



Stella McArdle
Clerk to the Committee for
Agriculture and Rural Development
Room 243
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Belfast
BT4 3XX

Dundonald House
Upper Newtownards Road
Ballymiscaw
Belfast BT4 3SB

Tel: 028 9052 4799
Email: paul.mills@dardni.gov.uk

Our Ref:
Your Ref:
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Dear Stella

RURAL NEEDS BILL – AMENDMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION STAGE

My letter of 11 December 2015 enclosed the updated matrix that reflected the Minister's position in respect of each of the amendments that had been proposed by the Committee during its informal clause by clause scrutiny of the Bill on 8 December 2015.

The Office of the Legislative Counsel has now completed the drafting of the amendments that the Minister proposes to table at Consideration Stage, subject to Executive agreement where required. There are nine amendments as some of the proposed amendments require more than one amendment or consequential amendments to be made. The proposed amendments are 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

Rural Needs Bill – amendments for Consideration Stage

Amendment 1

Long title

Leave out ‘consider’ and insert ‘have due regard to’

Amendment 2

Clause 1, Page 1, Line 2

Leave out ‘consider’ and insert ‘have due regard to’

Amendment 3

Clause 1, Page 1

Leave out lines 7 to 9 and insert ‘any body or person listed in the Schedule.’

Amendment 4

Clause 1, Page 1, Line 9

At end insert-

‘(2A) The Department must, at least every three years from the coming into operation of this section, review the list of bodies and persons set out in the Schedule and, if it thinks it appropriate, amend the Schedule to –

- (a) add a body or person to the Schedule;
- (b) remove a body or person from the Schedule; or
- (c) modify any entry in the Schedule.’

Amendment 5

Clause 1, page 1, Line 15

At end insert –

‘(4A) An order under subsection (2A) may contain such transitional provision as the Department thinks appropriate.’

Amendment 6

Clause 2, Page 1, Line 19

Leave out 'may' and insert 'must'

Amendment 7

Clause 3, Page 2, Line 8

After 'prepare' insert 'and publish'

Amendment 8

Clause 3, Page 2, Line 12

At end insert –

'(2A) The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development must, on or after the day on which the report is laid before the Assembly, make a statement to the Assembly about the content of the report.'

Amendment 9

New Schedule

After Clause 7 insert –

'Schedule

Public authorities for the purposes of this Act

A Northern Ireland department

A district council

The Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland

The Council for Catholic Maintained Schools

The Education Authority

A Health and Social Care Trust

Invest Northern Ireland

The Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service Board

The Northern Ireland Housing Executive

The Northern Ireland Library Authority

The Northern Ireland Tourist Board

The Regional Agency for Public Health and Social Well-Being

The Regional Health and Social Care Board

The Sports Council for Northern Ireland'