

Corporate Services Division  
Central Management Branch



Department of  
**Agriculture and  
Rural Development**

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AN ROINN

**Talmhaíochta agus  
Forbartha Tuaithe**

MÁNNYSTRIE O

**Fairms an  
Kintra Fordèrin**

Stella McArdle  
Clerk to the Committee for  
Agriculture and Rural Development  
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Our Ref:  
Your Ref:  
Date: 14 January 2016

Dear Stella,

### **Fisheries Bill Clause 6 - EU Pilot Case Conditional Decision**

The Department wishes to advise the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee that the EU Commission has now replied to the UK's letter of 24<sup>th</sup> November 2015 responding to the EU Pilot case on direct enforcement of EU rules.

The Commission has noted the indicative schedule for the completion of the Fisheries Bill process and that the Bill contains amendments to national legislation to ensure direct enforceability of EU Common Fisheries Policy rules in Northern Ireland. It also notes that the Bill is anticipated to become a fisheries Act in the first half of 2016 and that evidence of effective completion and implementation of national legislation therefore remains incomplete at present.

However the Commission goes on to say that it provisionally accepts the UK response on the understanding that the necessary amendment to the UK national legislation is implemented at the latest by 1 July 2016. It has asked the UK to notify it when the Fisheries Act, and specifically the relevant amendment to section 30 of the Fisheries Act 1981, has come into operation, and to do this before 1 July 2016. Upon receipt of this confirmation the Pilot case will be closed.

I would be grateful if you could bring this to the Committee's attention please.

Yours sincerely

**Paul Mills**  
**Departmental Assembly Liaison Officer**

If you have a hearing difficulty you can contact  
the Department via Text Relay. Dial 18002 + number

