



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department o'

**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

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Email:
MarineLicensingFeesConsultation@daera-ni.gov.uk

5 June 2026

Dear Stakeholder,

Consultation on proposals to introduce fees for providing screening and scoping opinions under the Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007

I am writing to invite your views on a consultation which sets out proposals to introduce fees for providing screening and scoping opinions under the Marine Works (EIA) Regulations 2007 (the Marine Works Regulations).

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) aims to ensure compliance with the requirements of Managing Public Money Northern Ireland and to deliver a more effective marine licensing system.

The consultation commences on 5 June 2026 and will run to 31 July 2026. It is likely to be of interest to businesses, operators, clubs/associations, individuals, conservation bodies and environmental groups, in particular organisations wishing to undertake large-scale, complex developments in the Northern Ireland marine area (0–12 nautical miles).

The consultation is available from NI Direct, <https://consultations2.nidirect.gov.uk/> and also from the DAERA consultation webpage <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations>

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Background

DAERA is the marine licensing authority for the Northern Ireland inshore region (0–12 nautical miles) as set out at section 113(6)(b) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

Marine licensing fees are set out in the [Marine Licensing \(Application Fees\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2011](#). Through marine licensing, DAERA plays a key role in providing advice and making decisions on sustainable development in the coastal area around Northern Ireland.

Projects subject to the Marine Works Regulations are typically large-scale, complex developments with high capital values, including offshore renewables and major infrastructure projects.

In discharging its functions, DAERA provides screening and scoping opinions to inform applicants' Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) preparation and ensure proportionate assessment. Screening and scoping opinions are provided at the request of the developer and are not mandatory.

Consultation

This consultation asks for your views on proposed fees for providing screening and scoping opinions. The proposed fees are:

- £600 for a screening opinion,
- £35,259 for scoping opinions for renewable energy projects,
- £16,472 for all other projects.

The proposed fees are a small proportion of the overall cost associated with an EIA development.

How to respond

This consultation will run for 8 weeks from 5 June 2026 and will close on 31 July 2026.

Responses should reach us by 31 July 2026, although earlier responses would be appreciated.

You can respond to this consultation online by completing the Citizen Space response template which can be accessed using the link below:

<https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/>

Written responses can also be sent to Email:

MarineLicensingFeesConsultation@daera-ni.gov.uk

Postal address:

Marine and Fisheries Division
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Ground Floor West
Clare House
303 Airport Road West
Belfast
BT3 9ED

When responding, please state whether you are doing so as an individual or representing

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the views of an organisation. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please make it clear who the organisation represents, and where applicable, how the views of members were considered.

Paper copies of this consultation paper are available on request via the above address, by email or by phone.

- Email: MarineLicensingFeesConsultation@daera-ni.gov.uk
- Direct Dial: 028 90 569290

The consultation will be available in other formats upon request. You can email any queries to: MarineLicensingFeesConsultation@daera-ni.gov.uk

Confidentiality

The Department will publish a synopsis of responses to the consultation. This will include a list of names of organisations that responded but not personal names, addresses or other contact details. Your response, and all other responses to this consultation, may be disclosed on request and/or made available on the DAERA website (with appropriate redactions).

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 responses as this will give you guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this consultation.

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 give the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, in this case DAERA. The right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation.

The Department cannot automatically consider information supplied to it in response to a consultation as confidential. However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this publication should be made public or treated as confidential.

The information provided in your response, excluding personal data, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. Any personal information you provide in your response will be handled in accordance with the UK-GDPR and will not be published.

If you want the non-personal information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please tell us why, but be aware that under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 we cannot guarantee confidentiality.

For information regarding your personal data please refer to the DAERA Privacy Statement at [DAERA Privacy Statement | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs \(daera-ni.gov.uk\)](#).

For further information about confidentiality of responses please contact the Information Commissioner's Office. Please see its website at www.ico.org.uk

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Yours faithfully

Susan Cramer

Susan Cramer

Marine Environmental Policy Team

Marine and Fisheries Division

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