

Environment, Marine & Fisheries Group

Natural Resources Policy Division,
Natural Heritage Branch,
Klondyke Building,
Gasworks Business Park,
Ormeau Road,
Belfast,
BT7 2JA.

12th August 2022

Dear Consultee,

Consultation on Northern Ireland Peatland Strategy Equality Impact Assessment

I am writing to invite you to share your views on the Northern Ireland Peatland Strategy Equality Impact Assessment.

Background

The UK Peatland Strategy was published in 2018 and sets the context for the devolved administrations strategic peatland action plans. A public consultation exercise on a draft Northern Ireland Peatland Strategy was carried out in 2021 and in light of the comments received, DAERA has produced the revised Northern Ireland Peatland Strategy document, which details the Strategic Objectives and associated actions that the Department and its partner organisations intend to take forward. The Department has also carried out an **Equality Impact Assessment** on the revised strategy.

We welcome your views on the Equality Impact Assessment and consultation responses will be used to inform the final Northern Ireland Peatland Strategy document.

Consultation

The consultation will run for a **12 week period** from **12th August 2022**; the deadline for responses to is **23.59 4th November 2022**. All responses should be received by then to ensure they can be fully considered. The Department intends to publish a summary of responses following the closing date on the DAERA website at: www.daera-ni.gov.uk/.

The consultation questions and associated documentation (Northern Ireland Peatland Strategy document and Northern Ireland Peatland Strategy Equality Impact Assessment document) is available at this weblink (WEBLINK). In an effort to reduce the environmental impact of the production of consultation papers, the Department is encouraging stakeholders to respond online but if required, a hard copy of the consultation questions and documentation can be provided - please contact us to discuss your requirements by email to <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/northern-ireland-peatland-strategy-equality-impact-assessment>

This consultation is in line with Government guidelines, which can be found at: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/public-consultations>. If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please contact us at peatlandstrategyeqiaconsultation@daera-ni.gov.uk.

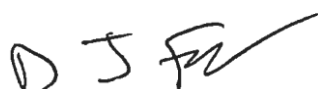
Copies of the Letter to Consultees, Strategy document, Equality Impact Assessment and consultation questions can also be made available, on request, in alternative formats e.g. in large print, Braille disc, audio cassette and other languages. Please contact 028 7744 2087 to arrange such copies. For those with hearing difficulties, leave a message on DAERA's text phone (18001 028 7744 2087).

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be made available to the public on request, in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs). If you want information, including personal information, such as your name, to be treated as confidential, please explain clearly in writing when you provide your response to the consultation why you need to keep these details confidential. If we receive a request for the information under the FOIA or the EIRs we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot guarantee that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

DAERA will not permit any unwarranted breach of confidentiality nor will we act in contravention of our obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA). An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as a confidentiality request. The Department takes data protection, freedom of information and environmental information issues 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. This means that any personal information you supply will be processed principally for the purpose for which it has been provided. However, the Department is under a duty to protect the public funds it administers, and to this end may use the information you have provided for this purpose. A full copy of the DAERA Privacy Statement can be found here: [DAERA Privacy Statement | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs \(daera-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

The Department looks forward to receiving your response to this consultation exercise.

Yours faithfully,



Dave Foster
Director of Natural Environment Policy Division
Environment, Marine & Fisheries Group