

Landfill and Producer Responsibility
Climate and Waste Division
Central Policy and Resources Group
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Your reference:
Our reference:
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Dear Consultee

CONSULTATION PAPER ON MEETING EU LANDFILL DIVERSION TARGETS

The Department has published a consultation paper addressing the implications of changing Northern Ireland's approach to meeting the landfill diversion targets as outlined in the Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC).

The Landfill Directive set challenging targets for Member States to reduce the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill – the “landfill diversion targets.” Following discussions with the European Commission, it has been agreed that the UK's approach to meeting these targets should be changed. This consultation addresses the implications of changing the UK's approach to meeting these targets in relation to Northern Ireland. It is intended to be the first of two consultations, with specific proposals being presented in the second consultation. At this stage we are seeking the views of stakeholders on the proposed approach in a number of areas to inform the further development of policy and legislation.

The consultation addresses the changes necessary to enable the UK to report to the European Commission on a revised approach to the landfill diversion targets. This includes setting out the new interpretation of the definition of municipal waste; revisions to the 1995 baseline and targets; and the reporting and monitoring obligations necessary to enable robust reporting against the targets to the European Commission. It also seeks views on the future of the Northern Ireland Landfill Allowance Scheme (NILAS) in addressing both the District Council and private sector elements of municipal waste and providing the necessary confidence that Northern Ireland meets its targets.

The consultation paper is available from our website at:

www.doeni.gov.uk/waste

Alternatively, if you would prefer a paper or email copy please let me know (contact details as above)

The consultation document can also be made available in large print, disc, Braille or audiocassette. It may also be made available in minority languages for those who are not proficient in English.

Textphone number 028 9054 0642

Responses are invited on the proposals by **8 October 2010**. Any comments received after that date may not be considered.

Please send any comments to me at the above address or via email to:

Catherine Torrens (until 31 July) / Paul Burns (from 1 Aug)

catherine.torrens@doeni.gov.uk / paul.burns@doeni.gov.uk

Yours faithfully,
[signed]

CATHERINE TORRENS