



Marine Environment Policy Team  
Marine and Fisheries Division  
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Email: [marinepolicyteam@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:marinepolicyteam@daera-ni.gov.uk)

20 July 2026

Dear Stakeholder,

## **Consultation on Environmental Compensatory Measures for Offshore Wind in Northern Ireland**

I am writing to introduce a public consultation which sets out proposals for environmental compensation measures for offshore wind projects that are developed within the Northern Ireland inshore region (0-12 nautical miles).

### **Background**

This consultation seeks views on environmental compensation measures for offshore wind projects that are developed within the Northern Ireland inshore region (0-12 nautical miles). It sets out how environmental compensation should be identified and delivered where offshore wind projects give rise to unavoidable adverse effects on protected marine sites.

The proposals are intended to introduce a more flexible approach to environmental compensation for offshore wind development. This includes enabling the use of wider compensatory measures where adverse effects on the integrity of protected sites cannot be avoided. The intention is not to reduce existing environmental protections. Rather, the proposals are intended to provide a more effective, strategic and deliverable means of securing compensatory outcomes.

### **Consultation**

To support this approach, DAERA is considering amendments to the Habitats Regulations in Northern Ireland to allow a broader range of compensatory measures for offshore wind projects. Draft guidance is being developed alongside the proposed legislative changes to explain how the approach would operate in practice.

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This consultation seeks views on whether the proposals are clear, proportionate and workable in Northern Ireland. Stakeholder engagement to date indicates broad support in principle, subject to clear delivery arrangements, appropriate safeguards and practical guidance. Responses will help inform the finalisation of the guidance and the practical operation of the proposed approach in Northern Ireland.

The consultation commences on 20 July 2026 and will run to 21 September 2026.

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>

### **How to respond**

This consultation will run for 9 weeks from 20 July 2026 and will close on 21 September 2026. Responses should reach us by 21 September 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 at <https://consultations2.nidirect.gov.uk/daera/consultation-on-environmental-compensatory-measure>

Should you wish to provide supplementary information as part of your response, please email this to [marinepolicyteam@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:marinepolicyteam@daera-ni.gov.uk). This must be from the same email address detailed in your online response, so that they may be linked. You must confirm within your online response that this has been done.

If you are unable to complete the survey online, written responses can also be sent by email to [marinepolicyteam@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:marinepolicyteam@daera-ni.gov.uk).

Postal Address:

Marine Policy Team,  
DAERA Marine and Fisheries Division,  
Clare House,  
303 Airport Road West,  
Belfast, BT3 9ED

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

### **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).

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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 \(daera-ni.gov.uk\)](https://daera-ni.gov.uk/daera-privacy-statement).

For further information about confidentiality of responses please contact the Information Commissioner's Office. Please see its website at [www.ico.org.uk](https://www.ico.org.uk).

Yours faithfully

John McGuigan  
Marine Environment Policy Team  
Marine and Fisheries Division

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