

TO AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

Points of concern from a family farm potentially affected by the proposed Reservoirs Bill.

- We only became aware of this catastrophe two weeks ago. We never imagined we could be in possession of a so called reservoir (we see our lake/mill dam as such and nothing else). Rivers Agency seem to be trying to get this Bill implemented under the cover of darkness. We did not know we should be contributing input to the preceding consultation.
- How can a family farm be expected to carry the ongoing cost of inspection never mind the impact of perhaps hundreds of thousands of pounds of work needed to be spent to comply? No Bank would ever lend such money for works or exorbitant inspection fees.
- European Convention of Human Rights guarantee the individuals right to property and every person is entitled to peaceful enjoyment of his possessions. It would surely be a grave mistake for the Northern Ireland Assembly to arbitrarily introduce legislation which would have the effect of bankrupting the individual by making him sell his property and losing his livelihood.
- In this consultation was there an impact study carried out on individuals such as ourselves as to the stress and heartache such as we have felt these last two weeks. It seems that there has been more consideration given to the penalties and jail sentences threatened to those who see absolutely no way of being able to implement this Bill as instructed.

This Bill is unworkable and unfair in its present form.

18.03.14

Whear Family