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15 March 2017

Re: SEA Scoping of Ireland 2040 Our Plan – National Planning Framework

Dear Antonia

Thank-you for your email regarding the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Scoping Report for the Ireland 2040 National Planning Framework.

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland (DAERA) has considered the consultation and associated documents and our opinions are set out below.

Biodiversity Flora and Fauna

4. Relevant Plans and Programmes

The following plans and programmes relating to Northern Ireland could also be considered:

- Any relevant current or emerging Local Development Plans in Northern Ireland which share a border with the Republic of Ireland (Fermanagh and Omagh, Newry, Mourne and Down, Derry City and Strabane, Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon District Council and Mid Ulster District Council) should be taken into account in the development of the SEA.

5.3.2 Biodiversity Flora and Fauna

We suggest changing the wording of the draft SEA objective from restore to enhance the terrestrial, aquatic and soil biodiversity, particularly EU designated sites and protected species.



6.1 Baseline Data sources

Information on Natura 2000 sites within Northern Ireland can be found at:
http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/SAC_list.asp?Country=NI

<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1404>

DAERA NI Natural Heritage Digital Datasets can be found at:
<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/download-digital-datasets>

Landscape Character and Seascape Character can be found at:
<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/landscape-character-northern-ireland>

State of the Seas Report
<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/state-seas-report>

NI Environmental Statistics Report 2016
<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-environmental-statistics-report-2016>

State of the Environment Report 2013
<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/state-environment-report-2013>

UK National Ecosystems Assessment Chapter 18 Northern Ireland
<http://uknea.unepwcmc.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=m%2BvhAV3c9uk%3D&tabid=82>

Northern Ireland Countryside Survey
<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-countryside-survey-2007-broad-habitat-change-1998-2007>

Marine

We would like to highlight three newly proposed European designated sites and one nationally designated site which was recently adopted under the Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013, that need to be taken into consideration in environment report which are within close proximity to trans-boundary waters.

- Carlingford Marine proposed SPA which is designated under the EC Birds Directive (79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds). The site selection features is seabirds.
- Carlingford MCZ which is designated under the Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013. The site selection features are Subtidal (sublittoral) mud: *Philine aperta* (white lobe shell) and *Virgularia mirabilis* (Sea-Pen) in soft stable infralittoral mud.
- North Channel pSAC which is designated under the EC Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild



fauna and flora). The site selection feature is Harbour porpoise.
<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-7242>

- East Coast Marine pSPA which is designated under the EC Birds Directive (79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds). The site selection features is seabirds.

Climate Change

Chapter 4, Table 4.1

We consider the EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change 2013 should also be listed.

Air Quality

We consider that detailed assessment in the Environmental Report should take account of the following potential areas for transboundary air pollution impacts:

- Where planning policy has any impact or effect on agricultural land use and/or intensive agricultural housing, then consideration of agricultural emissions (in particular, ammonia emissions) on habitats in border areas. <http://www.apis.ac.uk/> provides a breakdown of ammonia sources for protected sites in Northern Ireland;
- The potential for impacts from air pollutant emissions from industrial, residential or road transport in border areas.

If you require any clarification in relation to the content of this letter please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Dr Mark Hammond



