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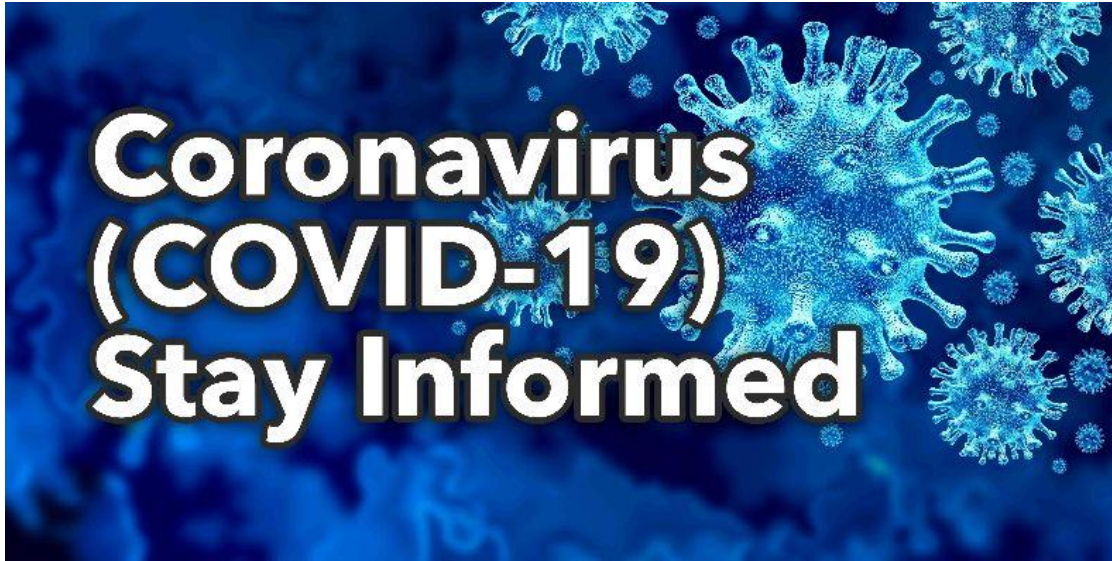


May 2020

In this month's update...

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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>

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 >>>](#)

Consultation



Climate Change Agreements scheme extension

The UK Government is seeking views on the proposal to extend the Climate Change Agreements (CCA) scheme by a further two years through the addition of a new Target Period. CCAs work by

setting targets for reducing businesses' energy use in return for discounts on the climate change levy on their energy bills. The consultation will enable new targets to be put in place from January 2021, allowing the extension of the scheme beyond its current March 2023 end date to March 2025.

In addition to extending the CCA for thousands of companies currently in the scheme, the consultation will also allow new businesses to apply to join and gain vital access to savings as of January 2021. New eligible firms wishing to join the CCA can submit applications until September 2020.

The consultation remains open until 11 June 2020

For information on the Consultation and ways you can respond see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/climate-change-agreements-scheme-extension-and-reforms-for-any-future-scheme>

New Legislation



The Direct Payments to Farmers (Crop Diversification Derogation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020

The amendment made by this instrument will exempt farmers in Northern Ireland from the need to follow crop diversification requirements during 2020.

This requirement is removed for 2020 only, in response to the recent prolonged period of wet weather particularly in February 2020.

This amendment means farmers in Northern Ireland will not be required to plant more than one crop for the 2020 Direct Payments Scheme year.

The Regulations came into operation on 30 April 2020.

[Read more here >>>](#)

The Ecodesign for Energy-Related Products (Amendment) Regulations 2020

EU Ecodesign measures introduced under the Ecodesign Directive set minimum environmental performance standards for energy-related products in order to remove the worst environmentally performing products from the market.

New and updated EU ecodesign requirements for external power supplies (e.g. laptop chargers) have applied in the UK since 1 April 2020, repealing and replacing the previous external power supplies requirements.

These Regulations make amendments so that the UK Market Surveillance Authority can enforce the new ecodesign requirements for external power supplies in the UK.

The Regulations came into force on 26 May 2020.

[Read more here >>>](#)

Updates

Guidance for Businesses Re-opening after Temporary Closure



The Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Drinking Water Inspectorate, has published guidance on maintaining Drinking Water Quality when reinstating water supplies following temporary closure. The purpose of the guidance is to provide information to those responsible for premises that have been closed for a period of time and where the water supply has not been in regular use. This will be applicable in the current situation when buildings are re-opened following a period of closure as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, but it is also relevant to a period of closure for any reason.

You can read the guidance here <https://www.daera->

[ni.gov.uk/publications/guidance-businesses-re-opening-after-temporary-closure](https://www.ni.gov.uk/publications/guidance-businesses-re-opening-after-temporary-closure)

Poots announces £360k support for aquaculture sector

Fisheries Minister Edwin Poots MLA has announced a £360,000 emergency support package for Northern Ireland's aquaculture sector.



The package aims to help aquaculture businesses that have experienced a significant drop in sales as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The aquaculture sector is a small but valuable niche market in Northern Ireland, employing around 131 people and supporting our rural communities. The scheme aims to assist producers of species like oysters and trout.

[Read more here >>>](#)

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>

Missed last month's update?

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