050 net zero target and the interim 2030 and 2040 emissions reduction targets. The first budgetary period is 2023-2027 and every five years thereafter.

All Northern Ireland departments are required under the Act to ensure that the carbon budget is achieved. The delivery vehicle for achieving carbon budgets will be through the development and implementation of Climate Action Plans (CAP).

3.2 Climate Action Plan

DAERA must prepare and publish a CAP to set out how each carbon budget will be met and to set out how the emissions reduction targets will be achieved. Each Northern Ireland department is required to provide DAERA with policies and proposals within their area of responsibility for inclusion in CAP.

There are broad requirements in the Act on all Northern Ireland departments to have regard to **the just transition principle** when deciding on their proposals and policies to be included in CAP. Each CAP must explain how these policies and proposals take account of the just transition principle.

3.3 Sectoral Plans

The Act places requirements on specified departments to develop and publish sectoral plans for the energy sector, infrastructure sector, industrial processes sector, waste management sector, agriculture sector, fisheries sector and the transport sector. The plans are required to

set out how the emissions reduction targets in the Act are to be achieved by sectors **whilst supporting a just transition.**

3.4 Just Transition Fund for Agriculture

DAERA is required to establish a scheme for the administration of a fund to be known as the *"Just Transition Fund for Agriculture"*. The purpose of the scheme is to provide advice and financial assistance to the agriculture sector to deliver its contribution to meeting carbon budgets and emissions reduction targets by developing and implementing proposals and policies to be included in CAP.

The nature and scale of a future bespoke Just Transition Fund for Agriculture will be determined by emerging needs and the advice from the Just Transition Commission and will need to be considered in the context of budgetary pressures and priorities across the NI Executive.

3.5 The Just Transition Principle and Objectives

Section 30(2)(a) requires all Northern Ireland departments when deciding their proposals and policies for meeting carbon budgets to have **regard to the just transition principle**. The Act defines the just transition principle in section 30(3), as follows:

The just transition principle is the importance, in taking action to reduce Northern Ireland emissions and increase Northern Ireland removals, of doing so in a manner which, so far as possible, achieves the objectives of:

(a) supporting jobs and the growth of jobs that are climate resilient and environmentally and socially sustainable;

(b) in particular, supporting the agriculture sector and other sectors of the economy in Northern Ireland that are likely to be most affected by action to reduce those emissions and increase those removals;

(c) supporting low-carbon investment and infrastructure;

(d) developing and maintaining consensus through engagement with (among others) workers, trade unions, communities, non-governmental organisations, and representatives of the interests of business and industry;

(e) creating decent, fair, and high-value work in a way which does not negatively affect the current workforce;

(f) contributing to a resource-efficient and sustainable economy;

(g) supporting persons who are most affected by climate change, particularly those who may have done the least to cause it or may be the least equipped to adapt to its effects;

(h) reducing, with a view to eliminating, poverty, inequality, and social deprivation;

(i) eliminating gender inequality and advancing equality of opportunity between men and women;

(j) supporting the social and economic needs of people in rural areas; and

(k) taking into account the future generations principle.

Summary: The Just Transition Principle

The just transition principle aims to promote fairness during the transition from a high-emissions to low-emissions economy and to ensure support is provided to those who are most affected by climate change, particularly those who may have done the least to cause it or may be the least equipped to adapt to its effects. As detailed in full above, the high-level objectives include taking action to reduce emissions in a manner which helps to support environmentally sustainable jobs, low-carbon investment, and infrastructure.

To help meet these requirements, the Act places a duty on DAERA to establish the Just Transition Commission for Northern Ireland.

3.6 Section 37: The Just Transition Commission

Section 37 of the Act requires DAERA to establish the Just Transition Commission with the following legal parameters:

37. *(1) The Department must by Regulations establish a body to be known as the "Just Transition Commission".*

(2) The functions of the Commission are to—

(a) oversee the implementation of the just transition elements of this Act; and

(b) provide advice to the Northern Ireland departments on how to ensure that proposals, policies, strategies, and plans required under this Act comply with the just transition principle.

(3) Regulations under subsection (1)—

(a) must make provision for the constitution of the Commission (including, in particular, its membership, general powers and proceedings);

(b) may provide that the Commission is established as a body corporate (and that section 19 of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954 applies to it with such modifications (if any) as may be prescribed in the Regulations);

(c) may make provision for the payment of remuneration and allowances to members of the Commission, and for the defraying of its expenses;

(d) may make provision in relation to accounting, reporting and record-keeping by the Commission; and

(e) may make such further provision in relation to the Commission as the Department considers appropriate.

(4) Regulations made by virtue of subsection (3)(a) must provide for the members of the Commission to include a representative of each of the following—

(a) the agricultural sector;

(b) the fisheries sector;

(c) academia;

(d) trade unions;

(e) youth groups;

(f) civic society; and

(g) environmental groups.

(But this does not prevent the Regulations from providing for other persons to be members of the Commission).

(5) Regulations under subsection (1) may also make provision about the functions of the Commission, including provision specifying—

(a) how the oversight function is to be performed; and

(b) what the just transition elements of this Act are.

Summary: The Just Transition Commission: Role

The Commission will oversee the just transition elements of the Act and provide advice to departments to help ensure their policies and proposals take account of the just transition principle. The work of the Commission will help shape policies and ensure the objective of a just transition is met when moving from a high-emissions to a low-carbon society.

The Act is clear on the role and functions that the NI Assembly envisaged for the Just Transition Commission. These include:

- The Commission, once established, will be responsible for reviewing and assessing CAP to ensure NI departments are having due regard to the just transition principle, and that the plans adequately demonstrate how they have taken account of that principle.

- The Commission will also give advice to departments on just transition issues to help ensure departments are adhering to the just transition principle and the objectives it aims to achieve.

3.6.1 Type of Public Body

The UK Government Cabinet Office and the Department of Finance (DoF) here have provided guidance to departments who are involved in establishing government arms-length bodies (ALBs).[18, 19] This ensures the correct classification of bodies and that they fulfil their governance objectives within a clear, consistent, and comparable system.

The guidance sets out the different categories of the UK's public bodies and provides a high-level introduction to the early decision-making process for establishing different types of public bodies. The guidance covers:

- the case assessment options to be considered for a public body;
- the definitions and characteristics to be considered for a public body;
- the classifications to be considered before setting up a public body;
- what legislation is necessary for all new public bodies;
- guidance on public body staffing;
- financial management and accountability;
- openness and accountability; and
- reviewing a public body.

18 For a definition and explanation of Public bodies see Public bodies | Institute for Government
19 Public Bodies Handbook: UK Guide - Public Bodies: A Guide for NI Departments

Public bodies are diverse, which means classification is not always a simple process. There are a wide range of considerations when establishing a new body, such as the characteristics required, governance, risks involved, finances, accountability and benefits and ensuring the new body is able to deliver its objectives under the Act.

There are approximately 100 Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPB) operating in NI, carrying out a wide range of public functions. Among these, are a variety of Commission's or Commissioner's Offices which have been established by legislation. There are primarily three existing models for Commissions or Commissioners that already operate here:

- Public Bodies who regulate an area of work by setting standards, monitoring compliance and sanctioning breaches of those standards.
- Public Bodies who act as a Champion to help the people they are responsible for in seeking formal remedies, including (as necessary) assistance with court cases.
- Public Bodies who promote a principle(s) or a policy(ies) and help secure implementation by providing advice and making recommendations.

The Act clearly sets out the functions that the Assembly agreed that the Commission should undertake. DAERA conducted an assessment to determine the most appropriate type of public body that would have the characteristics that would meet the requirements and criteria for the Commission as set out in the Act. This assessment concluded the type of body that would best meet the requirements of the Act and provide the best value for money was an Advisory Non-Departmental Public Body.

The main features of an Advisory NDPB are that:

- they are established by Ministers, or by officials working on behalf of Ministers, to provide independent expert advice or to provide input into the policymaking process;
- they are formal bodies with defined membership and clear terms of reference;
- appointments to the bodies are made by Ministers or by officials on behalf of Ministers;
- those appointed to the body are independent of government and drawn from outside the public sector;
- Ministers are ultimately answerable for the performance of the bodies and for their continued existence;

- they do not usually have their own staff but are supported by staff from their sponsoring department; and
- they do not usually have their own budget, as costs incurred come within the department's expenditure.

Summary: Type of Public Body

- The Assembly through the Act has set and agreed clear requirements for the establishment of the Just Transition Commission and its prescribed functions.
- In consideration of these statutory functions in line with the definitions provided by public bodies guidance issued by DoF and the Cabinet Office and our examination of the examples of other comparable and successful models that exist in Scotland and as has recently been established in Ireland it is proposed that the Just Transition Commission should be established as an Advisory NDPB.
- Advisory NDPBs supply independent expert advice, which the Just Transition Commission will do.
- The policy proposal is to establish the Commission with secretariat support modelled on what exists and has worked successfully in Scotland and Ireland.
- Further detail on what this will look like is included below and this is what we are seeking your views on.

To progress this consultation and prepare the illustrative draft Regulations that will establish a new public body DAERA is required to seek approval from the Department of Finance (DoF) on the proposed classification of the new body. Progressing this process at an early stage will help to ensure that administrative and operational support can be in place as soon as possible once the legislation is approved and in place.

3.6.2 Commission Oversight functions

The oversight function of the Commission is a very broad power. Section 37(2)(a) of the Act simply states that it is the role of the Commission to *"oversee the implementation of the just transition elements of this Act"*. It is when read with other sections of the Act that the oversight function is further defined.

Section 13(4) of the Act requires that each sectoral plan *"shall also support a just transition"* and it goes on to further elaborate how this can be done by those developing sectoral programmes and policies. The Commission's oversight role would therefore extend to oversight of how the relevant sectoral plans deliver in this regard.

Departments are required to bring forward policies and proposals, within each 5-year CAP, which will reduce NI greenhouse gas emissions to meet the targets set out in the Act and meet emission limits set out by the carbon budgets. Section 30(2) requires all NI departments, when deciding these proposals and policies to have regard to the just transition principle. Section 30(6) of the Act also requires that each CAP explains how the proposals and policies set out in the plan take account of the just transition principle.

A key aspect of the Commission's oversight will be its assessment of the extent to which the Act has been complied with and the extent to which the policies and proposals within the CAP will deliver a just transition. For the first CAP, which is still in development with relevant consideration being given by departments to the just transition principle, the Commission is unlikely to be established in time to provide advice to departments, but it will still have the opportunity to consider and report on how the requirements around the just transition principle have been taken into account.

Section 32 of the Act requires DAERA to set soil quality and biodiversity targets within each climate action plan. Section 32(2)(e) requires the calculation of targets to be done in a manner that takes account of the just transition principle.

Section 23 of the Act requires DAERA to consult with the Commission (once it is established), however there is no reciprocal requirement contained in the Act. DAERA does not believe that it should be a legislated compulsion for the Commission to reply to such a consultation request and propose not to include it in the Regulations. However, the Commission can determine whether and how it wishes to respond to any such request.

Section 31 of the Act requires DAERA to establish a scheme for the administration of a fund to be known as the "Just Transition Fund for Agriculture" for the purpose of providing advice and financial assistance to the agriculture sector to deliver its contribution in developing and implementing emission reduction proposals and policies that will be included in CAP. An oversight function of the Commission may be reviewing any scheme or any change to a scheme made under section 31 of the Act.

Summary: Commission Oversight functions

One of the key functions of the Commission is to undertake an oversight role of the just transition elements of the Act. The draft Regulations therefore provide the Commission with this oversight power. The Act contains just transition requirements, and it is proposed that the Commission will have oversight of the following to ensure the just transition requirements have been met:

- Sectoral Plans

- Climate Action Plans

- Setting soil and biodiversity targets

- Any Scheme made under section 31 of the Act (i.e. any Just Transition Fund).

3.6.3 Commission Advisory functions

The Commission will also provide advice to Northern Ireland departments on how to ensure that proposals, policies, strategies and plans required under the Act comply with the just transition principle.

The Commission will be requested by Northern Ireland departments to provide advice on just transition matters when departments are developing and implementing emissions reduction policies. It is likely these policies areas will be diverse and wide ranging.

The Commission will also have the power to comment on or to develop its own advice and guidance on just transition matters. What this commentary or guidance includes, extends to and looks like will be for the Commission as an independent body to determine. Advice or guidance produced by the Commission however could very usefully be used by departments to refer to when developing their emission reduction policies.

3.6.4 Climate adaptation

Climate adaptation is about adapting our current infrastructure to make sure it is resilient to the current and projected impacts of climate change and also ensuring in developing new infrastructure, policies and proposals that they are future proofed for a changing climate. In November 2023 the National Trust published its report, *'A Climate for Change: Adaptation and the National Trust'* [20], which made specific recommendations for each government within the UK. For NI the recommendations included *'Expanding the remit of the Northern Ireland Just Transition Commission and Climate Commissioner to embed climate adaptation at the core of their work'* to ensure that emissions focused plans are developed with climate resilience in mind.

20 a-climate-for-change-adaptation-and-the-national-trust-report-full.pdf (nt.global.ssl.fastly.net)

Section 51 of the Act requires climate action plans to be climate resilient. The Commission therefore in its role to ensure all plans required under the Act comply with the just transition principle will be able to provide advice to departments on just transition in respect of the resilience of policies and proposals included in the CAP.

3.6.5 Influence and Authority

The Act does not provide the Commission with any formal powers to compel or enforce Northern Ireland departments to implement the Commission's advice or recommendations into policy making. It is for departments to consider the expert advice from the Commission and any recommendations the Commission has made as part of its oversight function and how to best implement this into their emissions reduction policies. It is likely that with the role of the Commission and the expertise it will accrue that departments will find the advice and independent reviews beneficial in helping to inform and shape policy, and that departments will respond to and where possible take on the recommendations of the Commission. DAERA recognises the need for the public and other stakeholders to have confidence that the Commission and its work are independent of government and that the Commission is free to scrutinise policies. The work of the Commission will be published and available to the public.

Through the broad expertise within the Commission and that which can be sought by the Commission, it is likely that the Commission's findings, advice and any recommendations will hold significant influence and help to support government in developing policies, programmes and interventions that deliver on climate action, reduce emissions and are fair and just. As detailed later in this document it is proposed that the Commission will also be required to present its reports before the Assembly, and it will be possible for Assembly Committees or individual Assembly members to bring recommendations from the Commission to the attention of departments and their respective Ministers.

Summary: Advisory Powers and Influence

It is proposed that the Commission will have broad advisory powers. This will ensure that the Commission is able:

- To provide advice to the Northern Ireland departments.

- To advise departments on their compliance with the just transition principle.

- To make recommendations on proposals, policies, strategies and plans required under the Act.

- To respond to department's requests for advice.

- To develop specific or general advice or guidance as it sees fit.

It is not possible to provide the Commission with enforcement powers however the role and standing of the Commission will be such that its recommendations are likely to carry significant weight and influence.

3.6.6 Representation on the Commission

Section 37(3)(a) of the Act requires the Regulations to make provision for the constitution of the Commission including its membership, general powers and proceedings. This section below provides information on the proposals for the constitution of the Commission as well as other factors DAERA have considered in the establishment of the Commission.

As per section 37(4) of the Act, the following sectors **must** be represented on the Commission:

(a) the agricultural sector;

(b) the fisheries sector;

(c) academia;

(d) trade unions;

(e) youth groups;

(f) civic society; and

(g) environmental groups.

The Commission will need to be able to engage with and listen to the public and potentially varying or opposing viewpoints or concerns from groups and/or sectors and try to find solutions that can be supported by the majority.

Rural communities and agriculture

Agriculture is currently the largest emitting sector in NI and action will need to be taken to reduce GHG emissions. The agriculture sector is diverse as are our many rural communities and the Commission will need to understand and represent those involved in the production, processing and distribution of food and non-food products from plants and animals as well as land use change and forestry. Given the significance and distinct elements within the agriculture sector it may be appropriate to have more than one representative on the Commission.

Other sectors

Although the Act details the key sectors that must be included, it is notable that some important sectors in the context of NI's decarbonisation journey such as transport, and energy were not included in the list at section 37(4). Section 37(4) does however include a permissive power that the Regulations are not prevented from providing for other persons to be members of the Commission.

The Energy and Domestic Transport sectors will require significant transformation to move to lower emissions models and this is already happening. Just transition objectives will form an important part of the development and implementation of policies in these sectors.

The figure below shows the distribution of greenhouse gas emissions in NI in 2022 by sector.[21]

21 Northern Ireland greenhouse gas inventory | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (daera-ni.gov.uk)

Transport

Domestic transport accounted for 18% of all emissions in 2022. This sector will therefore require significant action to ensure there is considerable emission reductions through a take-up of low-carbon technologies and support for individuals and families to choose alternatives such as public transport and active travel.

Energy

The energy sector is a major contributor to GHG emissions in NI. Energy supply contributed to 14% of the total emissions in NI in 2022. However, this is not the full impact as this only includes the generation of energy, mainly electricity. Emissions are measured at source, therefore, there will be energy emissions within the residential and business sector. For example, Building and Product Uses contributes 15% of total emissions and this will include emissions from oil and gas boilers and other forms of fossil fuel heating.

The CCC's March 2023 Report assessed that energy emissions will need to fall 51% from 2019 to 2030. This will require changes to the type of heating we use in our homes as well as an increase in energy efficiency measures such as insulation, glazing and more efficient heating systems. Notably one of the barriers to behaviour change in NI is the high percentage of reliance on home heating oil and the standard of housing. It will be important therefore to consider the impact of decisions on the public and the fuel poverty situation in Northern Ireland coupled with a low-income society.

Finance

Future emissions reduction policies and proposals will require substantial private and public investment and different and innovative funding models and solutions. Whilst the Commission members representing their particular sector may have some financial experience, it may be prudent to have a member that represents the economic or financial sector, as they have in Scotland, given the importance of Green Investment.

Summary: Sectoral Representation

DAERA may also appoint other members of the Commission with specific skills or expertise beyond the legislated specified sectors. There is also the option to extend the mandatory sectoral representation on the Commission beyond those sectors listed in the Act.

As such, the draft Regulations could be amended to make it a legal requirement that there must be representatives from e.g. the transport, energy, business and green financial sector to be included on the Commission or indeed representatives from other sectors.

3.6.7 Commission Members: time commitment and remuneration

Based on the experience in Scotland and Ireland it is expected that membership of the Commission will not be a full-time commitment. Whilst there is no defined schedule on the time commitment required, based on the experience of other comparable Commission models DAERA assess that it is likely to be an average of approximately 15 days per year. The time commitment each year may depend on the level of advice that departments may seek from the Commission. Likewise, the delivery of these policies and plans will also be subject to variation in terms of delivery schedules over the relevant period.

The Regulations do not pre-determine the scheduling or number of meetings that the Commission must have per year, but it is expected that the first work of the Commission will be to set out a plan of action for the first term and to share this with the Department. The Commission members would also, where appropriate and taking into account that members may be serving in another public position receive a daily allowance for their time rather than a fixed salary. As such Commission members should not be reimbursed if they work for another government body.

The Commission members will be remunerated for time committed to the Commission at the rate agreed with the Minister at the time of appointment, and in line with NICS pay policy for public appointments. Travel and accommodation expenses will be reimbursed in line with the NICS Travel and Subsistence policy.

3.6.8 Location

Many employers both in the public and private sector are supporting or encouraging home working and to hold meetings using online platforms. This is a positive example of how to reduce carbon emissions. NICS meeting rooms can be availed of if the Commission Members did decide to meet face to face. Meeting rooms will be sourced from DAERA Estate Services team or via wider NICS. In addition, it is likely that the Commission as part of their work programme may wish to hold meetings or engage with the public or key sectors at different locations across NI. It is envisaged however that the secretariat will have a physical presence and that this may be in a central location accessible from across the region and with strong public transport links.

3.6.9 Recruitment, Appointment and Term of Office

It is proposed that the Commission recruitment process will be made via the public appointments process and will adhere to the Commissioner of Public Appointments Northern Ireland (CPANI) Code of Practice.[22] Ministers in the Northern Ireland Executive are responsible for the work of public bodies and those appointed to these bodies.

22 Code of Practice for Ministerial Public Appointments in Northern Ireland | The Commissioner for Public Appointments for Northern Ireland (publicappointmentsni.org)

The code of practice uses an open and equitable process which provides an assurance to applicants and the public that the process will be fair, transparent and will include an Independent Assessor on the selection panel. Under the Code of Practice the DAERA Minister must determine, in advance of the Commission appointment process, the criteria, skills and personal qualities required on the Chair and the Members to sit on the Commission. The selection of Commission members will be on the basis of merit to ensure that the best available candidate is selected and appointed to each post, and it will be subject to independent scrutiny by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. Once the Minister has agreed the role profile, person specification and appointment plan, he will not be actively involved in the appointment process again until assessments have been concluded and the Minister has received the 'applicant summary'. The Minister will then make a decision on which applicants are to be appointed. All decisions will be recorded and retained as part of the audit trail.

In accordance with the guidance, it is envisaged Commission Members will serve terms of five years. Members may have their term renewed but this would be for one further term only. This may be included in the Terms of Reference or the Partnership Agreement rather than on the face of the Regulations. Again, in accordance with the CPANI guidance the length of any Commission member will not exceed ten years.

3.6.10 Number of Members

The Act does not mandate how many representatives should be on the Commission. It is essential that the Commission contains a membership of sectoral representatives that can represent the widest spectrum of society as possible. Whilst it is not a requirement under the Act it would be highly desirable to have members sit on the Commission that represented other areas of the economy and society in addition to those listed in the Act.

The agriculture, energy, and transport are high contributors to GHG emissions in NI, and substantial action will be required by these sectors to reduce emissions as quickly as possible to meet interim and long-term emission reduction targets. Taking into account the size, scale and wide remit of some of the sectors two or more representatives with skills, knowledge or backgrounds may be needed.

A separate chairperson who does not represent a sector may be desirable. The role of the chairperson would be to provide leadership, set the agendas, lead the meetings, ensure the conventions of the meetings are being followed, ensure fairness and equality at all times and represent the Commission in public.

DAERA estimate that around 14 members would provide the Commission with a broad range of people, skills and sectoral knowledge to represent the widest spectrum of the economy and society as possible to provide advice to departments.

It is important that the Regulations are not overly restrictive on the number of Commission members. Depending on the policies and proposals put forward for CAP, other sectors may need to have representation on the Commission. It is also equally important that the Commission does not have too many members that it hinders effective decision making. **The draft Regulations require that the Commission must contain a minimum of seven members and a maximum of 20 members.**

DAERA's view is that this is required in order to facilitate effective structures to allow good governance and effective decision making.

3.6.11 Committees or Specialist advice

There will be occasions, whereby the Commission may need specialist advice on a particular issue or to set up a separate ad-hoc committee or working group that have subject experts who are not Commission members and who specialise in a particular area.

The Commission may also need to establish a means to gather advice from the public, specialists and/or to commission research. The Commission will also have a role in engaging with and listening to impacted groups and organisations in order to be able to advise Government on ensuring fairness and a just approach to policies and programmes.

3.6.12 Secretariat support

The Commission will require assistance in the form of a secretariat to enable it to carry out its duties efficiently. The type of support required will be mainly dictated by the Commission once it is established. The secretariat will provide an impartial/ independent service to the Commission and will ultimately be accountable to them. Having reviewed the support function provided and then revised in Scotland, and that in Ireland, we are proposing a similar level of support for the Commission here. The secretariat to support the Commission will therefore consist of a team lead and two support staff. The secretariat will be NICS staff seconded to the Commission from DAERA. The secretariat staff costs will be consistent with existing Northern Ireland Civil Service costs for the relevant staffing levels required. The functions of the secretariat will be fully determined by the Commission once they are operational, however it is expected some of their functions will include:

- Engage with Ministers, draft responses to press queries and perform other high levels tasks.
- Assist the Commission in its communication with the public and or specific sectors.
- Determining the dates, agenda and location of meetings, preparing and circulate Commission agenda and related papers.

- Drafting business cases to secure funding, drafting minutes and publishing minutes and reports.
- Commissioning and managing third party research and synthesising existing research on just transition.
- Liaising with all Executive departments to determine the policies, strategies and plans under development that would be of relevance to the Commission.
- Maintenance of the Commission's website and the publication of Reports, minutes and other relevant information.
- Support the Commission in their drafting of their annual reports and other reports.
- Administration of all Commission expenses.

The list above is not exhaustive and is only an example of some of the duties that will be required to be delivered by the secretariat based on the experience of other Commissions. Other than the necessary secretariat and support costs, it is envisaged that the Commission will not incur any other additional costs to cover ancillary functions such as finance, human resources, security or building maintenance.

3.6.13 Governance, Accountability, Reporting and Record Keeping

Section 37(3)(d) of the Act provides a power for the Regulations to make provision in relation to accounting, reporting and record keeping by the Commission. The draft Regulations (**Appendix A**) require the Commission to produce an annual report on the performance of the Commission as soon as practicable after the end of each financial year. This report would detail the work carried out by the Commission, including advice provided to departments from the previous year and detail the scope of the work planned or proposed for the year ahead.

The Commission may also produce other reports, as described in the draft Regulations on the implementation of the just transition elements of the Act in relation to sectoral plans, CAP and schemes that it conducts oversight of.

The Commission would also be required to lay a copy of any reports before the Assembly. The Commission will publish their reports.

There are many reasons why it is important that reports are made available to the public. These include but are not limited to:

- the public's information awareness on climate change;
- enabling accountability and transparency; and

- promoting and sharing best practices, to support ongoing improvements in the effectiveness of climate actions etc.

3.6.14 Governance

The Just Transition Commission in Scotland is governed by its terms of reference which outline its operating model, processes, and the role of the secretariat. The relationship between the Commission and the Scottish Government is provided for by a Memorandum of Understanding. The NI Commission, as proposed in this document, will be similarly governed though administrative procedure in accordance with the Department of Finance guidance. This is currently provided for Arm's Length Bodies by a Partnership Agreement.

Partnership Agreements set out the overall governance framework within which ALBs should operate, including the framework through which the necessary assurances are provided to the public to satisfy accountability requirements. The various roles/responsibilities of partners within the overall governance framework are also outlined.

3.6.15 Budget

Based on the outline proposals contained in this document DAERA has bid for resources as part of the three yearly budgetary exercise. DAERA have assessed the estimated annual running costs of the Commission at £150,000 for running costs plus an additional £160,000 for the secretariat support so costs would be approximately £340,000 annually. This includes costs for Commission member's expenses/fees, dedicated secretariat support and for premises, IT support, conducting research to enable the Commission to conduct its functions effectively. These costs may change moderately depending on the outcome of this Consultation and the final agreed provisions in the Regulations.

3.7 How the Commission will work with Other Bodies

3.7.1 Interactions and context

The Commission is being established to complement and support climate change action in Northern Ireland. The Commission is the first body of its kind here, and it is potentially the first Just Transition Commission established by statute. The clear focus that the NI Assembly set in the Act on the role and functions of the Commission are distinct and unique, and do not replace or duplicate the work of any existing statutory or voluntary bodies or Commission.

The Commission will however not work in isolation and will have interactions with many stakeholders, academics, business and the community and voluntary sector as well as working

relationships with other public bodies and organisations, such as the NICC, and others which are already in place or established through legislation including the Office for Environmental Protection and the UK Climate Change Committee. Information is provided below on some of the identified bodies, and there will be other examples. It is possible that the Commission may place reliance on the work of these or other bodies, or that other bodies may place reliance on the work of the Commission.

3.7.2 Relationship with Northern Ireland Climate Commissioner

The Executive Office is to establish by Regulations an independent office to be known as the 'Northern Ireland Climate Commissioner'.

The functions of the NICC are to oversee and report on the operations of this Act. As the NICC function is to oversee all the operations of the Act, this could potentially include reporting on the work of the Commission or overseeing the just transition elements of the Act.

The Commission and NICC will both be public bodies independent of Government. DAERA has, in the development of these proposals, worked closely with counterparts in The Executive Office and will continue to do so to ensure there is clarity around the roles of both bodies.

3.7.3 Relationship with the Office of Environmental Protection

The Commission will have interaction with the Office for Environmental Protection (OEP). The OEP is an independent body created under the Environment Act 2021. It is a regulatory body tasked with protecting and improving the environment by holding government and other public authorities to account for the implementation of environmental law. Given their respective very distinct functions, not least that one is a regulatory body and the other an advisory body there is no overlap of functions carried out by the Commission and the OEP, however it is envisaged that their work will inform that of the other body and will be complementary.

3.7.4 Relationship with UK Climate Change Committee

The CCC is an independent, statutory non-departmental public body established under the (UK) Climate Change Act 2008. The CCC consists of two committees. The first provides advice to the UK and the devolved governments on emissions targets and reports to Parliament on progress made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The second, the Adaptation Committee, advises on the risks from climate change and actions the UK and devolved nations should take to adapt. The CCC is co-sponsored by the UK Department for Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), the Northern Ireland Executive, the Scottish Government, and the Welsh Government. The Commission will need to be aware of the work of the Climate Change Committee and any reports or recommendations it makes for NI.

3.7.5 Other Just Transition Commissions and bodies

As detailed in the main body of this document there are Just Transition Commissions in Scotland and Ireland. It would be likely that each of these bodies would find it useful to share information and learning. There is a significant body of international research on just transition and this will also be made available to the Commission once established.

3.7.6 Other Public Bodies

The Commission is being established within an existing landscape of regulatory, scrutiny and oversight bodies. From the just transition principle and objectives set out in the Act it is clear that just transition can be linked to social and economic well-being, sustainability, climate resilience, equality, gender and poverty so it is important that the Commission is able to work in partnership and collaboratively, where appropriate with other statutory bodies here that have responsibilities relating to equality, good relations, rights and interests and the impact on the wider public including the Equality Commission NI, the Commissioner for Older People for NI, the NI Commissioner for Children and Young People, the NI Human Rights Commission, the NI Consumer Council, the Utility Regulator and others. The Commission may also have interaction with other bodies in the process of carrying out its functions. Given the active role that many local authorities here provide in delivering on climate action the Commission is likely to also interact with Northern Ireland's 11 local councils as well as other public bodies in Northern Ireland, including other Commissions or Commissioners.

3.8 NI Executive's draft Programme for Government

In its draft Programme for Government[23], the Executive recognises that wellbeing is a combination of social, environmental, economic, and democratic factors which are essential for society to flourish. Underpinning the nine cross-cutting priorities are the Missions of People, Planet and Prosperity and the cross-cutting commitment to Peace. That is central to reflect that everyone should feel the benefit of a growing economy, improved environment, and a fairer society. Equality of opportunity and good relations are central to this goal as are reconciliation, diversity and fairness.

As we work to invest in green growth and transform our society in a just and fair way it is recognised that lessons can be taken from our strong community and voluntary sectors, our unions, from our young people, from those involved in equality and good relations, and the regulatory and scrutiny bodies that exist to champion consumers and to advise and to challenge government policy to make it better. Transforming to a net zero society and delivering on a just transition delivers across each of the Executive's Missions. By establishing the Just Transition Commission, we are putting in place a key mechanism to support and ensure that all of government gets the best advice it can on delivering a just and fair transition.

23 Our Plan: Doing What Matters Most (northernireland.gov.uk)

Part 4: Consultation Questions

4

4. Consultation

This consultation seeks to gather your views, through your responses to a range of questions.

You are encouraged, wherever possible, to provide your responses to this consultation online @ https://consultations2.nidirect.gov.uk/daera/a9646490. For further information please see the chapter 'How to complete the Consultation.'

You can view the DAERA Privacy Statement by visiting our website.

4.1 About You

First, please tell us a little '**About You**' to help us analyse the responses.

What is your name?

What is your email address?

Are you representing an organisation, or are these your personal views?

- ❑ Personal response
- ❑ Organisation (Please tell us your organisation name or what sector you operate in).

4.2 How to complete the consultation

The consultation consists of a series of questions. These are provided here in full and are also on citizen space.

The questions cover the type of public body the Commission should be, its composition, the Commission's role and legislated functions, the proposed sectors to be represented, its reporting arrangements and the secretariat and support required.

- Our key policy proposals are presented in the Summary at Part 1 of this document.
- The policy considerations behind these proposals and further detail on them is provided in Part 3 of this document.

4.3 Consultation questions

Q1. Do you agree with the proposal that the Commission should be established as an Advisory Non-Departmental Public Body with the chair and its members recruited in line with the guidance issued by the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

Yes	
No	
Unsure	
Please provide comments to support your answer	

Q2. Do you agree the Commission membership should be between 7-20 members?

Yes	
No	
Unsure	
Please provide comments to support your answer	

Q3. Do you agree the Commission membership should meet on average 15 days per year?

Yes	
No	
Unsure	
Please provide comments to support your answer	

Q4. Do you agree that the Commission should be similar to the Scottish model and supported by a small team to provide a secretariat function to allow the Commission to function effectively?

Yes	
No	
Unsure	
Please provide comments to support your answer	

Q5. Do you agree that members appointed to the Commission should serve a term of 5 years?

Yes	
No	
Unsure	
Please provide comments to support your answer	

Q6. Do you agree that the Commission would fulfil the oversight function required of it in the Act by reviewing and reporting on the development and implementation of-

- **any sectoral plan published under sections 13 to 21 of the Act;**
- **any climate action plan published under section 29 or 51 of the Act; and**
- **any scheme established by Regulations under section 31 of the Act.**

Yes	
No	
Unsure	
Please provide comments to support your answer	

Q7. Do you agree that the Commission would be fulfilling its advice function by:

- **Responding to a Northern Ireland department's request for advice within agreed timeframes.**
- **Issuing research and guidance documents for departments to review and consider when developing emission reduction policies.**

Yes	
No	
Unsure	
Please provide comments to support your answer	

Q8. Should the Commission include representation from the Transport sector?

Yes	
No	
Unsure	
Please provide comments to support your answer	

Q9. Should the Commission include representation from the Energy sector?

Yes	
No	
Unsure	
Please provide comments to support your answer	

Q10. Should the Commission include representation from the Financial/Green Finance sector?

Yes	
No	
Unsure	
Please provide comments to support your answer	

Q11. Are there any other sectors in addition to the Transport, Energy, Finance and those listed in 37(4) of the Act that should be represented on the Commission – and if so, please provide reasons for your answer.

Yes	
No	
Unsure	
Please provide comments to support your answer	

Q12. Do you agree the Commission should have a power to establish Ad-Hoc Committees or working groups to secure additional knowledge or expertise that may not be available with the Commission.

Yes	
No	
Unsure	
Please provide comments to support your answer	

Q13. What do you think the key initial priorities should be for the Commission?

Please provide comments to support your answer	

Part 5: Next Steps

5

5. Next Steps

Following the closure of the consultation, the feedback will be analysed, and the Regulations will be reviewed. Recommendations will be put forward to the DAERA Minister and the Executive on the content of the final draft Regulations that will establish the Commission. The Regulations will then go through the necessary legislative process in the NI Assembly including a debate to approve the Regulations.

DAERA is committed to ensuring that the Just Transition Commission is operational as soon as possible and as detailed in the body of this document we have progressed a draft business case, prepared the proposed classification and internal DAERA approvals, and also bid for funding for the secretariat as well as preparing illustrative draft Regulations alongside this consultation document. This is in order that the administrative and operational support for the Commission can be in place as soon as possible once the legislation is approved and in place.

DAERA have already begun to scope out the role of the Commission members to determine what skill sets will be required to meet the objectives of the Commission to provide its oversight and advisory role. A skills audit is ongoing to determine the competencies required and to identify any skills gaps there may be, and training and development required. A competition to appoint members to the Commission will be launched as per the CPANI guidelines and the seven principles of public appointments.[24]

An illustrative draft of the Regulations required to implement these requirements can be found at **Appendix A**. This is to show what the final Regulations might look like but will be subject to change based on the outcome of this consultation and decisions taken by Ministers.

24 Seven principles of public appointments | The Commissioner for Public Appointments for Northern Ireland (publicappointmentsni.org)

Glossary of Terms

We have provided the glossary below for some of the terms and acronyms that have been used in this consultation document. Consultees may find it helpful to review this when considering responses to the consultation questions.

ALB	Arm's Length Body
Carbon budget	A carbon budget provides a limit on the maximum total greenhouse gas emissions which should not be exceeded for a defined budgetary period, in order to help meet overall and longer-term emissions reduction commitments. For Northern Ireland, the periods cover 5 years with the first period being 2023-2027.
Climate Action Plan (CAP)	The Climate Action Plan sets out the proposals and policies, covering the areas of responsibility of each Northern Ireland department, for meeting a carbon budget for a set budgetary period and also has to set out how the 2030, 2040 and 2050 emissions reduction targets will be met.
DAERA	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
DoF	Department of Finance
GHGs	Greenhouse gases with the seven main gases being: carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulphur hexafluoride and nitrogen trifluoride.
ILO	International Labour Organisation
Just Transition Fund for Agriculture	The Just Transition Fund for Agriculture will be established by DAERA to provide advice and financial assistance to the agriculture sector to help it deliver its contribution under proposals and policies which are included within Climate Action Plans.
Just Transition Objectives	The Act contains 11 Just Transition Objectives at Section 30(3). These include supporting persons who are most affected by climate change, particularly those who may have done the least to cause it or may be the least equipped to adapt to its effects, creating decent, fair and high-value work in a way which does not negatively affect the current workforce and reducing, with a view to eliminating, poverty, inequality and social deprivation.

Just Transition Principle	The just transition principle aims to promote fairness during the transition from a high-emissions to low-emissions economy and to ensure that support is provided to the sectors of the economy which are key to delivering the transition towards a greener, lower carbon society. High-level objectives include taking action to reduce emissions in a manner which helps to support environmentally sustainable jobs, low-carbon investment, and infrastructure.
Net zero	Net zero means not adding to the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. This involves reducing greenhouse gas emissions as much as possible and balancing out any that remain by removing an equivalent amount.
Northern Ireland Climate Commissioner (NICC)	The Executive Office must by Regulations establish an independent office to be known as the Northern Ireland Climate Commissioner. The functions of the Commissioner are to oversee and report on the operations of the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022.
Office for Environmental Protection (OEP)	The Office for Environmental Protection (The OEP) is a public body that protects and improves the environment by holding government and other public authorities to account.
TEO	The Executive Office
The Act	The Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022.
UK CCC	The UK Climate Change Committee - the statutory, independent, climate change expert advisors to the UK government and all UK Devolved Administrations (including Northern Ireland).
WFGA	The Well-Being of Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015.

Publication of Responses

Confidentiality

The Department will publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. Your response, and all other responses to the consultation may be disclosed on request. The Department can refuse to disclose information only in exceptional circumstances. Before you submit your response, please read the paragraphs below on the confidentiality of consultations as these provide guidance on the legal position of any information given by you in response to this consultation. Any confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system in e-mail responses will not be treated as such a request.

Data Protection

Section 8(e) of the Data Protection Act 2018 permits processing of personal data when necessary for an activity that supports or promotes democratic engagement. Information provided by respondents to this consultation exercise will be held and used for the purposes of the administration of this current exercise and subsequently disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulation.

Freedom of Information

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority (the Department in this case). This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. The Department cannot automatically consider as confidential information supplied to it in response to a consultation.

However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity, should be made public or treated as confidential. This means that information provided by you in response to the consultation is unlikely to be treated as confidential, except in very particular circumstances.

The Lord Chancellor's Code of Practice on the Freedom of Information Act provides that:

- The Department should only accept information from third parties in confidence if it is necessary to obtain that information in connection with the exercise of any of the Department's functions and it would not otherwise be provided;
- The Department should not agree to hold information received from third parties 'in confidence' which is not confidential in nature; and

- Acceptance by the Department of confidentiality provisions must be for good reasons, capable of being justified to the Information Commissioner.

For further information about confidentiality of responses, please contact the Information Commissioner's Office:

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Email: ni@ico.org.uk Website: https://ico.org.uk/

Appendix A Example of Draft Regulations

Example Draft Regulations

6

The below are Draft Regulations **for illustrative purposes only**, to demonstrate the types of provisions which could implement section 37 of the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022. These draft Regulations will be updated following consideration of responses to this consultation.

Draft Regulations laid before the Assembly under section 37 of the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 for approval

STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2024 No.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The Climate Change (Just Transition Commission) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024

Made - - - - ***

Coming into operation ***

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs makes these Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022.([25])

Introductory

Citation and commencement

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Climate Change (Just Transition Commission) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024 and come into operation on [insert date].

Interpretation

2.—(1) In these Regulations –

"the Act" means the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022;

"the Commission" means the body established by regulation 3.

Just Transition Commission

Establishment of the Commission

3.—(1) There is established a body to be known as the Just Transition Commission.

(2) The Schedule (which makes further provision regarding the Commission) has effect.

25 2022 c. 31 (N.I.)

Oversight function

Oversight of implementation of just transition elements of the Act

4.— (1) The Commission may review and report on the implementation of the just transition elements of the Act (so far as relevant) by–

(a) any sectoral plan published under sections 13 to 21 of the Act;

(b) any climate action plan published under section 29 or 51 of the Act;

(c) any scheme established by Regulations under section 31 of the Act.

(2) The following provisions of the Act are specified as its just transition elements–

(a) section 13(4);

(b) in section 30–

(i) subsection (2) so far as it relates to paragraph (a) of that subsection;

(ii) subsection (3);

(iii) subsection (6);

(c) Section 31;

(d) in section 32, subsection (2) so far as it relates to paragraph (e).

Other Functions

Provision of advice to Departments

5. Where the Commission is requested by a Northern Ireland department to provide it with advice, the Commission must so far as practicable comply with any timeframe for the provision of the advice set by that department after consultation with the Commission.

Provision of information to the Commission

6.— (1) The Commission may request any public body to provide the Commission so far as practicable with such information as the Commission considers necessary for the discharge of its functions.

(2) The Commission may set a timeframe for the provision of that information after consultation with that body.

(3) In paragraph (1) “public body” means a body established by or under a statutory

provision within the meaning of section 1(f) of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954. ([26])

Supplementary

7.— (1) The Commission has power to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the performance of any of its functions.

(2) Anything authorised or required to be done by the Commission may be done by any person who is authorised for that purpose by the Commission, whether generally or specially.

Reports

Annual and other reports

8.— (1) As soon as practicable after the end of each financial year, the Commission must prepare and lay before the Assembly a report on the performance of the Commission's functions.

(2) The Commission must lay before the Assembly a copy of any report prepared and published under regulation 4.

(3) The Commission may prepare and publish other reports and it must lay a copy of any report prepared and published under this paragraph before the Assembly.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs on (insert date) 2024.

(L.S.)

Name

Address
Date

A senior officer of the
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

26 1954 c. 33 (N.I.)

Ref Reg 3(2)

SCHEDULE
THE JUST TRANSITION COMMISSION

Appointment of members

1.— (1) The Department may appoint—

(a) a chairperson,

(b) a deputy chairperson, and

(c) not less than 7 nor more than 20 other members of the Commission.

(2) The members of the Commission must include a representative of each of the following—

(a) the agricultural sector;

(b) the fisheries sector;

(c) academia;

(d) trade unions;

(e) youth groups;

(f) civic society;

(g) environmental groups.

Tenure

2.— (1) A member holds office in accordance with the member's terms of appointment.

(2) A member may resign at any time by notice in writing to the Department.

(3) The Department may dismiss a member by notice in writing if satisfied that the member—

(a) has been convicted of a criminal offence,

(b) has become bankrupt or the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order, a debt relief order or a debt relief restrictions order, or has made a voluntary arrangement, or

(c) is unable or unfit to carry out the functions of a member.

(4) Each of the expressions used in sub-paragraph (3)(b) has the same meaning as in the Insolvency (Northern Ireland) Order 1989.([27])

Remuneration and allowances

3.— (1) The Department may pay to a member such remuneration and allowances as the Department may determine.

(2) The Department may pay to a person invited under paragraph 4(3) or 6(2) to attend meetings of the Commission or a committee of the Commission such allowances as the Department may determine.

Procedure

4.— (1) The Commission may regulate its own procedure.

(2) But the quorum of the Commission must be determined at a meeting of the Commission attended by the chairperson and at least two thirds of the other members of the Commission.

(3) The Commission may invite persons who are not members of the Commission to attend its meetings, but this sub-paragraph does not confer any voting rights at the meetings.

Conflicts of Interest

5.— (1) The Commission must keep a register of the interests of its members.

(2) The Commission must publish the register or make arrangements to ensure that members of the public have access to the register on request.

(3) The Commission must make arrangements to ensure—

(a) that a member declares any conflict or potential conflict of interest that the member has in relation to a decision to be made in the exercise of the functions of the Commission;

(b) that any such declaration is made as soon as practicable after the member becomes aware of the conflict or potential conflict, and

(c) that any such declaration is included in the register.

(4) The Commission must make arrangements for managing conflicts and potential conflicts of interest in such a way as to ensure that they do not, and do not appear to, affect the integrity of the Commission's decision-making processes.

27 S.I. 1989/2405 (N.1. 19)

Committees

6.— (1) The Commission may make such arrangements as it thinks fit for the carrying out of any of its functions by a committee appointed by the Commission.

(2) The Commission may invite persons who are not members of a committee to attend meetings of the committee, but this sub-paragraph does not confer any voting rights at the meetings.

Accounting, reporting and record-keeping

7. The Commission must make appropriate arrangements for accounting, reporting and record-keeping.

Defects in appointment etc.

8. The validity of anything done by the Commission is not affected by—

(a) any vacancy in the membership of the Commission or a committee of the Commission, or

(b) any defect in the appointment of a member of the Commission or a committee of the Commission.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations made under section 37 of the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (c. 31) make provision about the Just Transition Commission.

Regulation 3 establishes the Commission, and the Schedule contains further provision about the Commission.

Regulation 4 provides for the Commission to oversee the implementation of the provisions of the Act specified as its just transition elements in regulation 4(2). Regulations 5 and 6 relate to the provision of advice by the Commission and the provision of information to the Commission. Regulation 7 contains supplementary powers including power to delegate.

Regulation 8 makes provision for the preparation and publication of reports and for them to be laid before the Assembly.

Department of
Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
An Roinn
Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe
Depairtment o'
Fairmin, Environment an' Kintra Matthers
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