

Agri-food Policy

Sustainable Agri-food Development Division
Food, Farming and Rural Affairs Group



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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21st October 2026

Dear stakeholder,

DRAFT EGGS AND CHICKS AND POULTRYMEAT (AMENDMENT) (NORTHERN IRELAND) REGULATIONS 2027

I am writing to advise you that a consultation has launched to invite views on proposed amendments to the [Eggs and Chicks Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2010](#) and the [Poultrymeat Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2011](#), primarily to provide enforcement powers for updated EU rules on egg and poultrymeat marketing standards which are directly applicable in Northern Ireland. As the legislation relates to food, this engagement is being carried out as required by Article 9 of [Regulation \(EC\) No. 178/2002](#), laying down the general principles and requirements of food law.

Background

European Union marketing standards for agri-food products establish definitions, minimum product standards, production methods, sales descriptions, product categories and labelling requirements. They apply at all stages of the marketing chain and are intended to protect consumers and to facilitate the trade of applicable goods on the single market. The standards are set out primarily in [EU Regulation 1308/2013](#), commonly referred to as the Common Market Organisation (CMO) Regulation and associated delegated and implementing regulations.

The European Commission has adopted an amending regulation to Regulation 1308/2013; and repealed and replaced [Regulation 589/2008](#) on marketing standards for eggs. The Commission has published the following regulations:

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- [Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2023/2464](#) of 17 August 2023 amending Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, as regards marketing standards for eggs;
- [Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2023/2465](#) of 17 August 2023 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards marketing standards for eggs, and repealing Commission Regulation (EC) No 589/2008; and
- [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2023/2466](#) of 17 August 2023 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards marketing standards for eggs.

In addition, the European Commission has repealed and replaced [Commission Regulation \(EC\) No 543/2008, laying down detailed rules for implementing Council Regulation \(EC\) No 1234/2007](#) (the predecessor to Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013) as regards marketing standards for poultrymeat. The Commission has published the following regulations:

- [Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2026/343](#) of 6 October 2025 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards marketing standards for poultrymeat, and repealing Commission Regulation (EC) No 543/2008.
- [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2026/344](#) of 6 October 2025 laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards marketing standards for poultrymeat.

EU egg and poultrymeat marketing regulations are directly applicable in Northern Ireland under Annex 2 of the Windsor Framework. As the EU regulations have been repealed and replaced, the Eggs and Chicks Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010 and the Poultrymeat Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011 require updating amendments.

Food safety is not impacted by the changes to these regulations: egg and poultrymeat marketing standards do not directly relate to sanitary and phytosanitary requirements. Human health and food hygiene rules are laid down in other regulations. However, these changes still affect egg and poultrymeat producers, packers, processors, retailers, importers, exporters, consumers, and organisations who have an interest in the egg and poultrymeat industries.

Stakeholder views

While many of the changes to the EU regulations are technical in nature, and almost all of the changes are automatically directly applicable in NI, the consultation is seeking any stakeholder views on the proposed amendments that are required to the NI implementing regulations. The proposals seek to replicate the current egg and poultrymeat marketing regulations as far as possible by simply updating references to the legislation and updating the enforcement powers to enable enforcement of the updated EU regulations.

One change that is not directly applicable is the option to, following DAERA approval, enable businesses to mark eggs off-farm, but only at the first packing centre to which eggs are delivered. Under the previous EU Regulation, businesses did not have to seek DAERA approval to mark eggs at the first packing centre to which the eggs are delivered. **In order to remain as closely aligned to the current policy position as possible, it is proposed to include this derogation within the amending regulations.** Should the final amending regulations include the optional

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derogation, this will maintain the current status quo within the industry, albeit with the additional requirement to seek explicit DAERA approval.

Please feel free to bring this to the attention of any other stakeholders who you think may have an interest.

Equality and Rural Needs

The draft proposals have been considered for their impacts on equality and human rights, the draft Section 75 Equality and Disability Duties Screening Assessment concluded that they do not have any equality or human rights implications. A Rural Needs Impact Assessment has also been carried out which has concluded that there is no differential impact upon citizens in rural areas. Similarly, a draft Regulatory Impact Screening Assessment concluded that the draft amending Regulations, with the derogation included, would have no impact. In addition to this, a De Minimis Impact Assessment was carried out and has concluded that the proposed Regulations are expected to impose a minimal one-off familiarisation and administrative cost on business with no material ongoing costs identified. A Section 149 Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out. Any comments or evidence in relation to the conclusions in this regard are welcomed.

Privacy, confidentiality, and access to consultation responses

The Department takes data protection and the security of your personal data seriously. It takes care to ensure that any personal information received from you is dealt with in a way which complies with the requirements of the UK General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act (2018).

Your response, and all other responses to the consultation, may be disclosed on request. The Department can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. Before you submit your response, please read the paragraphs below on the confidentiality of consultations and they will give you guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this consultation.

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 stakeholder engagement exercise will be held and used for the purposes of the administration of this current exercise and subsequently disposed of in accordance with the legislation. For more information and to view the DAERA Privacy Statement please go to: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/daera-privacy-statement-document>

The FOI Act gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely, 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 be treated as confidential. If you do not wish information about your identity to be made public please include an explanation in your response including any harm you believe such a disclosure might cause.

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 FOI Act provides that:

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- 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 acceptance of which 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 or visit the [ICO Website](#).

Accessibility

Copies of these documents can be made available, on request, in alternative formats e.g. in large print, Braille disc, audio cassette and other languages. Please contact us at marketing.standards@daera-ni.gov.uk, to arrange such copies. For those with hearing difficulties, please leave a message on the Department's text phone (18001 028 9076 5384).

Responding to the Consultation

The consultation and associated documents are available on the following link:

<https://consultations2.nidirect.gov.uk/daera/consultation-on-amendments-to-the-eggs-and-chicks>

Please note that the closing date for comments is 11:59pm on 3rd December 2026.

Yours sincerely,



Samantha Swann
Agri-food policy
Sustainable Agri-food Development Division

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