

**From the Director of Rural Affairs
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Department of
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and Rural Affairs**

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department o'

**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

DATE: 10 March 2026

Rural NI: Our New Approach (2026–2041) - Public Consultation Launch

I am writing to inform you that the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) has launched a public consultation on draft proposals for a new, long-term rural policy for Northern Ireland. The consultation launched on 9 March 2026 and will run for 12 weeks, closing on 1 June 2026.

Rural NI: Our New Approach (2026–2041) has been developed through a co-design process involving a wide range of stakeholders, including central and local government, rural voluntary and community groups, and academics.

You can read the consultation documents and complete the survey online at <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/rural-ni-our-new-approach>. We welcome your views and those of your organisation and members.

Consultation events will be held across Northern Ireland. Details of in-person and online events are available on the at the link above. For any of your members or colleagues attending an event, we would encourage registration through the respective webpage Eventbrite link, to assist with capacity planning.

Yours faithfully,



**DR JASON FOY
DIRECTOR OF RURAL AFFAIRS**

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