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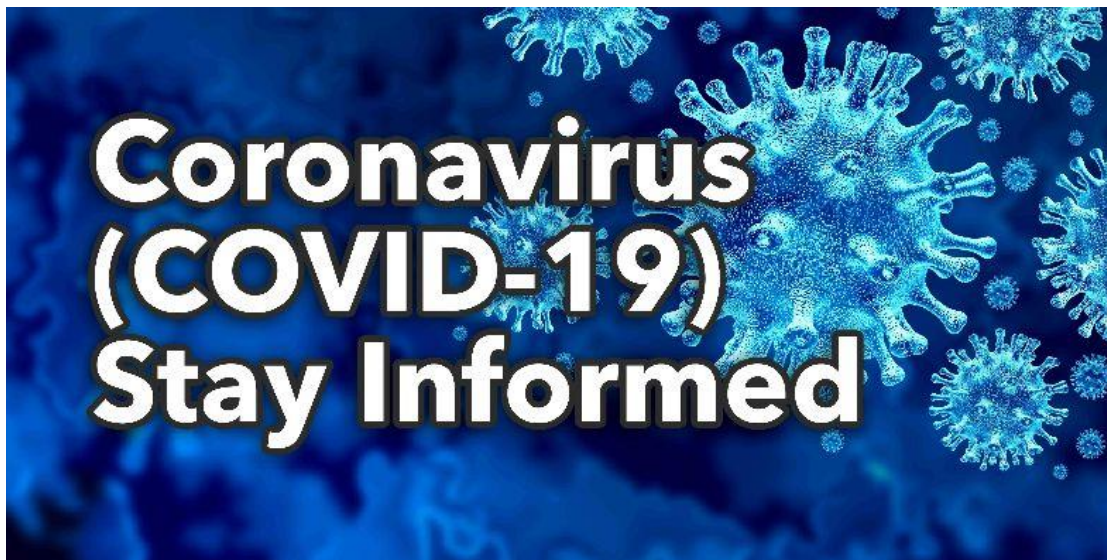
**April 2020**

## **In this month's update...**

[COVID-19 update](#), [New on NetRegs](#) [New Legislation](#), [Updates](#) and [Awards](#)

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## (COVID-19) Stay Informed



### **Covid-19 guidance and sources of support**

The NetRegs team continue to wish you and yours all the best of health. Please stay safe and follow government's advice in this difficult time.

There are a number of sources of guidance for the current situation, including:

#### **Coronavirus (COVID-19): what you need to do**

See the UK government instructions and guidance related to the Covid-19 outbreak, here:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

#### **DAERA and Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

See information from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) related to the COVID-19 outbreak, here:

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/landing-pages/daera-and-covid-19>

## Changes following the Covid-19 outbreak

### **Minister Pauses all Routine DAERA Inspections**

Minister Edwin Poots has paused all routine inspections of businesses, industry and utility services until 30 April 2020. This follows on from an earlier decision to pause routine farm inspections and is a

further response to the COVID – 19 pandemic. The position will be kept under constant review as the situation develops and a further announcement on routine inspections will be taken by 30 April 2020.

You can find out more and how this might affect you here <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/news/minister-pauses-all-routine-daera-inspections>

## **DAERA Minister urges halt to prescribed fires to aid stretched emergency services**

The Minister has urged farmers and land managers to halt all prescribed burning in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic in a bid to reduce additional pressures on Northern Ireland's emergency services.

Read more here <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/news/daera-minister-urges-halt-prescribed-fires-aid-stretched-emergency-services>

## **Minister extends NAP Derogation applications and accounts submission deadline**

The deadline for applying for a Nutrient Action Programme (NAP) derogation and submission of 2019 fertilisation accounts has been extended to 30 April 2020, Minister Edwin Poots had confirmed.

Read more here <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/news/minister-extends-nap-derogation-applications-and-accounts-submission-deadline>

## **New on NetRegs**

### **NetRegs e-learning**

NetRegs offers FREE online training providing environmental guidance on a range of topics, through interactive learning.

Topics/sectors covered include:

- Waste
- Water
- Renewable Energy
- Beyond compliance
- Septic tanks

- Construction

Each course should take no longer than 10 – 15 minutes to complete.

The NetRegs team are currently developing a number of new e-learning courses and these will be added to the learning platform in the coming weeks and months.

[Sign-up here >>>](#)

## **NetRegs Blog entry on the COVID-19 situation**

Please see our blog entry with useful links to current information and business support:

<https://www.netregs.org.uk/blog/stay-informed-coronavirus-covid-19/>

### **New Legislation**



## **Single Use Carrier Bags Charge (Coronavirus Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020**

These Regulations amend the Single Use Carrier Bags Charge Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013 so that the requirement to charge for a carrier bag does not apply to bags used solely to carry goods supplied by a seller for home delivery as part of a grocery delivery service. Such bags are exempt from the requirement to charge from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September.

You can read the Regulations in full here <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2020/56/contents/made>

## Updates

### **Right waste, right place – essential during Covid-19 crisis**

Minister Poots calls on everyone to put the right waste in the right place and ease the burden on our public health services. “By recycling correctly, putting the waste in the right bin and not dumping unwanted waste we can all play our part – it’s that simple,” said Minister Poots. The Minister also recognised those in the waste industry as playing a vital role during the coronavirus outbreak.

You can find out more here <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/news/right-waste-right-place-essential-during-covid-19-crisis>



### **Waste Regulations – temporary Covid-19 waste Regulatory Positions**

DAERA, and its Executive Agency, NIEA, are working with local authorities and the waste industry to support this essential service. It is recognised that there may be disruption to waste management services throughout the Covid-19 health crisis, and so temporary Covid-19 Regulatory Position Statements to help the waste sector during this period have been produced.

The temporary Covid-19 waste Regulatory Positions can be accessed here <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/waste-regulations-temporary-covid-19-waste-regulatory-positions>



# Policy Position Statement: Waste Management – An Essential Service



This Policy Position Statement sets out the Department's position in terms of the importance of the waste sector and workers within it during the ongoing coronavirus outbreak

Read the Policy Position Statement here - <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/policy-position-statement-waste-management-essential-service>

## Awards - Inviting for your submissions

### Susdrain 2020 SuDS Awards



These awards recognise exceptional planning, design, construction, maintenance and monitoring of SuDS. The awards invite submissions from SuDS projects from across the UK, showcasing high quality SuDS schemes - from small community projects to those on a much larger scale – under three categories, “Retrofit SuDS”, “New-build small scale SuDS” and “New-build larger scale, collective SuDS”.

An additional award, the Susdrain 2020 SuDS Champion Award, is also open for organisations and people to nominate an individual who has demonstrably gone ‘the extra mile’ to deliver and encourage the uptake of SuDS.

**UPDATE:** Recognising that other priorities have taken precedence recently, the deadline for 2020 SuDS Awards entries has been extended until 31st May 2020. The awards are free to enter and invite project submissions from across the UK. Showcase your high quality SuDS scheme and you could be our overall winner! [Find out more and enter](#)

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