

Item	Estimated completion Date
Public consultation on 2 pieces of subordinate legislation relating to High Hedges Fee legislation - High Hedges (Fee) Regulations and High Hedges (Fee Transfer) Regulations – consultation issued on 28 June 2011	20 September 2011
<p>Public consultation on draft guidance to support the operation of the High Hedges Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance for councils • Technical Guidance • Guidance for complainants • Guidance for hedge owners • Guide to appeals <p>Issue consultation on 16 September 2011 and close on 11 November 2011</p>	11 November 2011
<p>Analyse responses to the public consultation on fee legislation – due to the level of interest in this subject it is possible that there will be several hundred responses. Experience shows that most responses are received just before the closing date, meaning that full analysis cannot be completed to coincide with the closing date.</p> <p>Prepare synopsis of responses and assess whether amendments are required to the draft Regulations.</p> <p>Send synopsis of responses to Minister for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clearance; • agreement to publish on website; and • agreement to send synopsis of responses to Environment Committee <p>If required, provide briefing to Environment Committee on synopsis of responses</p>	End-October 2011
<p>Ministerial clearance of High Hedges (Fee) Regulations and High Hedges (Fee Transfer) Regulations</p> <p>Department of Justice and Justice Committee clearance of amending Northern Ireland Valuation Tribunal (NIVT) Rules - Appeals legislation</p> <p>Environment Committee clearance of High Hedges (Fee) Regulations and High Hedges (Fee Transfer) Regulations</p> <p>Examiner of Statutory Rules clearance of the High Hedges (Fee Transfer) Regulations (typically 3-4 weeks and is needed before the motion to approve the Regulations can be tabled)</p> <p>Assembly motion to approve the High Hedges (Fee Transfer) Regulations.</p> <p>NB Assembly in recess 17 Dec 2011 to 8 Jan 2012 with first Plenary sitting 16 January 2012 so the motion to approve the Regulations cannot be scheduled before 16th January 2012, if it cannot be scheduled before Christmas recess</p>	End-January 2012

<p>Analyse responses to consultation on guidance</p> <p>Prepare synopsis of responses and assess whether amendments are required to the draft guidance documents.</p> <p>Send synopsis of responses to Minister for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clearance; • agreement to publish on website; and • agreement to send synopsis of responses to Environment Committee 	<p>End-December 2011</p>
<p>Finalise range of guidance documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance for Councils • Guidance for Complainants • Guidance for 'Hedge Owners' • Guide to the Appeals process • Technical Guidance <p>These documents will have to be made available to councils in advance of formal training to allow them time to assess the implications and gain a good understanding of the process</p> <p>NB These documents cannot be finalised until we have certainty about the subordinate legislation</p>	<p>End-January 2012</p>
<p>Training of council officials</p> <p>Training of Northern Ireland Valuation Tribunal Members</p> <p>This can only take place after they have had time to assess the guidance documents</p> <p>Ideally the training should be as close as possible to the commencement of the legislation to ensure that council officials are confident about their role</p>	<p>End-February 2012</p>
<p>Commencement Order to commence the High Hedges Act</p> <p>High Hedges (Fee) Regulations and High Hedges (Fee Transfer) Regulations made and coming into operation</p> <p>Amending NIVT Rules (i.e.) Appeals Regulations coming into operation</p> <p>[NB Assembly Recess 31 March 2012 to 15 April 2012, first plenary sitting 16 April 2012]</p> <p>NB Councils require time to set up protocols, fee structures and adapt the suggested documentation in advance of the legislation becoming operational.</p>	<p>31 March 2012</p>