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Our Ref:  
Your Ref:  
Date: 11 December 2015

Dear Stella

**COMMITTEE MEETING 8 DECEMBER 2015 – RURAL NEEDS BILL**

Your letter of 9 December enclosed a matrix of amendments for consideration by the Department.

DARD officials have now updated that matrix to reflect the Minister's position in respect of each of the amendments (attached at Annex A).

I should be grateful if you would bring this letter to the attention of the Committee.

Yours sincerely

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

09/12/2015

**COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**RURAL NEEDS BILL**

**MATRIX OF AMENDMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION BY DARD**

**(AS REQUESTED BY THE COMMITTEE AT THE MEETING OF 08 DECEMBER 2015)**

**INFORMAL CLAUSE BY CLAUSE**

CLAUSE	AMENDMENTS	COMMITTEE COMMENTS 8/12/15	DARD COMMENTS 11/12/15
<b>Clause 1 – Duty of public authorities to consider rural needs</b>	<b>Clause 1</b> , page 1, line 2 Leave out 'consider' and insert 'due regard'	The Committee agreed to request that DARD consider an amendment to the Bill	The Minister has indicated that she wishes to support this amendment.
	<b>Clause 1</b> , page 1, lines 3 and 4 Leave out 'strategies and plans' and insert 'strategies, plans and budgets'	The Committee agreed to request that DARD consider an amendment to the Bill	The Minister has indicated that she will oppose this amendment.
	<b>Clause 1</b> , page 1, line 5 After '(b) designing and delivering public services' insert provision to mitigate against any adverse impact identified	The Committee agreed to request that DARD seek further advice on this matter and report back to the Committee 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2015	DARD issued a letter to the Clerk, Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development on 10/12/15, outlining the legal advice obtained. The Minister has indicated that she would be minded to oppose such an amendment, should the Committee propose it.
	<b>Clause 1</b> , page 1, line 9 After '(b) a district council' insert 'public bodies as laid out in Schedule 1'???	The Committee agreed to request that DARD consider an amendment adding those public bodies listed The Draft Local Government (Community Planning Partners) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 to the face of the Bill.  The Committee agreed to request DARD	The Minister has indicated that she wishes to support this amendment.,  The Minister has indicated that she is willing to support this

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	Provision to allow for a review of the public bodies listed on the face of the Bill within an agreed timeframe.	to consider an amendment to enable the list of other public bodies to be reviewed (at an appropriate and agreed timeframe).	amendment.
<b>Clause 2 – Guidance, advice and information, etc.</b>	<b>Clause 2</b> , page 1, line 19 Leave out ‘may’ and insert ‘will’	The Committee agreed to request that DARD consider an amendment to the Bill	The Minister has indicated that she is willing to support this amendment.
<b>Clause 3 – Monitoring and reporting</b>	<b>Clause 3</b> , page 2, line 12 After ‘and lay a copy of the report before the Assembly’ insert provision that requires the Minister to make an annual statement to the Assembly on the report	The Committee agreed to request that DARD consider an amendment to the Bill	The Minister has indicated that she is willing to support this amendment and wishes to propose a further amendment to insert a provision requiring the Department to publish the report.
<b>Clause 4 – Cooperation with other bodies</b>	NONE	The Committee indicated it was content with the clause as drafted.	
<b>Clause 5 - Commencement</b>	NONE	The Committee indicated it was content with the clause as drafted.	
<b>Clause 6 - Interpretation</b>	NONE	The Committee agreed to request that DARD provide it with a letter which states what its intent is regards clarification on definitions, guidance etc.  The Committee indicated it was content with the clause as drafted.	The Minister issued a letter of intent to the Committee Chair on 10/12/15.
<b>Clause 7 – Short title</b>	NONE	The Committee indicated it was content with the clause as drafted.	