

**Consultation Schedule – Council Meeting 5 November 2024**

<b>RECEIVED FROM</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>SUBMISSION BY</b>
<b>Foras na Gaeilge</b>	<b>Strategic Direction – Consultation process</b>	<b>19 November 2024 (online meetings)</b>
<p>In 2020, Foras na Gaeilge published its first Strategic Direction which set out the organisation’s major strategic objectives for the years 2020-2025. The Strategic Direction was based on a consultation process which included a survey, an invitation for individuals and organisations to submit submissions and public meetings around the country. Now that the period of the Strategic Direction 2020-2025 is coming to an end, Foras na Gaeilge is engaged in a consultation process to seek the views of the public on a new draft that encompasses the organisation’s major strategic objectives for the years 2025-2030.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Strategic Direction - Consultation process - Foras Na Gaeilge</u></li> </ul>		
<b>Health and Social Care NI</b>	<b>Health and Social Care NI (HSCNI) Involvement and Consultation Scheme</b>	<b>25 November 2024</b>
<p>Overview Involvement of and consultation with service users &amp; carers is critical in the commissioning, development, design and delivery of Health &amp; Social Care (HSC) Services. To comply with our statutory duties in regards to Involvement and Consultation, as set out in the Health and social Care Reform Act (NI) 2009, all HSC organisations, to which the legislation applies, must have a Consultation Scheme in place, which sets out how they meet their statutory responsibilities in this field.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Health and Social Care NI (HSCNI) Involvement and Consultation Scheme - NI Direct - Citizen Space</u></li> </ul>		
<b>Northern Ireland Screen</b>	<b>Equality Scheme</b>	<b>December 2024</b>
<p>Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 requires public authorities, in carrying out their functions, powers and duties, to promote equality of opportunity and good relations among a range of groups. Public Authorities are required to send an Equality Scheme to the Equality Commission, showing how they intend to carry out their new duties.</p>		

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<p>Northern Ireland Screen, in carrying out all of its functions, powers and duties relating to Northern Ireland, is committed to the fulfilment of its obligation to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity, as required under Section 75 and Schedule 9 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.</p> <p>Northern Ireland Screen is also committed to ensuring that necessary resources (in terms of people, time and money) are made available to support the effective promotion of equality of opportunity and good relations in all its policies and practices. This also includes making sure there are effective internal arrangements in place to ensure that the duties are effectively complied with and for monitoring and reviewing progress.</p> <p>Northern Ireland Screen will actively seek to develop a programme of communication and training with the aim of ensuring all staff are made aware and understand the new equality obligations as they relate to our functions affecting Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Northern Ireland Screen’s Equality Scheme and Action Plan was approved by the Equality Commission on 23 April 2013.</p> <p>Northern Ireland Screen has reviewed the Equality Scheme and Action Plan which is currently out for consultation until December 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Equality Scheme - Northern Ireland Screen</a></li> </ul>		
<b>Department for Communities</b>	<b>Consultation on strengthening Statutory Sick Pay</b>	<b>4 December 2024</b>
<p>Consultation on the percentage replacement rate for those earning below the current rate of Statutory Sick Pay.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Consultation on strengthening Statutory Sick Pay   Department for Communities</a></li> </ul>		
<b>Northern Ireland Electricity Networks</b>	<b>Cluster Substation Update Consultation</b>	<b>6 December 2024</b>
<p>The purpose of this consultation paper is to present proposals to amend NIE Networks’ cluster connection charging methodology, as set out in NIE Networks’ Statement of Charges for Connection to the Northern Ireland Electricity Networks</p>		

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	distribution system (the ‘SoCC’) Appendix 2. Ultimately it is NIE Networks’ view, that the existing network and current charging arrangements do not provide the capability to connect the volume of renewables required to meet 2030 targets in time without a level of change or investment. While these consultation proposals alone will not enable the 2030 targets to be met, they aim to be a step towards addressing the stagnation that currently persists.		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.nienetworks.co.uk/about-us/regulation/cluster-substation-update-consultation">https://www.nienetworks.co.uk/about-us/regulation/cluster-substation-update-consultation</a></li> </ul>		
	<b>Department of Agriculture, Environment &amp; Rural Affairs</b>	<b>Draft Environmental Principles Policy Statement</b>	<b>9 December 2024</b>
	<p>Overview In February 2022 the Assembly approved the elements of the Environment Act 2021 (“the Act”) - link provided below - relating to Northern Ireland devolved matters, including a statutory duty on DAERA to publish an environmental principles policy statement (EPPS), defined as: “a statement explaining how the environmental principles should be interpreted and proportionately applied: (a) by Northern Ireland departments when making policy; and (b) by Ministers of the Crown when making policy so far as relating to Northern Ireland.” NI departments and UK Government Ministers, making policy for Northern Ireland, will have a statutory duty to have due regard to the statement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Draft Environmental Principles Policy Statement - NI Direct - Citizen Space</a></li> </ul>		
	<b>Northern Ireland Policing Board</b>	<b>Consultation Stakeholder Events on the Draft Policing Plan 2025-2030</b>	<b>10 December 2024</b>
	<p>Overview The Northern Ireland Policing Plan 2025-2030 will outline how the Board and PSNI want to deliver and improve policing in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Effective policing is central to having a safe community. It is collectively our job to make sure the service delivered is fair, impartial and protects the rights of individuals and the community.</p>		

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<p>Issuing a Policing Plan is one of the key legislative responsibilities of the Board. It is developed in partnership with PSNI so there is agreement on what we want to achieve and how we plan to do it.</p> <p>We are publishing a five year Policing Plan for 2025-2030 that will allow the Board and PSNI to assess and monitor the impact of this plan over a similar period to the previous Policing Plan to ensure continuity and consistency. We are mindful that issues or opportunities could emerge during 2025-2030 which may impact on what we want to achieve or how we plan to do it. We will report on the Policing Plan on an annual basis and explain any changes we may have made in response to new circumstances.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/doj/policing-plan-consultation/">https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/doj/policing-plan-consultation/</a></li> </ul>		
<b>Department for the Economy</b>	<b>Design Plan for the Roll-Out of Smart Electricity Meters</b>	<b>12 December 2024</b>
<p>Summary</p> <p>Your responses to this consultation will help inform the Department’s approach to the roll-out of smart meters. Your views will play a key part in shaping our roll-out plan and in turn help us reach our Energy Strategy and Climate Change goals and maximise benefits to the consumer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Design plan for the roll-out of smart electricity meters   Department for the Economy (economy-ni.gov.uk)</a></li> </ul>		
<b>Police Service of Northern Ireland</b>	<b>Race and Ethnicity Action Plan 2025 - 2027 Consultation</b>	<b>16 December 2024</b>
<p>Purpose</p> <p>We are seeking your views on how we, as the Police Service of Northern Ireland, can better serve our ethnic minority communities. We are committed to developing a robust Race and Ethnicity Action Plan, which aims to ensure that everyone in Northern Ireland feels safe, valued, and engaged with policing.</p>		

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	<p>This consultation is an opportunity for you to share your thoughts, ideas, and experiences to help shape our approach. Your feedback will directly influence the development of this plan, helping us ensure that our policing service is engaged, inclusive and fair for all communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Race and Ethnicity Action Plan 2025 - 2027 Consultation   PSNI</a></li> </ul>	
<b>Department for the Economy</b>	<b>Support for Low Carbon Heat in The Residential Sector</b>	<b>31 December 2024</b>
	<p>Summary The purpose of this consultation is to seek views on support for low carbon heating in residential buildings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Support for low carbon heat in the residential sector   Department for the Economy (economy-ni.gov.uk)</a></li> </ul>	
<b>Maze Long Kesh</b>	<b>Section 75 NI Act 1998 - Maze Long Kesh Development Consultation: Equality Action Plan, Disability Action Plan and Equality Scheme</b>	<b>24 January 2025</b>
	<p>MLKDC is consulting on the organisation’s Draft Equality Action Plan (EAP); Draft Disability Action Plan (DAP) and five-year review of the Equality Scheme and would welcome your feedback.</p> <p>You will find the proposed action plans, review of the equality scheme and relevant information on the website (publications) using the following link:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.mazelongkesh.com">www.mazelongkesh.com</a></li> </ul> <p>At the top of the home page, click on the publications page. Scroll down to the very bottom of the publications page to ‘Consultation’ and where you will find the relevant consultation documents.</p>	

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Available to View

RECEIVED FROM	TITLE	PUBLISHED
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs	NI's First Environmental Improvement Plan is an Important Framework For Protecting the Environment – Muir	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk">Environmental Improvement Plan for Northern Ireland   Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (daera-ni.gov.uk)</a></li> </ul>
Department of Finance	Civil Service Inclusive Language Guide - Screening document	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Civil Service Inclusive Language Guide - Screening document   Department of Finance</a></li> </ul>
Newry Mourne and Down District Council	Corporate Policy & Equality Section 75 Statutory Duties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Corporate Policy &amp; Equality - Newry, Mourne and Down District Council</a></li> </ul>
Department for Communities	DfC Equality Equality Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">DfC Equality   Department for Communities</a></li> </ul>
Department of Education	Equality Screenings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Equality Screenings   Department of Education</a></li> </ul>
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council	Equality Screening Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/council/equality/#equalityscreeningreports">https://www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/council/equality/#equalityscreeningreports</a></li> </ul>
Department of Finance	Equality Screening for Part E (Fire safety) changes to Building Regulations - October 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.equalityni.org/ECNI/media/ECNI/Publications/Employers%20and%20Service%20Providers/S75GuideforPublicAuthoritiesApril2010.pdf">https://www.equalityni.org/ECNI/media/ECNI/Publications/Employers%20and%20Service%20Providers/S75GuideforPublicAuthoritiesApril2010.pdf</a></li> </ul>

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### Open Consultations (previously Listed)

- Northern Health and Social Care Trust Health and Social Care NI (HSCNI) Involvement and Consultation Scheme submission by 11 November 2024
- Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs) (DAERA) Consultation on Proposed new Code of Practice on Sampling and Reporting at Materials Facilities submission by 12 November 2024
- Department for Communities, Update - draft Programme for Government consultation events, submission by 4 November 2024 (circulated to Elected Members on 11 October 2024)



Department for the  
**Economy**  
An Roinn  
**Geilleagair**  
[www.economy-ni.gov.uk](http://www.economy-ni.gov.uk)

# CONSULTATION ON SUPPORT FOR LOW CARBON HEATING IN RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS



**OCTOBER 2024**

## Introduction

Dear stakeholders,

We are delighted to share with you some information relating to the launch of our consultation on support for low carbon heating in residential buildings. The transition from fossil fuel forms of heating to low carbon alternatives by 2050 will require a significant amount of change to how we heat our homes, but with that comes the potential for a greener, cleaner, securer energy future. Please join with us in helping to shape that future by submitting your responses to our [consultation](#) and by sharing it with your networks and encouraging them to respond also.

We look forward to your response and thank you for your ongoing support.

The Heat Policy Team (DfE)

## Ministerial Foreword

I am pleased to launch this consultation on support for low carbon heating within residential buildings. I have been clear that decarbonisation underpins and interlinks all of my Economic Vision objectives: delivering good jobs, addressing regional imbalance and increasing productivity.

It's accepted that living in a warm home is a basic human right and contributes positively to supporting our physical and mental well-being, however our heavy reliance on fossil fuels to heat our homes contributes significantly to volatility in energy costs and harmful carbon emissions. Low carbon heating technologies provide a reliable, sustainable, clean energy source. They emit lower carbon emissions into the atmosphere compared to fossil-fuel based alternatives such as natural gas and oil boilers. This consultation takes us a step closer to delivering self-sufficiency in affordable renewable energy which will benefit everyone.

This consultation seeks views which will help inform options regarding the design, rules, and guidance of future Government support for low carbon heating technologies. The consultation references the complexities decarbonising our homes will bring, acknowledges the varied nature of our homes, their age, size and location and also the challenging length of time this transition may take. We are all too aware of the challenges that face us, but climate change is one of the most pressing issues of our time so we must act now and at pace.

Importantly, we need solutions that address not only our environmental challenges, but that also foster economic growth. The early adoption of low carbon heating technologies will act as a catalyst for growth within our green economy and present huge economic opportunities.

- By stimulating a strong local renewables market, we can create the conditions for businesses to develop the skills and technologies to provide low carbon heating solutions.
- Harnessing the significant potential to create a centre of excellence within our region for low carbon heating.
- Encouraging local businesses to take advantage of export opportunities to European and global markets.
- We can support local businesses with training and apprenticeships in low carbon technologies, to upskill trainees and provide new career pathways.
- Increasing our low carbon heat installer base by training the next generation of heating engineers through our FE and Higher Education institutions.

It is evident that the implementation of low carbon technologies will benefit all our citizens. In doing so we will not only drive forward towards net zero, but we will improve our productivity, we will grow and nurture good jobs, and we will ensure the opportunity of net zero is regionally balanced.

The transition to decarbonised heat will affect everyone but also benefit everyone in the long term so it's vitally important that we engage everyone in the design and decision-making process. I encourage you to have your say and respond to this consultation with your feedback to help us develop future low carbon heat technology policy.

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "Conor Murphy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

**Conor Murphy MLA**

**Minister for the Economy**

For further information, see our [‘Consultation on support for low carbon heating in residential buildings’](#) or contact [lowcarbonheatconsultation@economy-ni.gov.uk](mailto:lowcarbonheatconsultation@economy-ni.gov.uk).

ENDS

## Suggested partner social media posts to promote Low Carbon Heat Support consultation:

(Please tag us in your posts)



1. [INC LINK] @Economy\_NI are delighted to launch a ‘Consultation on support for low carbon heating in residential buildings’. This consultation will affect every person in NI and you can be a part of shaping how that will work. Find out more here.  
#LCHS24 #RacetoNetZero
2. [INC LINK] @Economy\_NI ‘Consultation on support for low carbon heating in residential buildings’ seeks to engage across government, industry, academia and the public. Have your say. #LCHS24 #RacetoNetZero.
3. [INC LINK] @Economy\_NI ‘Consultation on support for low carbon heating in residential buildings’ aims to help shape a fair and affordable transition for households as we move away from fossil fuels for heating to green alternatives. Find out more here. #LCHS24 #RacetoNetZero
4. [INC LINK] The way we heat our homes will change as we aim towards #NetZero2050. @Economy\_NI are launching a ‘Consultation on support for low carbon heating in residential buildings’ a transition to a cleaner & more sustainable landscape & economy for all. #LCHS24 #RacetoNetZero

5. [INC LINK] Help shape the future of home heating by having your say on our Low Carbon Heat Support consultation. Help to create a greener and more sustainable future for us all. #LCHS24 @Economy\_NI
  
6. [INC LINK] The energy used to heat our homes and where it comes from, is changing. Help to influence that change through our Low Carbon Heat Support consultation. #LCHS24 @Economy\_NI
  
7. [INC LINK] Worried about fuel bills? Have your say on the future of home heating. Find out more here. #LCHS24 #RaceToNetZero @Economy\_NI

# Some FAQs

## **Who is the scheme targeted at?**

- The scheme is aimed at all domestic homeowners in Northern Ireland.

## **Will this scheme be similar to other support schemes found in other jurisdictions?**

- One of the benefits of energy being a devolved issue is that it allows us to create bespoke responses to our regional context. Future support will be informed by our local responses to this consultation, but we will also apply learning from other jurisdictions to ensure the best deliverable outcome.

## **When will support be ready?**

- Any support scheme would fall under the usual due diligence of government policy making. This is a multi-stage process of which this public consultation is the first step. The legislative process and associated approvals will impact the timescale for the delivery of support.

## **How can I respond to the consultation?**

- Responses can primarily be made through the Citizen Space website which can be found on the website [Citizen Space - consultation on support for low carbon heating in residential buildings](#). However, there will also be an option for email response to [lowcarbonheatconsultation@economy-ni.gov.uk](mailto:lowcarbonheatconsultation@economy-ni.gov.uk).

## **Can I attach additional information to my response? E.g. Reports.**

- Yes, there is an option within the consultation to upload additional information you would like to be considered as part of your response. Please support your additional information with any supporting evidence. Information can also be emailed to [lowcarbonheatconsultation@economy-ni.gov.uk](mailto:lowcarbonheatconsultation@economy-ni.gov.uk).

## **How much money are you going to offer?**

- The basis of support and the form it will take, will be determined during the design of rules and guidance, which this consultation will inform.

## **Will a grant or loan be available?**

- The responses to the consultation will help inform the design of future support and the forms it may take.

## **What budget will be available for the scheme?**

- The department will follow the necessary internal governance procedures and funding will be determined during the monitoring round process.

## **Where is the money coming from?**

- The funding for the scheme will be provided by the UK taxpayer.

## **How will you ensure value for money for the consumer?**

- The Path to Net Zero Energy (2021), includes a commitment to addressing consumer affordability, not just at the point of installation, but also on an ongoing basis. Value for money for the taxpayer also needs to be demonstrated with helping the objective of achieving a just transition for households from fossil fuel heating to low carbon alternatives. Any future scheme will need to be monitored with a view to making changes, where required, to ensure value for money is delivered.