



Title of Report:	Correspondence Report
Committee Report Submitted To:	Environmental Services Committee
Date of Meeting:	10th March 2026
For Decision or For Information	For Decision
To be discussed In Committee	No

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Leader and Champion
Outcome	Establish key relationships with Government, agencies and potential strategic partners
Lead Officer	Director of Environmental Services

Estimated Timescale for Completion	
Date to be Completed	N/A

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	N/A
Included in Current Year Estimates	N/A
Capital/Revenue	N/A
Code	N/A
Staffing Costs	N/A

Legal Considerations	
Input of Legal Services Required	NO
Legal Opinion Obtained	NO

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No N/A	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No N/A	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No N/A	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No N/A	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No N/A	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No N/A	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present correspondence for Members' consideration.

2.0 The following correspondence has been received:

2.1 Northern Ireland Assembly, Committee for Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs, dated 2nd March 2026 (copy attached)

Summary

Re. Littering and Fly Tipping Issues in Rural Areas

Correspondence from Dr Janice Thompson, Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs dated 2nd March 2026, requesting information from Council on:

1. The impact that littering and fly-tipping is having within each council area, particularly on rural roads and farmland; and
2. To request information on any he educational or awareness-raising programmes currently in place to discourage littering and illegal waste disposal.

3.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that the Environmental Services Committee consider the correspondence.



**NORTHERN IRELAND
ASSEMBLY**

Committee for Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs

Date: 2 March 2026

Dear Sir/Madam

Littering and Fly Tipping Issues in Rural Areas

The Committee for Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs is currently examining the issue of littering and fly-tipping in rural areas. Recent DAERA-funded research indicates that Northern Ireland faces a significant litter challenge, with around 12 million pieces of litter polluting the region at any given time.

The illegal dumping of waste, better known as ‘fly-tipping’, continues to be a serious and growing problem, particularly in rural areas where enforcement is more difficult. Reports indicate an upsurge in fly-tipping across Northern Ireland constituencies in 2026. The Northern Ireland Environment Agency’s Environmental Crime Unit (ECU) is strengthening its enforcement response by recruiting specialist staff and working closely with local councils under an established fly-tipping protocol.

The Committee is aware that the combined effects of littering and fly-tipping in Northern Ireland include:

- Environmental damage, affecting soil quality, water systems, and marine ecosystems;
- Financial costs for councils, taxpayers, and private landowners; and

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- Negative impacts on tourism, local amenity, and community wellbeing.

At its meeting on 26 February, the Committee agreed to write to all councils in Northern Ireland to gather information from each council on:

1. The impact that littering and fly-tipping is having within each council area, particularly on rural roads and farmland; and
2. To request information on any he educational or awareness-raising programmes currently in place to discourage littering and illegal waste disposal.

I would be grateful if you would provide a response to the Committee by Monday 16th March 2026.

Yours sincerely

Dr Janice Thompson
Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs