ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION WASTE AND CONTAMINATED LAND (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1997

FIT AND PROPER PERSON

Consultation on amending the Fit and Proper Person requirements of the Waste Management Licensing Regime

The Waste Management Licensing (Amendment No. 3) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

July 2015



Contents				
		Page		
Section				
	General Information, Timing and Responses	2		
	Introduction	4		
1	Purpose of consultation	6		
2	Prescribed Offences			
	Background	6		
	Options	7		
3	Impact	8		
4	Legislative Proposals	8		
Annex 1	Draft Regulations	9		
Annex 2	Rural Screening	13		
Annex 3	List of Consultees	14		

General Information, Timing and Responses to this Consultation

This consultation document is issued by:

Environmental Policy Division Department of the Environment Goodwood House May Street Town Parks BELFAST BT1 4NN

Telephone: 02890 254992

Website: www.doeni.gov.uk

Information about this publication and further copies are available from the above address.

This document and the draft Regulations accompanying this document are available on the DOE website:-

http://www.doeni.gov.uk/index/protect_the_environment/waste/waste_framework_directive_.htm

Under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the Department is required to have due regard for the need to ensure equality. Accordingly, a screening exercise was carried out to ascertain if the policies contained in this document require a full equality impact assessment. This assessment can be accessed at the above link.

Additionally, a partial Regulatory Impact Assessment was carried out. This can be found in Section 4 of the document. Rural screening was also carried out and the results can be found at Annex 2 to this document.

<u>Timing</u>

The commencement date of this consultation is **23rd July 2015** and it will close on the **22nd October 2015**.

How to respond to this consultation

Responses can be sent:

By email to: <u>wdrt@doeni.gov.uk</u>

By post to: Waste & Radioactivity Team Department of the Environment Environmental Policy Division Goodwood House 44-58 May Street Town Parks Belfast BT1 4NN

By fax to: 028 9025 4732

When responding, please state whether you are responding as an individual or representing the views of an organisation. If you are representing an organisation please make it clear which organisation you represent and, where applicable, how the views were assembled.

Enquiries

Enquiries regarding the content of this consultation paper, or requests for further copies, should be made to Brian McCarron (e-mail: brian.mccarron@doeni.gov.uk; telephone: 028 9025 4992). Information and additional copies of the document can also be requested by text phone (028 9054 0642).

Confidentiality

The Department will publish a summary of the responses received on its website shortly after the consultation period has ended. It may also wish to publish individual responses to this consultation document. If you do not consent to this, you must clearly request that your response be treated confidentially. Any confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system in e-mail responses will not be treated as such a request.

You should also be aware that there may be circumstances in which the Department will be required to communicate information to third parties on request, in order to comply with its obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations.

Geographical Coverage

The proposed legislative changes that are the subject of this consultation relate to Northern Ireland only.

Published by the Department of the Environment

Introduction

The Waste Framework Directive (the Directive) was first introduced in 1975 and has been amended and updated a number of times since then. However, the key theme of the Directive has always been that waste management is carried out in a way that does not endanger human health or harm the environment - Article 13 of Directive 2008/98/EC¹.

Article 23 of the Directive requires that anyone involved in waste management must have a licence to do so unless they are engaged in specified lower risk activities, in which case they must register an exemption, as provided for by way of Articles 24 and 25 of the Directive.

The Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997² (the 1997 Order), supported by a number of pieces of subordinate legislation, mostly transposes the requirements of the Waste Framework Directive. The requirement to protect the environment and human health was put in place by way of a number of measures including provisions that allow the Department (as the competent authority) to determine if the person controlling the waste is a fit and proper person to be doing so.

This was enshrined in the law by way of Article 3 of the 1997 Order as follows:-

Meaning of "fit and proper person"

3. (1) The following provisions apply for the purposes of the discharge by the Department of any function under this Part which requires the Department to determine whether a person is or is not a fit and proper person to hold a waste management licence.

(2) Whether a person is or is not a fit and proper person to hold a licence is to be determined by reference to the carrying on by him of the activities which are or are to be authorised by the licence and the fulfilment of the requirements of the licence.

(3) Subject to paragraph (4), a person shall be treated as not being a fit and proper person if it appears to the Department—

- (a) that he or another relevant person has been convicted of a prescribed offence;
- (b) that the management of the activities which are or are to be authorised by the licence are not or will not be in the hands of a technically competent person; or
- (c) that the person who holds or is to hold the licence has not made and either has no intention of making or is in no position to make financial provision adequate to discharge the obligations arising from the licence.

(4) The Department may, if it considers it proper to do so in any particular case, treat a person as a fit and proper person notwithstanding that paragraph (3)(a) applies in his case.

(5) Regulations may prescribe the qualifications and experience required of a person for the purposes of paragraph (3)(b).

(6) For the purposes of paragraph (3)(a), another relevant person shall be treated, in relation to the licence holder or proposed licence holder, as the case may be, as having been convicted of a prescribed offence if—

(a) any person has been convicted of a prescribed offence committed by him in the course of his employment by the holder or, as the case may be, the proposed holder of the licence or in the course of the carrying on of any business by 2 or more persons in partnership one of such persons was the holder or, as the case may be, the proposed holder of the licence;

(b) a body corporate has been convicted of a prescribed offence committed when the holder or, as the case may be, the proposed holder of the licence was a director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of that body corporate; or

(c) where the holder or, as the case may be, the proposed holder of the licence is a body corporate, a person who is a director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of that body corporate—

(i) has been convicted of a prescribed offence; or

¹ <u>http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:312:0003:0030:en:PDF</u>

² SI 1997/2778

(ii) was a director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of another body corporate at a time when a prescribed offence for which that other body corporate has been convicted was committed.

As you can see, the 'Fit and Proper Person' test comprises three main areas:-

- 1) That the person holding the waste management licence must not have been convicted of a prescribed offence;
- 2) that the person managing the waste must be technically competent; and
- 3) that the person holding the licence must have adequate financial provision to discharge the obligations arising from the licence.

The Department previously consulted upon a proposed set of Regulations that amended both the 'prescribed offences' and 'technical competence' elements of the Fit and Proper Person test. However, responses to that consultation indicated that further consideration and changes were necessary and that because of the technicality of the proposed Regulations, these elements should be consulted upon separately. As a result, the Department has revisited its proposals. Draft legislation in relation to the 'technical competence' element has already been consulted upon and is scheduled to be introduced in August 2015.

This consultation deals only with the prescribed offences element of the Fit and Proper Persons test.

For the purposes of this consultation, where appropriate, 'person' can be construed as a body corporate, director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of a body corporate.

1. <u>PURPOSE</u>

1.1 The purpose of this document is to consult upon the proposed Waste Management Licensing (Amendment No. 3) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

2. <u>PRESCRIBED OFFENCES</u>

Background

- 2.1 As detailed above, Article 3(a) of the Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 provides the power for the Department to prescribe offences which may deem that a person may not be considered a fit and proper person to hold a waste management licence.
- 2.2 Accordingly, a number of pieces of subordinate legislation were used to fulfil the requirement of Article 3(3)(a) of the 1997 Order by prescribing the offences which must be taken into account by the Department when determining if the person holding, or applying for, a waste management licence or registering as a waste carrier, broker or dealer is a fit and proper person to do so, vis:-
 - The Controlled Waste (Registration of Carriers and Seizure of Vehicles) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999³ (the 1999 Regulations) – Schedule 1; and
 - The Waste Management Licensing Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003⁴ (the 2003 Regulations) regulation 2.
- 2.3 Schedule 1 to the 1999 Regulations and regulation 2 of the 2003 Regulations are both outdated and no longer fit for purpose. Accordingly, the Department is proposing to amend the legislation.
- 2.4 It is widely recognised that the waste industry has, in recent years, been infiltrated by organised criminals and has been used as a cover for a number of illegal activities including money laundering, avoidance of taxes, fuel laundering and the wrongful management of waste, which has been very lucrative for those involved but very harmful to the environment and the Northern Ireland economy.
- 2.5 The offences contained in regulation 2 of the 2003 Regulations are not only out of date, they focus mostly on waste-related offences and do not take account of other offences, which could point to a person not being seen as fit and proper. Therefore, the Department proposes to broaden the spectrum of prescribed offences to take into account other criminal activities such as fraud and theft. Environmental offenders are often guilty of other forms of criminality.
- 2.6 The rationale behind broadening the scope of the prescribed offences is that it will allow the Department to take into account any convictions that provide an insight to the applicant's proven criminal background and indicate if there are any reputational facts about the person applying for a licence that would preclude them from being granted, or from continuing to hold, a licence. The Department must be able to

³ SR 1999 No. 362

⁴ SR 2003 No. 493

make more informed decisions on whether or not the person can be regarded as fit and proper or 'undesirable' as stated in Article 40 of the 1997 Order in relation to waste carriers to ensure that waste is managed in a manner that excludes criminality, encourages legitimate business and protects human health and the environment.

Options

- 2.7 The Department looked at a number of options to deliver the necessary legislative changes in relation to the Fit and Proper Person test.
- 2.8 Option 1 Do nothing. For the reasons stated earlier, this was not an option.
- 2.9 Option 2 amend the 1999 Regulations by revoking Schedule 1 and attracting the offences prescribed in the 2003 Regulations. Amend the 2003 Regulations by revoking the current regulation 2 and replacing it with a new regulation 2 which simply introduces a new Schedule to the Regulations, which will list the prescribed offences. This is the Department's preferred option.
- 2.10 Option 3 develop a stand-alone set of Regulations. This option is not considered the optimum way forward, please see below.
- 2.11 As stated above, the preferred option is Option 2 for the following reasons:
 - The proposed new Schedule to the 2003 Regulations will contain all of the offences that the Department believes should be considered when deciding if an applicant is a fit and proper person to hold a waste management licence.
 - Accordingly, the Schedule will contain tables setting out 'Relevant Environmental Offences', 'Relevant Financial Offences' and 'Other Relevant Offences'.
 - This one list of offences will serve a number of pieces of related legislation (including the 1999 Regulations) without needing further consequential amendments.
 - Developing the amending Regulations in the way proposed will make it easier to update the prescribed offences element of the Fit and Proper Persons test as and when necessary, for example, when new relevant offences are created or existing offences are changed, by simply substituting the Schedule with a new up-to-date one. The effect of this will be to enable the Department to keep abreast of changing legal requirements and to apply the Fit and Proper Person principle more efficiently and effectively, based on current and up-to-date legislation, unlike at the present moment.
 - A further advantage of amending regulation 2 of the 2003 Regulations in this way is that it will be easier for the public to locate the list of offences in the Schedule rather than them being 'lost' in the body of the Regulations themselves.
 - The Department is looking at offences as part of its Better Regulation (BR) programme. The proposed Schedule approach would provide the BR team with

an up-to-date Schedule that could be lifted and dropped into their proposed legislation when appropriate.

- 2.12 Whilst the production of a 'suite' of 'Fit and Proper Person Regulations' sounds attractive, there are a number of factors that the Department believes rules out Option 3 at this time, the key one being:-
 - A number of consequential amendments to other pieces of legislation would be required, eg, the Pollution Prevention and Control (Industrial Emissions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013, which attract regulation 2 of the 2003 Regulations. This would make the drafting of the legislation convoluted. It would also require the amendment of several pieces of legislation instead of just two which would delay the timing of the introduction of the changes.
- 2.13 Accordingly, the Department has chosen Option 2.

Question 1: Do you agree that Option 2 provides the best option for updating the prescribed offences element of the Fit and Proper Person test and that the proposed changes are sufficient to deliver the anticipated outcome? Please explain your answer.

3. <u>IMPACT</u>

- 3.1 The impact of the broader list of prescribed offences will be minimal on legitimate waste operators but could have a major impact on those with criminal records.
- 3.2 There are no anticipated increases in costs to the industry associated with the proposed changes.
- 3.3 The proposed changes do not impact on the human rights of legitimate operators.

Question 2: Do you agree with these impact statements. If not, please explain your answer.

Question 3: Please indicate if you think there are further impacts that have not been considered.

4. <u>LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS</u>

4.1 The draft Waste Management Licensing (Amendment No. 3) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 are attached as Annex 1.

Question 4: Do you think the Regulations:

- (a) Fully reflect the changes necessary to ensure that the Fit and Proper Person test is fit for purpose under the legislation? Please explain your answer.
- (b) Will help to reduce criminality in the waste industry? Please explain your answer.
- (c) Will protect the needs of legitimate operators? Please explain your answer.
- 8

2012 No.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The Waste Management Licensing (Amendment No.3) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

Made	-	-	-	-	xx xxxx 2015
Coming in	nto of	pera	tion	-	<i>xx xxxx 2015</i>

The Department of the Environment, in exercise of the powers conferred by Articles 3(3)(a) and 39(2)(a) of the Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997(⁵), makes the following Regulations.

Citation, commencement and interpretation

1.-(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Waste Management Licensing (Amendment No.3) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and shall come into operation on xx xxxx 2015.

Amendment of the Controlled Waste (Registration of Carriers and Seizure of Vehicles) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999

2.—(1) The Controlled Waste (Registration of Carriers and Seizure of Vehicles) Regulations (Northern Ireland) $1999(^{6})$ are amended in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3)—

(2) In regulation 1(2) for the definition of "prescribed offences" substitute—

""prescribed offences" means an offence under regulation 2 of the 2003 Regulations;".

(3) Schedule 1 is revoked

Amendment of the Waste Management Licensing Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003

3.—(1) The Waste Management Licensing Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003⁽⁷⁾ are amended in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3)-

(2) For regulation 2 substitute—

"2. Schedule 6 has effect to prescribe offences for the purposes of Article 3(3)(a) of the 1997 Order.".

(3) After Schedule 5 insert—

"SCHEDULE 6

Regulation 2

Prescribed Offences

1. The offences to be regarded as prescribed offences for the purposes of Article 3(3)(a) of the 1997 Order are listed in Tables 1-3-

S.R. 1999 No.362 relevant amendments S.R. 2003 No. 493, S.R. 2006 No. 280 and S.R. 2011 No. 127

- S.R. 2003 No. 493 as amended

^{(&}lt;sup>5</sup>) (⁶) (⁷) S.I. 1997/2778 (N.I. 19) as amended

Table 1 – Relevant Environmental Offences

Number	Offence(s)
1.	Articles 33(4) and 36(1) of and paragraph 9 of Schedule 5, paragraph 5 and paragraph 9(2) of Schedule 6 and Part 1, paragraph 14 of Schedule 7 to the Drainage (Northern Ireland) Order 1973
2.	Articles 29 and 72(3) of the Pollution Control and Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 1978
3.	Articles 4, 5(8), 5E(7), 5E(8), 6(7), 12(12), 12(13), 15(5A), 16(4), 18, 21(6), 22(6), 27(5), 28(5), 29(3), 31(2), 38(1), 42, 44(2) and 74 of the Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997
4.	Articles 7(1), 7(5), 12(3), 19(1), 28(3) and 29(1) of the Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999
5.	Regulations 12(1), 12(2), 12(3) and 12(4) of the Environmental Protection (Disposal of Polychlorinated Biphenyls and Other Dangerous Substances) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000
6.	Article 20 of the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002
7.	Regulation 12 of the Control of Pollution (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003
8.	Regulations 31, 42(1) and 42(2) of the End of Life Vehicles Regulations 2003
9.	Regulations 18(1) and 22(1) of and paragraphs 12(1), 12(2), 14(5), 14(7) and 14(8) of Part1 of Schedule 3 to the Waste Management Licensing Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003
10.	Regulation 17(1) of the Landfill Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003
11.	Regulations 13(1) and 16(3) of the Water Resources (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005
12.	Regulations 43(1), 43(3) and 43(5) of the Hazardous Waste Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005
13.	Regulation 6(1) of the Radioactive Contaminated Land Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006
14.	Regulations 18(10), 24(1) and 24(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006
15.	Regulation 40 of the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007
16.	Regulations 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 31, 32, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 52, 53, 54, 55 and 57 of and paragraphs 4 and 5 of Schedule 1 and paragraph 6(3) of Part 1 of Schedule 5 to the Transfrontier Shipment of Waste Regulations 2007
17.	Regulation 42 of the Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Pollution by Sewage and Garbage from Ships) Regulations 2008
18.	Regulations 89(1), 89(2), 89(3), 89(4), 89(5) and 89(6) of the Waste Batteries and Accumulators Regulations 2009
19.	Regulations 9, 10, 17, 26 and 27 of the Environmental Liability (Prevention and Remediation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009
20.	Regulations 19(1), 24(3) and 25(3) of the Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009
21.	Section 85 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009

22.	Regulation 25 of the Nitrates Action Programme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010
23.	Regulation 24 of the Waste Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011
24.	Articles 42(6), 43(5), 76(9), 85(1), 85(5), 103(1), 109(3), 117(1), 126(1), 126(3), 127(1), 134(1), 134(5), 137(1), 146(9), 147(2), 149(5), 150(12), 152(9), 168(1), 168(6), 172(1), 175(2), 178(2), 178(5), 237(2), 237(3) and 240(3) of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011
25.	Regulations 82(6), 89(10) and 90 of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2013
26.	Sections 32(1) and 33(1) of the Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013
27.	Regulation 36 of the Pollution, Prevention and Control (Industrial Emissions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013"

Table 2 – Relevant Financial Offences

"Number	Offence(s)
1.	Sections 24, 50, 64, 67, 68, 68A, 100, 129, 136, 159, 167, 168, 170, 170A and 170B of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979
2.	Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 of the Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981
3.	Paragraphs 15(1), 15(3), 15(4), 15(5), 15(6) and 15(7) of Part IV of Schedule 5 to the Finance Act 1996
4.	Sections 1, 6, 7, 9, 11 and 12 of the Fraud Act 2006"1

Table 3 – Other Relevant Offences

Column header	Offence(s)
1.	Section 114 of the Public Health Act 1878
2.	Sections 1, 8, 9, 10, 11, 17, 18, 21 and 23A of the Theft Act (Northern Ireland) 1969
3.	Sections 4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 19, 20, 21 and 23 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971
4.	Sections 24, 24A, 25, 25A, 25B, 26, 26A, 26B and 27of the Immigration Act 1971
5.	Articles 98(3) and 98(4) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972
6.	Articles 31(1), 34(1) and 34(2) of the Health and Safety at Work Order 1978
7.	Articles 3, 9(13), 11A(1), 15B(11), 19G(4), 31E, 72(1), 72(2), 73A(4), 81(1), 82, 86(1), 90(4), 91A, 95(2), 96(2), 97(3), 168A(1), 172, 172B, 174(2), 175(2), 180(1), 180(4) and 180(6) of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981
8.	Sections 20A(1), 20A(1A), 24(2A), 24(2B), 86A(3), 90(1), 90(3) and 91(1) of and paragraph 6(10) of Schedule 6 and paragraph5 of Schedule 10 to the Criminal Justice Act 1991
9.	Sections 49, 50, 51, 52, 53 and 58 of the Drug Trafficking Act 1994
10.	Sections 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21A, 21D, 54, 56, 57, 58, 58A, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 63A, 63B, 63C, 63D, 87, 89, 93, 94, 95, 96, 103 and 116 of and paragraphs 3(7), 14(1), 15(4), 16(3), 19(7), 20(6) and 32(3) of Schedule 5, paragraphs 1(3) and 8(2) of Schedule 6, paragraph 18 of Schedule 7 and paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 6(3), 15(1) and 16(3) of Schedule 13 to the Terrorism Act 2000

11.	Sections 327, 328, 329, 330, 331 and 332 of the Proceeds of				
	Crime Act 2002				
12.	Articles 3, 6(6), 10(3), 13(2), 15(10), 16(2), 21(4), 24, 27(6),				
	30(1), 35(9), 36(3), 37(4), 38(7), 39(3), 40(4), 41(5), 42(4),				
	43(5), 44(6), 45(1), 45(2), 45(5), 49(5)(b), 51(2), 52(4),				
	53(5), 54(2), 55(5), 56(3), 58(2), 59(2), 60(1), 61, 62, 63, 64,				
	65, 66, 67, 72, 72(2)(c) and 73 of the Firearms (Northern				
	Ireland) Order 2004				
13.	Articles 10(8), 15, 16(10), 21, 26, 31 and 32 of and				
	paragraphs 8(1) and 8(2) of Schedule 1 and paragraphs 4, 5, 6				
	and 8(3) of Schedule 6 to the Justice and Security (Northern				
	Ireland) Act 2007				
14.	Sections 25, 44, 45 and 46 of the Serious Crime Act 2007				
15.	Articles 1(7), 5(2), 9(3), 9(4), 11(2)(a), 16(1), 17(1), 28 and				
	45(6) of the Transport Act (Northern Ireland) 2011				
16.	Regulations 17(1) and 18(1) of the Animal By-Products				
	(Enforcement) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011				
17.	Articles 1, 10 and 11 of the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013				
18.	Sections 1, 2 and 4 of the Human Trafficking and				
	Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Act				
	(Northern Ireland) 2015				

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of the Environment on xx xxxx 2015



Dave Foster A senior officer of the Department of the Environment

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations amend regulation 2 of and Schedule 1 to the Controlled Waste (Registration of Carriers and Seizure of Vehicles) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999 (the 1999 Regulations). They also amend regulation 2 of the Waste Management Licensing Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (the 2003 Regulations) which prescribes offences which must be taken into account by the Department when determining if a person can be deemed a fit and proper person to hold a waste management licence. The Regulations also introduce a new Schedule 6 to the 2003 Regulations, to provide an updated list of offences that includes environmental, financial and other relevant offences.

In particular, regulation 2 amends the 1999 Regulations.

Regulation 3(2) substitutes regulation 2 of the 2003 Regulations with a new regulation 2.

Regulation 3(3) inserts a new Schedule 6 to the 2003 Regulations.

Rural Screening

	Screening Questions	Response to Screening Questions		As	Full Impact Assessment Required		Justification/Key Issues and groups to focus on
		Yes	No	Ye	es	No	
	1. Does the policy apply in rural areas and communities?		\checkmark				
	If NO: set out the reasons why						
Rural	If YES:					,	
	a. Does the policy have the potential to have a negative impact on rural areas and communities?					N	
	b. Does the policy have the potential to have a positive impact on rural areas and communities?						
	CONCLUSION						

When Is a Rural Impact Assessment Required?

If the answer to question 1 is yes, consideration should be given to undertaking a rural impact assessment. The following guidance applies:

If the answer to a. is yes, a rural impact assessment must be undertaken and the checklist completed.

If the answer to b is yes, the policy document should include a reference to how and why the impact will be positive.

List of Consultees

AES Age NI An Munia Tober Autism NI **Baglady Productions** Baha'i Council for NI Barnardos NI **Belfast Butterfly Club Belfast Hebrew Congregation Belfast Solicitors Association** Bishop of Down and Connor British Deaf Association (NI) Bryson Charitable Group Bryson Energy Bryson House Business in the Community Carafriend Carbon Trust Carers Northern Ireland Catholic Bishops of NI Chair of Livestock and Meat Commission Chartered Institute of Environmental Health Chief Environmental Health Officers Group Children's Law Centre Chinese Welfare Association Chrvsalis Women's Centre Civil Law Reform CO3 Chief Officers 3rd Sector Coiste-na n-iarchimi Commissioner for Older People for Northern Ireland **Communication Access** Community Development and Health Network NI **Community Places Community Relations Council** Confederation of British Industry **Consumer Council NI** Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside Courts and Tribunal Service Cruse Bereavement Care (NI) Dairy UK Derry Well Woman **Disability Action Donnelly Brothers** Down's Syndrome Association Employers for Disability NI Equality Coalition Equality Commission for NI Falls Community Council Falls Women's Centre Family Planning Association NI Federation of Small Businesses Firmus

Food Standards Agency NI Fovle Women's Information Network Freight Transport Association Friends of the Earth Gingerbread NI Green New Deal Health and Social Care Trust HM Council of County Court Judges HM Revenue and Customs Indian Community Centre Information Commissioner's Office Institute of Directors Irish Congress of Trade Unions NI Committee Law Centre (NI) Limavady council Linden Foods Local Government Staff Commission for NI Magherafelt Women's Group Magistrates Court MENCAP Methodist Church in Ireland Michelin Tyres Ministry of Defence Multi- Cultural Resource Centre Mutual Energy National Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children Newry & Mourne Women Ltd North/South Ministerial Council Northern Ireland Agricultural Producers Association Northern Ireland Association for Mental Health Northern Ireland Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders Northern Ireland Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce and Industry Northern Ireland Chamber of Trade Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People Northern Ireland Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA) Northern Ireland Court Service Northern Ireland District & Local Councils Northern Ireland Electricity /Electricity Supply Board Northern Ireland Environment Agency Northern Ireland Environment Link Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Services Northern Ireland Government Departments Northern Ireland Health & Social Care Trusts Northern Ireland Housing Executive Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission Northern Ireland Independent Retail Association Northern Ireland Islamic Centre Northern Ireland Judicial Appointments Commission Northern Ireland Law Commission Northern Ireland Local Government Association Northern Ireland MEP's Northern Ireland MLA's

Northern Ireland MP's Northern Ireland Office Northern Ireland Ombudsman Northern Ireland Political Parties Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance Northern Ireland Renewables Industry Group Northern Ireland Rural Women's Network Northern Ireland Water Northern Ireland Women's Aid Federation Office of the Attorney General for NI Office of the Lord Chief Justice OXFAM Parenting NI Participation and Practice of Rights Project Phoenix POBAL Polish Association Northern Ireland Power NI Presbyterian Church In Ireland **Quarry Products Association Northern Ireland** Royal National Institute of Blind People NI Royal Society for the Protection of Birds **Rural Community Network Rural Development Council Rural Support** Save the Children School of Law, Queen's University Belfast School of Law, University of Ulster SENSE NI Short Brothers Society of Local Authority Chief Executives Southern Group Environmental Health Committee Sustainable NI The Cedar Foundation The Environment Committee The Executive Council of the Inn of Court NI The General Consumer Council for NI The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association The Law Society of NI The Rainbow Project The Scottish Government The Senior Citizens Consortium Sperrin Lakeland The Women's Centre Training for Women Network Ltd Translink Trocaire **Ulster Farmers Union** Ulster Language, Tradition and Cultural Heritage Ulster Unionist Party **UNISON Northern Ireland** Volunteer Now Women's Forum Northern Ireland Women's Resource and Development Agency Women's Support Network World Wildlife Federation Youth Justice Agency Youthnet 16

arc21 Arena Network Belfast **Belfast Regeneration Office** British Library Bryson Charitable Group Catholic Bishops of NI CEFNI Chartered Inst of Environmental Health NI Chartered Inst of Wastes Management NI Civil Law Reform Division **Community Relations Council** Confederation of British Industry NI **Conservation Volunteers NI** Council for Nature Conversation and the Countryside **District Councils** District Judge – Magistrates' Court Education & Library Boards **Environment Committee NI Assembly** Environmental Health Group Environmental Law Foundation Environmental Protection UK Equality Commission for NI Equality Forum NI Executive Council of the Inn of Court of NI Federation of Small Businesses NI Food Standards Agency NI Friends of the Earth General Consumer Council NI HM Council of County Court Judges HMRC Human Rights Commission Institute of Directors Lands Tribunal Law Centre NI Law Society of NI Local Government Technical Advisors Group MLAs Mourne Heritage Trust National Library National Trust NIC/ICTU NIPAK Participation & the Practice of Rights Project PSNI OLC **OPANI** QUB, Law School Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution RSPB Royal Society for Public Health Society of Local Authority Chief Executives SWaMP2008 Sustainable NI UFU Ulster Wildlife Trust University of Ulster Law School Woodland Trust NI 17