

**Climate Change and Science Innovation Group**

Climate Change and Green Growth Policy Division

Your reference  
Our reference



Department of  
**Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs**

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil  
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department o'

**Fairmin, Environment  
an' Kintra Matthers**

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12th April 2024

Dear Public Body,

**Climate Change (Reporting Bodies) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024 – New Climate Change Reporting Duties for Your Organisation**

I am writing to confirm with you that your public body organisation is specified as a 'Reporting Body' within the Schedule of the attached draft Climate Change (Reporting Bodies) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024, as having climate change reporting duties placed upon it.

A copy of the draft Regulations, which have recently been agreed by the Northern Ireland Executive, is attached in Annex A for your information. The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs ('DAERA') intends to make and lay these Regulations at the earliest opportunity in the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Annex B of this letter contains some frequently asked questions and corresponding answers for your information on what the Regulations require and what they mean for you which we hope will address any immediate concerns that you may have.

Context

Making and bringing into operation these Regulations delivers on DAERA's legal requirement to do so under section 42 of the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 ('the Act'). The Regulations put in place a climate change reporting framework for the specified public bodies, which can enable them to take informed, and timely climate action. The aim of this is to make public bodies more sustainable and give them the

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opportunity to provide a positive example and exploit the opportunities that early and effective climate action can deliver.

### Operational date of the Regulations, and when reporting is required.

The Regulations will come into operation in early May 2024, 21 days after they are laid by DAERA in the Northern Ireland Assembly. The duties placed on the scheduled list of public bodies cover climate change reporting requirements on both adaptation and mitigation. However, reporting by public bodies will not be required immediately and they will not be required at exactly the same time. The first mitigation report by the public bodies will be required to be submitted to DAERA by October 2025. The first adaptation report is not due until March 2026. Mitigation reports will then be required on a 3-yearly cycle, and the adaptation reports will be required on a 5-yearly cycle.

The timing and frequency of reporting is to allow, and enable, your organisation to collect the necessary data, and for DAERA to develop and provide practical support to help you and the other organisations specified in the Regulations to report.

Support will be provided by DAERA through the provision of guidance co-designed with public bodies themselves. DAERA is also working on developing a reporting template which will again be informed by and co-designed with the specified public bodies. Training and an online portal for reporting bodies will also be put in place to make the process as straightforward as possible. Further information on timings and frequency of reporting is in Annex B at Question 6, and 'support' to public bodies at Question 9.

### Consultation, and pre-consultation engagement

Your organisation had been previously contacted by DAERA regarding our consultation (which ran for an extended 10-week period from March 2023 until June 2023) on the development and making of these Regulations. The consultation can be found at Climate Change Reporting by Specified Public Bodies - Developing New Regulations. The summary of responses received to the consultation can be found at Summary of Responses and Next Steps: Consultation on Climate Change Reporting by Specified Public Bodies - Developing New Regulations. This summary of responses document also includes the detail on, and the outcome of, DAERA's pre-consultation engagement workshops undertaken with public bodies in the later quarter of 2022 which informed the development and content of the consultation.

### Reporting Bodies

The Act does not require all public bodies to have reporting duties placed on them by the Regulations. A balanced approach has been applied to these first set of Regulations to minimise the risk of undue burden, by requiring only those public bodies which are large-sized organisations to report (40 organisations in total, which can be viewed [here](#)). Large-sized public bodies are more likely the highest emitters, and they can help most in contributing to ensuring a climate resilient and sustainable Northern Ireland, while also having the capacity to deliver on reporting requirements and show leadership in climate action. Details of the definition of a 'public body' under the meaning of the Act, and the criteria used to identify who should be required to report under this first set of Regulations, is detailed in the attached Annex B at Question 5.

Please note that DAERA is committed to reviewing these first set of Regulations, at a future point, to explore expanding them through amending regulations, including the

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scope of bodies required to report. In the interim the Department intends to promote voluntary reporting from those public bodies not specified in the Regulations. It is clear from the consultation that there are many public body organisations that are keen to assess and report on their climate change risks, and actions to address these risks and reduce their emissions, including developing adaptation and mitigation plans. However, not all of these organisations come within scope of these first set of Regulations. The voluntary reporting is therefore a way for those bodies, that are not specified in the regulations, to develop their experience and skills for reporting.

#### What does DAERA require from you now?

After the Regulations are laid, DAERA's preparation work will then commence on the co-design of technical guidance including a reporting template, development of an online portal, and development and provision of training, to help public bodies meet their reporting duties.

In the interim, we would be grateful if you could please provide DAERA (at: [climatechangediscussion@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:climatechangediscussion@daera-ni.gov.uk)), with the name and contact details of a nominated person(s) for your organisation for future direct engagement on matters regarding the requirements set by the Regulations.

DAERA looks forward to working with you on these important matters. Reporting will give the bodies an opportunity to show continued leadership on climate action within the public sector, providing positive examples and shared learning of what effective climate action can deliver, which is benefit to us all. If you have any issues or queries about these matters, you can contact the Public Body Reporting team at [climatechangediscussion@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:climatechangediscussion@daera-ni.gov.uk), or please call Arlene McGowan on (028) 9056 9484.

Yours faithfully,



Jane Corderoy

Director

Climate Change and Green Growth Policy Division

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