

COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

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Name: Dr John S. Bailey

Organisation: (if applicable) Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI)

Date: 28th July 2015

Under Part 1 (General Environmental Regulations) Section 5 – Interpretation, I have a comment to make in relation to the statement given on page 4 line 42 and continued on page 5 lines 1-2. In this statement it is indicated that the regulation will protect and **improve** the environment by (a) preventing deterioration of and enhancing the status of ecosystems. However, for this to happen, repeat assessments of ecosystem status are required to indicate whether or not change (deterioration or enhancement) has occurred. The UK National Ecosystem Assessment (pub 2011 and which included NI in Chapter 8) gave an assessment of the state of ecosystems at that time. But further on-going assessments are needed to ascertain if ecosystem statuses are deteriorating or improving over time.

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