

Reference Number: DAERA26-448

Request Details:

Legislation DAERA Minister brought forward, which was not mandatory from Europe or Westminster, since February 2024 until present.



Department of

**Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs**

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil  
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department o'

**Fairmin, Environment  
an' Kintra Matthers**

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21 July 2026

Dear 

**Environmental Information Regulation 2004**

With regard to your request for information received by the Department on 16 June 2026 which sought the following information:

*What legislation has the Minister brought forward, which was not mandatory from Europe or Westminster, since February 2024 until present?*

*Detail the laws, when it was introduced to the Assembly and date it was passed?*

*Also outline what legislation is in the pipeline from now until May 2027?*

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds the information you requested which is attached as Annex A.

My apologies for the delay in getting our response to you. Legislation is a complex area requiring validating.

There are two types of legislation: Primary Legislation (Act), which requires Royal Assent; and Secondary Legislation. Primary legislation is laid in the Assembly and requires debated and approval by the Assembly and then Royal Assent before

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becoming law. Secondary Legislation is made under two methods either by affirmative resolution or negative resolution. Affirmative Resolution requires that the legislation is debated in the Assembly and approved by the assembly (date passed) before being made. Negative Resolution requires legislation to be laid in the Assembly but does not require Assembly approval therefore there is no date passed by the Assembly as negative resolution legislation comes into force on the commencement date.

In carrying out its search the Department identified one piece of legislation that was a commencement order. A commencement order is a statutory rule used to bring all or part of an Act into force on a specified date. It does not create new policy; it simply activates provisions that have already been approved by the legislature in the parent Act.

For Legislation in the pipeline, in relation to legislation in the pipeline to May 2027, the Department can confirm that a number of items are under development or progressing through Assembly stages. I have restricted the entries to legislation where drafting of the legislation has commenced. Table 5 of Annex A refers.

For the purposes of your request, I have taken the date laid in the Assembly as the date introduced to the Assembly.

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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.

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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](mailto: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,

