

Strategic Environmental Assessment Team
DAERA - NIEA
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[REDACTED]
Natural Environment Policy Division
Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs
Floor 2, Klondyke Building,
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Malone Lower,
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15th May 2023

Re: Screening Report Strategic Environmental Assessment Determination on the implementation plan to draft Northern Ireland Peatland Strategy

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank-you for your email dated 18th April 2023 regarding the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report for the implementation plan for the draft Northern Ireland Peatland Strategy.

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Northern Ireland (DAERA) and (supported with a service level agreement) DfC Historic Environment Division (HED), has considered the consultation and associated documents and our opinions are set out below and in the attached letter.

Consideration of Likely Significant Effects

We have considered whether the Strategy is likely to have significant environmental effects in line with the requirements of Regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004.

DAERA SEA Team agrees with the responsible authority and the conclusions of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening report that the strategy is likely to have significant environmental effects and therefore an SEA will be carried out.

We look forward to engaging on this as it progresses to the next stages and look forward to the opportunity to comment on the scoping stage and environmental report.

Regulation 10 publicity of determinations can now be initiated.



Habitats Regulations Considerations

We recommend that responsible authority undertakes Habitat Regulations considerations prior to the Draft Peatland Strategy adoption to ensure the strategy is not likely to have significant effects on any National Site Network (formally referred to as Natura 2000) sites within Northern Ireland

Air Quality and Biodiversity Unit response:

We agree with the screening conclusion that an SEA is required for the Peatland Strategy Implementation Plan. We look forward to viewing and contributing (if appropriate or necessary) to the forthcoming Scoping Report in terms of air quality impacts and baseline information.

3.2(b) We note that the (draft) Ammonia Strategy for NI is not mentioned in this section (other plans and programmes with influence). Perhaps this is something that could be considered at the Scoping Report stage.

Drinking Water Inspectorate response:

Thank you for consulting with DWI on the DAERA Peatland Strategy Implement Plan SEA screening report. We are content with the screening exercise.

Landscape Team response:

The Landscape Team agrees with the conclusion of the Peatland Strategy Implementation Plan SEA screening report that a Strategic Environmental Assessment will be required and has no additional comments.

Should you have any questions regarding the content of our response please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely



Senior Scientific Officer
NIEA, DAERA

