

Reference Number: DAERA/26-459

EMFG
Natural Environment Policy Division



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

██████████
██████████ [@btinternet.com](mailto:██████████@btinternet.com)

Natural Environment Policy Division
Clare House
303 Airport Road West
Belfast
BT3 9ED

Telephone: 028 9442 6941

E-mail: DAERA-Peatlands@daera-ni.gov.uk

22 July 2026

Dear ██████████

Environmental Information Regulation 2004

I am writing in response to your request for information received by the Department on 08 July 2026 which sought the following information:

Information on the cross-UK Ministerial agreement to legislate to ban the sale of peat, the agreement on a collaborative approach and any confirmed time frames.

The UK government has committed to “Legislate for a ban on the sale of peat and peat containing products when parliamentary time allows” (Environmental Improvement Plan 2025, published by DEFRA in December 2025 [Environmental Improvement Plan 2025](#)). The DEFRA Secretary of State confirmed in a letter to Minister Muir in April 2026 that she was unable to provide clarity on the timing of any future legislation.

Relevant Ministers across the UK (DEFRA, Scottish Government, Welsh Government, DAERA) have agreed to adopt a UK-wide approach and that officials in each jurisdiction will collaborate on preparations to legislate to end the sale of peat. This agreement followed an exchange of letters during the period October 2024 to

If you are deaf or have a hearing difficulty you can contact the Department via the Next Generation Text Relay Service by dialling 18001 + telephone number.

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE®
We invest in people Standard

April 2026, with Minister Muir confirming to Emma Reynolds MP (DEFRA Secretary of State) in March 2026, that a “UK wide collaborative approach to implementing restrictions in peat use through a single UK Bill is my preferred option to ensure alignment across the UK”.

Adopting a UK-wide approach is the most effective way to minimise regulatory and market barriers, enable new arrangements to be introduced at the same time across the UK and provide clarity for the horticulture sector.

A cross-UK policy group with officials from all four nations is undertaking preparatory work on a UK-wide approach and will collaborate with stakeholders in shaping and considering policy and implementation.

If you require any clarification, believe that any part of your request has been overlooked, misunderstood or misinterpreted, please contact me in the first instance to see if it is a matter that can be resolved.

If you are unhappy with the manner in which your request for information has been handled or the decision to release/withhold information, you have the right to request a formal review by the Department. If you wish to do so, please contact The Review Section either by e-mailing daera.informationmanager@daera-ni.gov.uk or by post at The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Data Protection & Information Management Branch, Floor 2, Jubilee House, 111 Ballykelly Road, Ballykelly, Limavady BT49 9HP, within two months from the date of this letter.

If after such an internal review you are still unhappy with the response, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, CHESHIRE SK9 5AF, who will undertake an independent review of the Department’s decision.

Yours sincerely,



**Natural Environment Policy Division
DAERA**

If you are deaf or have a hearing difficulty you can contact the Department via the Next Generation Text Relay Service by dialling 18001 + telephone number.

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE®
We invest in people Standard