

From: Dave Foster
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Ballymiscaw
Belfast
BT4 3SB

19 February 2019

Dear Stakeholder

The proposed Nitrates Action Programme (NAP) for 2019-2022: Stakeholder Engagement

I am writing to inform you of this Stakeholder Engagement by DAERA.

The Nitrates Action Programme (NAP) Regulations (Northern Ireland) implement the Nitrates Directive in Northern Ireland and set out an action programme to reduce nitrates from agricultural sources entering the aquatic environment.

In accordance with the requirements of the Directive, a review of the current NAP has been carried out by a joint DAERA / Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute (AFBI) Scientific Working Group (SWG). The review includes an assessment of the effectiveness of the NAP to date through analysis of the results of water quality monitoring, evaluation of changes in farming practice and examination of compliance data. Following the review, DAERA is proposing a revised NAP for 2019-2022.

Therefore, the purpose of this Stakeholder Engagement is to seek your views on the proposed NAP for 2019-2022.



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The proposed Nitrates Action Programme (NAP) for 2019-2022: Stakeholder Engagement paper can be accessed at <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations> or on request from:

DAERA
Environmental Farming Branch
R651 Dundonald House
Upper Newtownards Rd
Ballymiscaw
Belfast
BT4 3SB

Email: Linda.McGoldrick@daera-ni.gov.uk

Tel: 028 9052 4430

DAERA welcomes responses and comments from stakeholders on the proposed NAP for 2019-2022 and the questions outlined in the document.

Please send written responses, preferably by email, to the above address no later than **4pm Tuesday 19 March 2019**.

At the end of the engagement, the Department intends to publish a summary of responses following the closing date for receipt of views. Your response, and all other responses to this publication, may be disclosed on request. The Department can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. Any confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system in e-mail responses will not be treated as such a request.

Section 8(e) of the Data Protection Act 2018 permits processing of personal data when necessary for an activity that supports or promotes democratic engagement. Information provided by respondents to this stakeholder engagement exercise will be held and used for the purposes of the administration of this current exercise and subsequently disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulation.

The Freedom of Information Act gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely, the Department in this case. This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a stakeholder engagement exercise. The Department cannot automatically consider as confidential information supplied to it in response to a stakeholder engagement exercise. However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this stakeholder engagement exercise, including information about your identity, should be made public or



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be treated as confidential. If you do not wish information about your identity to be made public, please include an explanation in your response.

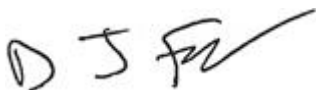
This means that information provided by you in response to the stakeholder engagement is unlikely to be treated as confidential, except in very particular circumstances. The Lord Chancellor's Code of Practice on the Freedom of Information Act provides that:

- The Department should only accept information from third parties in confidence if it is necessary to obtain that information in connection with the exercise of any of the Department's functions and it would not otherwise be provided;
- The Department should not agree to hold information received from third parties "in confidence" which is not confidential in nature; and
- Acceptance by the Department of confidentiality provisions must be for good reasons, capable of being justified to the Information Commissioner.

For further information about confidentiality of responses please contact the Information Commissioner's Office (or see web site at: <http://www.ico.org.uk>)

DAERA is looking forward to receiving your views on the proposals for NAP 2019-2022.

Yours faithfully,



Dave Foster
Director
Regulatory and Natural Resources Policy Division



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