

New Data & AI Vision - Supporting Programme for Government outcomes through our Data & AI Vision

This Data & AI Strategy acts as a key enabler to support the implementation of other Departmental strategies and has been developed to deliver the data and AI capabilities required for the Department to meet Programme for Government outcomes, promote cross Department collaboration, enable evidence-based decision making and ultimately realise its vision:

“***Towards 2050: Delivering a net zero, nature positive future and supporting sustainable agriculture and thriving rural communities***”

- DAERA Vision Statement

High-value datasets and targeted AI use cases must be aligned the priorities called out within the DAERA Corporate Plan 2025-27. Innovative data and AI services will enhance the department's ability to deliver against our ten key pledges.

“***Improving decision making and departmental efficiency through digital, data and AI excellence***”

- Data & AI Vision Statement

Our Ten Key Pledges

We will deliver many policies, programmes and services during the life of this corporate plan, but we are committing in particular to delivering ten key pledges by the end of the Assembly mandate in May 2027. They are:

1	We will have brought forward the Carbon Budget Regulations to set carbon budgets and published climate action plans capable of delivering those budgets. The Just Transition Commission will be established.
2	We will have delivered improvements to water quality , including through implementation of the Lough Neagh Action Plan and other related interventions.
3	We will have presented to the Executive and the Assembly a robust and effective way 'forward for improving environmental governance
4	We will continue roll out of the Sustainable Agriculture Programme to help drive sustainable agricultural practices and a positive future for agri-food , whilst also protecting animal health and restoring our natural environment.
5	We will have brought forward new, effective and evidence-based solutions capable of reducing and then eradicating bovine Tuberculosis .

6	We will have delivered a range of new animal welfare priorities, including legislation to better protect domestic and farmed animals.
7	We will have delivered a new, partnership-based rural policy framework capable of improving the wellbeing of our rural communities coupled with new support arrangements.
8	We will have published and worked to deliver a new Nature Recovery Strategy to ensure 30% of our land and seas are protected and well managed for nature by 2030.
9	We will have published and will be working to implement a new Waste Management Strategy to help build a low carbon circular economy.
10	We will continue to fulfil our international obligations through full, timely and faithful implementation of Windsor Framework and in supporting the UK Government to negotiate a new ambitious and comprehensive agri food, drink and sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) and Veterinary Agreement with the EU.

DAERA Data & AI Strategy 2025-28

Strategic Themes



Delivering Value
Through Data &
AI



Enhancing Our
Platforms



Exploiting the
Power of Maps



Embedding Data
& AI Operations



Upskilling Our
People



Protecting Our
Data



Continually
Innovating

Aims

To deliver innovative data and AI products that empower evidence-based decisions, supporting strategic outcomes

To establish future-ready data solutions by fostering continuous platform enhancement & innovation

To know where and when things happen – to see our data on maps, enhancing both in-field and back-office mapping capabilities

To drive organisational efficiency by integrating data & AI solutions, tools and automation into daily operations

To cultivate data and AI skills across the organisation, empowering an AI supported, data-driven workforce

To safeguard valuable data assets, building trust and traceability into our platforms, processes, tools and insights

To shape a future of innovation, collaboration and excellence in data and AI practices

Outcomes

Data & AI are strategically aligned to deliver insights, support policy making, measure outcomes, and drive behavioural change

Enhanced problem-solving capabilities through continued adoption of best-of-breed tools and technologies

Location intelligence derived from data, unlocking actionable insights informing more targeted interventions

Operational excellence achieved through automation, driving efficiency and increasing agility

Improved access to data and AI tools, empowering users to self-serve where possible to make better decisions

Robust data security and ethical AI practices are in place, ensuring responsible innovation and trust

AI and data-driven solutions delivering value and driving improvement through innovation

Principles

Focus on Value
Develop multi-use, high-value products, clearly aligned to departmental priorities

Embrace Open Data by Default
See the bigger picture; share data across projects to deliver joined-up solutions and better outcomes

Make Data Discoverable
Catalogue our data consistently, accurately and completely - promoting transparency & collaboration

Innovate and Improve
Continually assess our technology landscape for opportunities, adopting new technologies when needed

Manage, Control and Secure
Data security is paramount - Protect data throughout the life cycle

Drive Efficiency
Use Data & AI to reduce manual, resource-intensive processes, improving quality, accuracy and efficiency

Improving decision making and departmental efficiency through digital, data and AI excellence

The DAERA Data Strategy 2020-2023 successfully established a solid foundation by delivering a future-proofed data platform that can store, secure, catalogue, analyse and share data across the department - providing a suite of analytical tools, and laying the groundwork for the successful uptake of AI technologies.

Our aim is to build on this success, and to solidify DAERA's position as an innovative, data-centric organisation.

We will achieve this by empowering our subject matter experts with robust data and AI tools, and by providing them with the necessary training & support to use these tools effectively.

We will leverage AI technologies; Machine Learning, and advanced analytics to extract the maximum value from our data, delivering insights that support improved policy making, measure outcomes, and drive behavioural change.

We will do this responsibly, ensuring trust and confidence through consistently applied data security and ethical AI practices.

We will continue to innovate and improve - enhancing the quality of our data estate, driving operational efficiencies, ultimately leading to more informed and effective decision-making across DAERA.

- AI for NI: A Strategic Overview for the Adoption of Artificial Intelligence in Northern Ireland
- DAERA AI Policy
- AI Playbook for UK Government
- NICS Use of Generative AI

- Programme for Government 2024-27
- DAERA Corporate Plan 2025 -2027
- DAERA Digital & Data strategy

- Innovation Strategy
- NCSC Cloud Security Principles
- ISO27001 and ICO Compliance