# DESIGNATION OF AREAS OF NATURAL CONSTRAINT

# CONSULTATION RESPONSE PROFORMA

**Q1.** Do you agree that Gross Value Added should be used as the preferred economic indicator for fine tuning purposes?

Please explain the reason for your answer. If you are answering no, please state your preferred economic indicator along with objective reasons as to why it should be used.

**Q2.** Taking into account that fine tuning is not feasible at townland level, do you agree that ANC designation should be carried out at ward level?

**Q3.** In your view, does a fine tuning threshold of 80%, or a fine tuning threshold of 90% of Gross Value Added represent a better indicator of significant constraint in a Northern Ireland context? Please explain the objective reasons for your choice.

**Q4.** Are there any further comments that you would like to add?

Responses should be e-mailed to: **policy.development@dardni.gov.uk**

Or, alternatively please send printed responses by post to:

**Policy and Economics Division**

**Department of Agriculture and Rural Development**

**Room 361A**

**Dundonald House**

**Upper Newtownards Road**

**Ballymiscaw**

**Belfast**

**BT4 3SB**

**Written responses to the consultation paper should be sent to the address above by email or post and should arrive no later than 5 pm on Friday 29 April 2016. It may not be possible to consider responses received after this date. An acknowledgement will be sent to confirm receipt of each response.**

**Publication of Responses**

The Department will publish a summary of responses following the closing date for receipt of comments. 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. Before you submit your response, please read the paragraphs below on the confidentiality of responses and they will give you guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this publication. Any confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system in e-mail responses will not be treated as such a request.

The Data Protection Act states that information provided by respondents to this consultation exercise will be held and used for the purposes of the administration of this current exercise.

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 consultation. The Department cannot automatically consider as confidential information supplied to it in response to a consultation. However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity, should be made public or 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 consultation 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.informationcommissioner.gov.uk/>.