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October 2019

In this month's update...

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Legislation



Nutrient Action Programme (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 SR 183

The NAP Regulations were made in April 2019 and set out an action programme for the period 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2022 concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources.

Following the Commission Decision 2019/1325/EU, granting approval for Northern Ireland to operate a derogation, this Statutory Rule amends the NAP Regulations 2019.

A derogation allows the application of livestock manure up to a limit of 250kg nitrogen per hectare per year, under certain conditions, on farms in Northern Ireland with at least 80% grassland.

You can read the Regulation in full here <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2019/183/contents/made>

Environment Bill

On the 15 October 2019 the Government introduced the Environment Bill to Parliament, to tackle the biggest environmental priorities of our time. While the Bill applies only to England, more than half of its measures – such as those designed to drive up recycling rates – are designed to apply across the UK, with the consent of the devolved administrations, helping the nation deal with the major environmental challenges together.

Key areas include:

- creating a new governance framework for the environment;

- a new independent public body – the Office of Environmental Protection
- setting legally binding environmental targets;
- a new direction for resources and waste management, moving towards a more circular economy, crackdown on litter and tackling waste crime;
- improving air quality;
- delivering sustainable water resources;
- restoring and enhancing nature and green spaces;
- updating laws on chemicals (REACH).

You can read more about the Environment Bill here:

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/environment.html>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-introduces-ground-breaking-environment-bill>

Consultations



Consultation on the Waste Management Plan for Northern Ireland

The Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs is seeking views on a draft Waste Management Plan for Northern Ireland (WMPNI). There are waste management policies in Northern Ireland which taken together deliver the objectives of the revised Waste Framework Directive 2008 (rWFD): to protect the environment and human health by preventing or reducing the adverse impacts of the generation and management of waste and by reducing overall impacts of resource use and improving the efficiency of such use. It is not, therefore, the intention of the WMPNI to introduce new policies or to change how waste is managed in Northern Ireland. It's core aim is to bring current waste management policies under the umbrella of one national plan. Views are sought on whether the WMPNI – when combined with waste planning policy will fulfil the obligations of the rWFD, especially Article 28 (mandatory requirements), as far as Northern Ireland is concerned.

This consultation will close at 4.00pm on Wednesday 11 December 2019.

You can read the consultation in full and how to respond here <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/Waste-Management-Plan-for-Northern-Ireland>

UK Consultation on WEEE Compliance Fee Methodology 2019

The Government is seeking your views, by Monday 11 November 2019, on whether you think there should be a Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) compliance fee set for 2019, together with your thoughts on two proposals received from external organisations for how the fee should be managed in 2019.

The use of a compliance fee and how it is administered is agreed annually. Companies that don't meet their annual collection targets can comply with the 2013 WEEE Regulations by paying the compliance fee instead.

This consultation will be of interest to producers of electrical and electronic equipment, approved producer compliance schemes, WEEE treatment facilities, waste management companies, electrical re-use organisations and local authorities.

You can read the consultation here <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/environmental-quality/weee-compliance-2019/>

Updating the UK Marine Strategy part one (2019)

During May and June 2019 DEFRA, DAERA NI, the Scottish and Welsh Governments sought views on the UK's updated assessment of the progress made towards achieving Good Environmental Status (GES) for UK seas and the proposed objectives, targets and indicators that will be used for the next 6 year cycle. In particular the consultation sought views on whether the government has:

- accurately assessed the state of the UK marine waters
- identified the right criteria to monitor progress towards GES
- proposed effective targets to achieve and maintain GES for UK seas

The summary of responses and the government's response were published on the 23 October 2019. This document provides a broad summary of stakeholder responses and respond to the main issues raised.

You can read the original consultation, published summary of responses and the government's response here <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/updating-the-uk-marine-strategy-part-one-2019>

Updates

F-gases and ozone depleting substances (ODS) Announcement

Action needed by 31st Oct 2019 if businesses/employees possess certificates for work with F-gases or ozone depleting substances in products/equipment and work in the Republic of Ireland's jurisdiction

If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, certificates gained from a UK-based certification body will no longer be valid for F-gas/ODS work in the Republic of Ireland ("RoI").

Businesses working in the RoI with F-gases or ODS in equipment, even if just partially, may therefore need to take action before 31st October 2019. This would apply to both company and individual certificates.

[Read more here >>>](#)



Top tips for managing your EFS agreement and claim

With Environmental Farming Scheme (EFS) inspections already under way, DAERA is urging all agreement holders to make sure they are keeping to their EFS agreement and that their EFS claim on the Single Application form is still accurate. This will help to speed up payment and avoid penalties.

[Read the top tips here >>>](#)



Water management – is your farmyard fit for purpose?

As the days get shorter it is time to think of preparing farmyards for the winter time.

With a tendency to have wetter weather during the winter months it is important to think of how water is managed in and around the



farmyard.

[Read the guidance on water management options.](#)

BREXIT – DAERA helps you to stay up to date with the latest information



The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) has engaged in a significant programme of work which covers a range of issues that arise as a consequence of the UK leaving the EU. The information set out in these pages is aimed at helping you to understand how leaving the EU may affect your business or organisation and what you can do to get ready.

Read more here <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/landing-pages/brexit>

Carrier Bag Levy Review January 2017



Business Consultancy Service (BCS) of the Department of Finance (DoF) was commissioned by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) to complete a post project evaluation of the first phase of the carrier bag levy scheme in December 2015.

This report details the findings and recommendations of the review based on the agreed terms of reference and will be laid before the Assembly as stated in the Carrier Bags Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

[Read more here >>>](#)

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SEPA - NetRegs
Strathallan House
Castle Business Park
Stirling, Scotland FK9 4TZ
United Kingdom

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