



Department of the
Environment
www.doeni.gov.uk

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30 August 2011

Dear Consultee,

Consultation Document on Enabling Legislation for National Parks

I am writing to advise you that the Department of the Environment has published a further consultation document in relation to national parks following the White Paper that was published in March. The document may be viewed at

http://www.doeni.gov.uk/index/protect_the_environment/natural_environment/national_parks.htm

If you are unable to access the website, please advise me of your email address and I will arrange for a version to be emailed to you.

If you do not have email facilities and prefer a hard copy, arrangements can be made to have one posted to you. You can request a copy by telephone (028 9025 4721) by fax (028 9025 6080) by textphone (028 9054 0642) or in writing. Should you require a copy of the document in an alternative format, it can be made available on request in large print, disk, Braille or audiocassette. The document may also be available on request in minority ethnic languages to those who are not proficient in English.

Background

In March of this year, prior to the Assembly elections, the Department published a White Paper on Enabling Legislation for National Parks as a first step towards bringing forward legislation to allow for the creation of national parks in Northern Ireland.

At that time the Department indicated that, following the Assembly elections, an expanded paper would be published for formal consultation. The new document includes the White Paper as an appendix for ease of reference, and the consultation period has been extended to allow for proper consideration of this new material.

Accordingly, you are invited to send your comments on the consultation document to the Department to arrive no later than Monday 31st October 2011. You may send your comments to:

Email: national.parks@doeni.gov.uk

Alternatively if you do not have access to email you can send your response to:

David Gray
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44-58 May Street
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Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Confidentiality of Consultations

The Department will publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. Your response, and all other responses to the consultation, may be disclosed on request. The Department can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. **Before** you submit your response, you are asked to read the guidance on the confidentiality of consultations at pages 4 and 42 of the consultation document. They will give you guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this consultation.

Yours sincerely

Ken Bradley

DOE Environmental Policy Division