

**From the Office of the Minister
Michelle O'Neill MLA**



Department of
**Agriculture and
Rural Development**

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AN ROINN

**Talmhaíochta agus
Forbartha Tuaithe**

MÁNNYSTRIE O

**Fairms an
Kintra Fordèrin**

William Irwin MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Agriculture
and Rural Development
Room 244, Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast, BT4 3XX
Email: Mark.O'Hare@niassembly.gov.uk

Room 438
Dundonald House
Upper Newtownards Road
Ballymiscaw
Belfast BT4 3SB
Telephone: 028 9052 4140
Email: private.office@dardni.gov.uk

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William, a chara

FISHERIES BILL

Thank you for your further letter which issued after the ARD Committee meeting on 14 December. I am again grateful to the Committee for considering my proposal that only those clauses that Members are content that they have had time to thoroughly consider, and are entirely satisfied with, will be taken forward.

I am of course disappointed that the Committee does not propose to consider other DARD provisions of the Bill besides clause 6 and any supporting clauses. As I said in my letter of 14 December, these other provisions remain important in their own right and would ensure that we comply in the longer term with EU legislation across both inland and sea fisheries and would ensure enforcement powers remain both effective and proportionate. I think industry will be less well served without these in the short to medium term but, as you say, hopefully anything that is not included now can come forward in the next mandate.

I note your suggestion that we issue a joint statement on this matter, and I am content to agree to this and for this to issue as the Bill moves to Committee Stage. I have asked my officials to liaise with Committee officials in order to bring forward a draft for consideration.

I look forward to working with the Committee in taking this matter forward.

Is mise le meas

MICHELLE O'NEILL MLA
Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development

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the Department via Text Relay. Dial 18002 + number



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