

**Consultation Schedule – Council Meeting 1 April 2025**

	<b>RECEIVED FROM</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>SUBMISSION BY</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Northern Ireland Assembly</b>	<b>Call for Evidence for the Sign Language Bill</b>	<b>18 April 2025</b>
	<p>The Sign Language Bill was introduced to the Northern Ireland Assembly by the Minister for Communities on 10 February 2025. The Bill completed Second Stage on 18 February 2025 and was referred to the Committee for Communities for consideration.</p> <p>The Committee for Communities has launched its Call for Evidence for the Sign Language Bill and we are receiving evidence in British Sign Language, Irish Sign Language and in written text.</p> <p>Please note the closing date for responses is Friday 18 April 2025. Please contact the Committee team at <a href="mailto:Committee.Communities@niassembly.gov.uk">Committee.Communities@niassembly.gov.uk</a> if you require any further information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://consult.nia-yourassembly.org.uk/communities/sign-language-bill/">https://consult.nia-yourassembly.org.uk/communities/sign-language-bill/</a></li> </ul>		
<b>2.</b>	<b>Department for the Economy</b>	<b>Offshore Renewable Energy Action Plan : SEA Environmental Report and RIAA</b>	<b>22 May 2025</b>
	<p>The consultation will remain open for 12 weeks and all representations should be submitted on or before 23:59 on 22nd May 2025.</p> <p>This publication represents a key step in the delivery of the Offshore Renewable Energy Action Plan (OREAP).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Offshore Renewable Energy Action Plan (OREAP): Consultation on the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report and Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA)   Department for the Economy</a></li> </ul>		

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<b>3.</b>	<b>North/South Language Body</b>	<b>North/South Language Body Draft Equality Scheme</b>	<b>26 May 2025</b>
	<p>Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 requires public authorities, in carrying out their functions relating to Northern Ireland, to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity and regard to the desirability of promoting good relations across a range of categories outlined in the Act. This draft Equality Scheme sets out how the North/South Language Body proposes to fulfil the Section 75 statutory duties.</p> <p>The draft Equality Scheme is now being published for a period of public consultation.</p> <p>Please note that these links will be live from Monday 3rd March 2025 and the consultation will close on Monday 26th May at 5pm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Consultation on the North/South Language Body Draft Equality Scheme</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Equality Scheme - Foras Na Gaeilge</a></li> </ul>		
<b>4.</b>	<b>Department for Infrastructure</b>	<b>Draft 2025-26 Budget Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) consultation</b>	<b>4 June 2025</b>
	<p>The Department for Infrastructure Draft 2025-26 Budget Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) consultation ends on 4 June 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Dfi Draft Budget 2025-26 Equality Impact Assessment Consultation   Department for Infrastructure</a></li> </ul>		

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<b>5.</b>	<b>Department of Health</b>	<b>Consultation on redesign of Serious Adverse Incident procedure</b>	<b>6 June 2025</b>
	<p>A public consultation on the introduction of a new Regional Framework for Learning and Improvement from Patient Safety Incidents and supporting documentation to replace the current Serious Adverse Incident (SAI) Procedure in Northern Ireland will take place between 10 March 2025 and 6 June 2025. The consultation documentation has been published on the <a href="#">Department of Health's website</a>.</p> <p>Responses to the consultation can be made preferably online via the <a href="#">citizen space website</a>. Alternatively, you can download the consultation documentation <a href="#">Framework for Learning and Improvement from Patient Safety Incidents Consultation   Department of Health</a> and return by email or post. More details can be found in the consultation documentation.</p> <p>Please note that the deadline for consultation responses is 5.00pm on Friday 6 June 2025. Any consultation responses received after this deadline may not be considered by the Department.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Consultations   Department of Health</a></li> </ul>		
<b>6.</b>	<b>Department for Infrastructure</b>	<b>Northern Ireland Flood Risk Assessment</b>	Closed 12 Mar 2025 Opened 26 Feb 2025
	<p>The Department for Infrastructure (DfI), as competent authority, has statutory responsibility to deliver Northern Ireland's obligations under The Water Environment (Floods Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009.</p>		

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		<p>In commencing the 3rd cycle of the Floods Directive, Dfl is requesting Key Service providers and Infrastructure owners to complete the below short questionnaire. This will assist with the initial data collection required to confirm contacts and both review and update the <a href="#">2nd Cycle Northern Ireland Flood Risk Assessment</a> (NIFRA2).</p> <p>Dfl will use current flood hazard and flood risk mapping, along with the information provided within the questionnaire, to produce a revised flood risk assessment identifying those areas where the potential impact of flooding is most significant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">3rd Northern Ireland Flood Risk Assessment - Key Infrastructure Consultation - NI Direct - Citizen Space</a></li> </ul>	
<b>7.</b>	<b>Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs</b>	<b>Consultation on the SEA Environmental Report for the Proposed Ammonia Strategy and Revised Operational Protocol</b>	<b>23 May 2025</b>
		<p>Summary</p> <p>The Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) has published a Consultation on the Environmental Report for the Proposed Ammonia Strategy and the Revised Operational Protocol to assess the impacts of air pollution on the natural environment, as part of the process of Strategic Environmental Assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-sea-environmental-report-proposed-ammonia-strategy-and-revised-operational-protocol">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-sea-environmental-report-proposed-ammonia-strategy-and-revised-operational-protocol</a></li> </ul>	
<b>8.</b>	<b>Department of Health</b>	<b>Consultation on Proposals to amend the Minimum Standards for Childminding and Day Care for Children Under Age 12</b>	<b>20 June 2025</b>
		<p>Summary</p> <p>The purpose of this consultation is to seek feedback on Departmental proposals to implement changes in two key areas of childcare regulation, which is carried out by HSC Trust Early Years Teams under the Children (NI) Order 1995. The first key area is in relation to vetting - specifically the requirement for all prospective childcare workers to provide a health</p>	

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	assessment, countersigned by their GPs, in advance of taking up employment. The second key area concerns the adult:child ratios set out in the Minimum Standards for Childminding and Day Care for Children under 12.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-proposals-amend-minimum-standards-childminding-and-day-care-children-under-age-12">https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-proposals-amend-minimum-standards-childminding-and-day-care-children-under-age-12</a></li> </ul>	

#### Available to View

RECEIVED FROM	TITLE	PUBLISHED
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs	Quarterly Screening Report 01 October - 31 December 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">DAERA's Equality Scheme   Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs</a></li> </ul>

#### Open Consultations (previously Listed)

- Department for the Economy Notice of Intention to Award Mineral Prospecting Licences submission by 4 April 2025
- Department for Infrastructure Living With Water in Derry Plan submission by 7 April 2025
- Department of Finance Consultation on adjustments to employee contribution rates for the Northern Ireland Civil Service Pension Scheme submission by 7 April 2025
- Department of Health Equality Impact Assessment and Rural Needs Impact Assessment of the Draft 2025-26 Health Budget submission by 9 April 2025
- Health and Safety Executive NI Consultation on Proposals for Amendments to Gas Safety (Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997 submission by 14th April 2025
- Department for Infrastructure Consultation on changing the frequency of MOT testing submission by 16 April 2025

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- Department of Finance Consultation on Strategic Roadmark for Rating Policy submission by 24th April 2025
- Department for Economy Views on Changes to Electricity Reinforcement Connection Charges submission by 24 April 2025
- Health and Safety Executive Consultation on Shaping the Planning of the Electricity Distribution Network in Northern Ireland
- Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, Corporate Performance & Improvement Plan 2025/26
- Northern Health and Social Care Trust Consultation on piloting the use of Body-worn Camera Devices within the Emergency Department submission by 1 May 2025