Response ID ANON-7D6F-7C5A-7

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-05-25 18:46:33

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :
Individual

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Money will be taken from other schemes supporting farmers

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

There is enough money going to marginal land in anc areas

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Why should active lowland farmers subsidies part time wealthy farmers living in disadvantaged areas

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

If you have no money where’s it coming from?? Shaking the London money tree has stopped delivering the goods!!

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

It's a nonsense- this is not going to make any material difference

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

There is no evidence of the anc having any support in retailing livestock numbers in either the free state or Scotland.

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Disadvantaged areas have already been ruled on of the anc!! You folks don't have a clue of the basics □□

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Not Applicable

Please provide information to support your answer:

If they come in it will result in another topslice of my farm business payments and place another nail in the coffin of a suckler cow farmer

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

All land (100%)

Please provide information to support your answer:

Why not classify the whole of NI.

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

None

Please provide information to support your answer:

Another daft and loaded question

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

The farm sustainable payment and the farming for nature scheme. It really that simple

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

It will drain all the money from other scheme

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

No

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Should be 5 years +

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

More fantasy farming and shaking of the magic money tree

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

More economic illiterate comments from
The Shinners

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Should cover all land in NI including the less favoured ards

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Reconsider it all.

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Need to shake that magic money tree first

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

I think it's all crazy. Just populist illiterate nonsense from a party who have failed to deliver a single thing when in government

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Scrap the bill would be a good start

Response ID ANON-3K3W-9C9W-M

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-05-26 21:07:29

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :
[redacted]

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Fund it seperately

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

All land (100%)

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Significant

Please provide information to support your answer:

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Sheep scheme

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-3M6S-9T8Y-7

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-05-27 12:11:46

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Financial viability: Farmers in constrained areas often depend on support payments to offset lower yields and harsher conditions. Removing or weakening support could make many businesses unprofitable.
Risk of land abandonment: If farming becomes unsustainable, land may be abandoned, leading to loss of active land management and deterioration of rural landscapes.
Environmental consequences: Many of these areas deliver important public benefits such as biodiversity protection, flood management, carbon storage, and habitat conservation. Reduced support may undermine these environmental outcomes.
Impact on rural communities: Farming in constrained areas supports local employment, culture, tourism, and rural economies. Financial insecurity could accelerate depopulation and economic decline.
Long-term uncertainty: The absence of guaranteed measures makes it difficult for farmers to plan investments, succession, or environmental projects with confidence.

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Yes, financial support should be provided to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC).

Farmers in these areas face permanent disadvantages such as poor soils, steep terrain, harsh weather, remoteness, or shorter growing seasons, all of which increase production costs and reduce profitability compared with more favourable farming regions. Despite these challenges, they play an essential role in maintaining rural economies, food production, and environmental management.

Providing targeted financial support is important for several reasons:

It helps ensure the economic viability of farms that would otherwise struggle to remain sustainable due to factors beyond their control.
It supports the continued management of landscapes that are environmentally significant, including habitats, peatlands, and areas important for biodiversity and carbon storage.

It helps prevent land abandonment, which can lead to environmental degradation and the decline of rural communities.
It recognises the wider public benefits these farms provide, including flood mitigation, cultural heritage, tourism value, and stewardship of the countryside.
It gives farmers greater certainty and confidence to invest in long-term environmental and agricultural improvements.

Without dedicated support, there is a real risk that farming activity in ANC regions would decline significantly, with negative economic, social, and environmental consequences.

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

No, I would not be fully content for ANC payments to be allocated solely from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund.

Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC) face distinct and unavoidable disadvantages that are separate from the general sustainability requirements expected of all farms. If ANC payments are taken directly from the Farm Sustainability Payment budget, there is a risk that the overall funding available for wider sustainability objectives will be diluted, creating competition between basic farm support and targeted assistance for disadvantaged areas.

ANC support should ideally be provided through a dedicated and ring-fenced funding stream. This would ensure that farmers operating in more challenging environments receive fair compensation for the additional costs and reduced income associated with farming in those areas, without reducing the resources available for broader sustainability and environmental goals.

A separate allocation would also provide greater transparency, long-term certainty, and confidence for farmers in ANC regions, allowing them to plan and invest more effectively.

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

Yes, the current lack of clear financial support measures in the Bill is likely to affect how effective it is in practice.

Many of the Bill's objectives — including environmental improvement, sustainable land management, food production, and support for rural communities — depend on farmers and land managers having the financial capacity to implement changes. Without clear and reliable funding commitments, there is a risk that the policy ambitions will not translate into practical delivery on the ground.

The absence of guaranteed support creates several concerns:

Farmers may be reluctant to adopt new schemes or long-term environmental measures if future funding is uncertain.
Businesses in more vulnerable sectors, particularly those in Areas with Natural Constraints, may struggle to remain viable while meeting additional expectations placed upon them.
Uncertainty can reduce confidence, discourage investment, and make long-term planning more difficult.
The Bill may unintentionally place disproportionate pressure on smaller farms and rural communities that are already operating on narrow margins.
Environmental and sustainability targets may be harder to achieve if participation in schemes is limited by financial constraints.

For the Bill to be effective, its policy objectives need to be supported by clear, accessible, and adequately funded financial mechanisms that give farmers confidence to participate and invest in long-term

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Yes, these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC).

Farming in ANC regions is inherently more difficult and costly due to factors such as poorer soil quality, steep or fragmented land, harsher weather conditions, or remoteness. These disadvantages are structural and cannot be easily removed, meaning farm businesses in these areas typically operate with lower productivity and tighter margins than farms in more favourable locations.

Financial payments help to bridge that gap and keep agricultural activity viable. Without them, there is a higher risk that farming becomes economically unsustainable in many ANC areas, leading to reduced production or complete withdrawal from land management.

Maintaining agricultural activity in these regions is important for several reasons:

* It sustains rural economies and employment in communities where alternative opportunities may be limited.
* It ensures continued management of landscapes that are often environmentally sensitive and agriculturally marginal.

* It supports biodiversity, soil conservation, and carbon storage through active land stewardship.
* It helps prevent land abandonment, which can lead to scrub encroachment, loss of habitats, and increased environmental risk such as flooding.
* It preserves cultural landscapes and traditional farming systems that are part of rural heritage.

Overall, these payments are not just income support; they are a mechanism for ensuring that farming continues in areas where it delivers significant environmental and social value, despite natural disadvantages.

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Yes, reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC), although it would not eliminate those costs entirely.

Farmers in ANC regions face structural disadvantages that directly increase their cost base. These include poorer soil quality, steep or fragmented land, limited mechanisation opportunities, longer travel distances, and more challenging weather conditions. Because these factors reduce efficiency and productivity, the cost of producing each unit of output is typically higher than in more favourable farming areas.

An ANC payment helps in several practical ways:

Offsetting higher baseline costs: It provides financial recognition of unavoidable disadvantages, helping to narrow the income gap between ANC and non-ANC farms.
Supporting continued land management: By improving cash flow, it makes it more viable to maintain grazing, cropping, and environmental stewardship activities in marginal areas.
Reducing risk of withdrawal from farming: Without support, some farms may scale back or cease production, particularly in less profitable upland or remote areas.
Stabilising rural economies: The payment helps sustain farm businesses that underpin local supply chains, employment, and services.
Enabling environmental management: Active farming in ANC areas often delivers public goods such as habitat maintenance, flood mitigation, and landscape preservation.

However, it is important to note that ANC payments are not designed to fully cover all inefficiencies or guarantee profitability. Instead, they act as targeted compensation to ensure that farming remains viable in areas where natural conditions make production inherently more costly and less competitive.

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Yes — there is a strong rationale for having different payment levels based on the severity of natural constraints.

The basic idea behind Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC) support is to recognise that not all disadvantaged land is affected equally. Some areas face mild limitations (e.g., slightly lower soil fertility or shorter growing seasons), while others face severe, structural barriers (e.g., steep upland terrain, very poor soils, isolation, or extreme weather exposure). Treating these as a single category can lead to uneven outcomes.

A tiered system (for example, “disadvantaged” and “severely disadvantaged” land) can help in several ways:

Fairness and proportionality: Farmers facing the greatest natural barriers receive higher support because their cost disadvantages are larger and more persistent.
Better targeting of public funds: Resources can be directed where they are most needed, rather than being spread evenly across areas with very different levels of difficulty.
Reduced risk of farm abandonment in marginal areas: Severely constrained areas are most at risk of becoming economically unviable without stronger support.
Improved policy efficiency: Differentiation helps align payments more closely with actual farming conditions rather than a one-size-fits-all classification.
Recognition of real-world variation: It reflects the fact that “ANC” is not a uniform category but a spectrum of environmental and agricultural challenges.

However, any tiered system needs to be designed carefully to avoid unnecessary complexity, administrative burden, or unfair boundary effects where similar farms just inside or outside a category receive very different support.

Overall, a graduated approach is generally seen as more equitable and economically sensible than a single flat-rate payment.

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

I don’t have a farm or personal business, so it doesn’t apply to me directly.

But in practical terms, for farms operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC), these payments are often very important to financial viability, especially for livestock and upland systems. In many cases, they don’t just “top up” income — they help bridge the gap between production costs and market returns in places where farming is structurally more expensive and less productive.

Without ANC payments, many businesses in these areas would typically experience:

Much tighter margins or outright losses, particularly in marginal upland and hill farms
Reduced ability to invest in equipment, livestock, or environmental improvements
Increased risk of downsizing herd numbers or shifting away from active farming
Greater reliance on off-farm income to remain viable
In some cases, partial or full withdrawal from farming activity

So while the exact level of importance varies by farm type and location, ANC payments are generally a key stabilising element for maintaining ongoing agricultural activity in constrained areas.

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

None (0%)

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Not Answered

Please provide information to support your answer:

But in general terms, where Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC) payments have been reduced or removed, there are well-recognised potential environmental impacts, because these payments often help support ongoing land management in marginal areas.

Common environmental effects reported or anticipated include:

Reduced grazing or land management intensity: Without support, some farms reduce livestock numbers or stop active grazing, which can lead to changes in vegetation structure.
Scrub and bracken encroachment: Less active management can allow coarse vegetation to spread, reducing open habitats that support biodiversity.
Decline in habitat quality: Semi-natural habitats such as upland grasslands, heaths, and moorland can become less diverse if traditional management declines.
Loss of landscape management: Terraces, field systems, and other cultural landscapes may deteriorate without continued farming activity.
Increased risk of environmental imbalances: In some cases, land abandonment can contribute to issues like reduced grazing control, altered water runoff patterns, or higher wildfire risk in certain habitats.

It’s also important to note that impacts can vary significantly by location and farm type. In some cases, reduced farming pressure can allow natural rewilding or woodland regeneration, which may be positive for certain biodiversity or carbon objectives — but this depends on policy goals for the land.

Overall, ANC payments are often viewed as indirectly supporting environmental management, because they help sustain the farming activity that maintains many valued landscapes in constrained areas

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Yes — there are several alternative or complementary measures that could be considered alongside an ANC payment scheme, and in some cases they could strengthen or partially replace it depending on policy goals.

One important option is targeted agri-environment schemes. Instead of paying purely based on natural disadvantage, support could be more closely linked to delivering specific environmental outcomes, such as biodiversity restoration, peatland management, carbon sequestration, or water quality improvements. This can ensure public money is tied directly to measurable benefits, though it may be more complex to administer.

Another approach is results-based payments, where farmers are rewarded for achieving defined environmental indicators (e.g. species richness, habitat condition). This can encourage innovation and flexibility, but it may be less suitable for areas where outcomes are heavily constrained by natural conditions.

Income stabilisation tools, such as risk management schemes or insurance-style support, could also help farmers cope with volatility without relying solely on location-based payments. However, these tend to address market risk rather than structural geographic disadvantage.

There is also the option of enhanced support through broader farm sustainability payments, where ANC-type considerations are integrated into a wider

framework that rewards sustainable land management more holistically. This could simplify the system but risks diluting support for the most constrained areas unless carefully designed.

Finally, capital investment grants and advisory support can help farms adapt — for example, improving infrastructure, diversifying income streams, or increasing efficiency. These measures don't replace income support but can improve long-term resilience.

Overall, ANC payments address a very specific issue — structural natural disadvantage — so while alternatives can complement them, few measures fully replace their role in maintaining farming activity in the most constrained areas without some form of targeted support.

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Outdated or coarse classifications: Some mapping and classification systems may not reflect current land use, technological improvements, or changes in farming practices.
Boundary effects: Farms just inside or outside ANC boundaries can face very similar conditions but receive different levels of support, which raises fairness concerns.
Variation within categories: "Disadvantaged" and "severely disadvantaged" classifications can still mask significant differences in actual farming difficulty at local level.
Climate and environmental change: Conditions affecting productivity (such as rainfall patterns, flooding risk, or drought exposure) are evolving, and definitions may not fully account for these shifts.
Economic vs physical constraints: Some areas may now be constrained more by market access or labour availability than purely natural factors, which traditional ANC definitions may not capture well.

Because of these issues, many argue that while the ANC concept remains valid, the definition should be periodically reviewed and potentially updated, possibly incorporating more dynamic data and better reflecting real-world farming conditions.

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Improve biodiversity outcomes. The key point is that legislation sets the framework, but biodiversity gains usually come from how land is managed in practice, and that needs a mix of incentives, regulation, and local delivery.

One major approach is scaling up targeted agri-environment schemes, where farmers are paid to manage land in ways that directly benefit nature — for example restoring hedgerows, creating wildflower margins, managing wetlands, or maintaining species-rich grassland. These tend to deliver more direct biodiversity gains than untargeted area payments.

Another is landscape-scale restoration, where support is coordinated across multiple farms or landowners rather than individual holdings. Biodiversity tends to respond better when habitats are connected, so linking projects across catchments or uplands can be more effective than isolated actions.

There is also a strong case for nature networks and habitat connectivity planning, ensuring that protected sites are not left as isolated “islands” but are linked by corridors that allow species to move and adapt, especially under climate change.

Results-based payments can also play a role, rewarding farmers based on ecological outcomes (such as species presence or habitat condition) rather than just actions taken. This can encourage innovation, although it needs careful design so farmers in harder environments are not disadvantaged.

Another complementary measure is investment in advisory services and local ecological expertise, helping farmers and land managers understand what actions are most effective in their specific area. Practical guidance often makes a significant difference to uptake and outcomes.

Finally, support for nature-friendly farming systems (such as extensive grazing, mixed farming, or low-input systems) can help maintain biodiversity across wider farmland, not just in protected areas.

Overall, biodiversity tends to improve most when policy combines stable baseline support for land managers with clear incentives for targeted environmental action and good local delivery mechanisms.

Response ID ANON-8T9G-8Q2V-W

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-05-28 20:42:47

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :
[redacted]

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Not concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

The bill should only contain guaranteed financial support mechanisms if a farmer or landowner undertakes services for public benefit, and those services are delivered. A payments by results system would be sensible.

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

If specific measures are taken - yes.

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

This would encourage the focus of farming to be outside of production of food with environmental standards. Merely owning land that is lower in quality should not automatically qualify someone for additional payments.

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

Low or no delivery capability.

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Should be different depending on goods delivered.

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

75–99%

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Moderate

Please provide information to support your answer:

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Environmental and biodiversity.
Farming using low intensity systems.

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Budgetary presures

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Need to be based on actions

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Regular review is sensible

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-9T8Q-4P9P-3

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-05-28 22:34:38

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

To some Extent

Please provide information to support your answer:

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

All land (100%)

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Significant

Please provide information to support your answer:

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-4N8P-7N5Z-X

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-05-28 23:55:31

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :
[redacted]

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

It is within Deara interest too come up with the funding the hill farmers are the back bone off the farming industry especially the sheep sector

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Hill farmers are the backbone off the sheep sector we provide the store lambs for lowland farmers we work with lesser quality land in harsh weather conditions the stock are fed meal earlier in the year throughout the winter months this is a big expense every year

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

It needs too be a seperate payment not rob peter too pay Paul we need the farm sustainability payment too stay as it is

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

To some Extent

Please provide information to support your answer:

This payment still exists in Scotland it has never been taken away the farmers are getting it all along plus for every calve that is born and registered there is also a payment made per calve I feel we are being shafted here in the north off Ireland as hill farmers

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

It would indeed we could spend afew extra pond on the land for example fencing the hearse weather throughout the year is very sore on fences

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

It would definatley help with feed costs at that time off year

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

All hill farmers shud receive the sale level off payment depending on the amount off land they are farming

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

It will help with feed cost and medicine i firmly believe that sheep scab is caused because the farmers simply can't afford too buy the medicines for treating this

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

All land (100%)

Please provide information to support your answer:

190 hectares

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Significant

Please provide information to support your answer:

Sheep scab is a big problem also poor fencing if farmers could afford it im sure there would be improvements made

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

This payment come before at a time off year it was needed when hill farmers where buying in meal over the winter months

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Itshould be a seperate payment

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

No

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

6 months should be enough time the payment never should off been taken away it should be introduce with immediate affect

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

It was a big loss back then so introduce the same payment method based on the land you own and farm

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

It needs too increase yes because the cost keeps increasing yearly

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Most hill farmers stocking rate goes by how much stock the land can carry so yes this is fair

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

There is natural constraints on this type off land eg harsh weather poor quality grazing like moss and bog land

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

I would just like it coming into affect asap

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

It’s important too hill farmers the hill farming is in my opinion the hardest way too make a living with very little reward

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-7P4K-5B5T-6

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-05-29 09:09:14

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Unsure

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

All land (100%)

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Not Answered

Please provide information to support your answer:

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

Not Answered

Please provide information to support your answer:

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

Not Answered

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Not Answered

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

Not Answered

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-2T6S-9N9Q-Z

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-05-29 10:26:55

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

75–99%

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Significant

Please provide information to support your answer:

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

No

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-8Q3M-3D4C-Q

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-05-29 14:14:01

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Not sure where the money will be allocated from if there is already a big deficit in the budget

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

These are some of the least productive farms and will have the lowest profitability. Without support these areas wont be farmed and less food will be produced as a result. The communities around these areas are normally intertwined with farmers and will be hit as a result of the loss of activity in these areas.

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Farm sustainability should be for sustainble practices, ANC should be helping the farm exist

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

It will delay action and allow it to be kicked down the road

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

A lot of these farms are part time farmers, its harder to find people who want to come home after work and start another job.

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

War in Iran has sent inputs skyrocketing for fuel and fertilser. Feed costs will also increase because of this but the price that animals can be sold for wont increase with cheaper imports from other countries becoming available and keeping the price down.

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

I do so that those that need it most will get it. But very hardy to see how this will be implemented right.

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

For the amount of labour hours that has to go into the farm there just isnt a return out of it right now.

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

Less than 25%

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Significant

Please provide information to support your answer:

You just cant consider trying to change your practices when your main source of income is hardly viable

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Something similar to the beef production scheme but for sheep is important

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

If implememted it would need its own pot of money and not taken from any other scheme. Otherwise it just dilutes the otherschemes to the point they are no longer worth doing

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

They should be increased due to higher costs

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-9G3W-9U5C-G

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-05-29 23:42:34

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish in full.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

No money not much fun

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

To some Extent

Please provide information to support your answer:

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Decline in farming activity in hill areas reduced stock numbers adverse effect on rural community

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

All land (100%)

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Moderate

Please provide information to support your answer:

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Zero support for sheep farmers at present

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Need to take inflation into consideration

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-2A5V-4Q4R-9

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-05-30 21:50:16

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Farming community needs additional support

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

Less than 25%

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Significant

Please provide information to support your answer:

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

If they try to fund it by using other schemes rather than additional money

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-8X6F-7Y9Q-6

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-06-03 18:35:23

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Not concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Budgets can allow for it

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

It provides greater support for farmers who are more economically disadvantaged due to poorer quality land

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

To some Extent

Please provide information to support your answer:

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

All land (100%)

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Significant

Please provide information to support your answer:

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Grants for fencing and other items should reflect the much higher cost to install when working in anc compared to normal land

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

The sooner the better. Longer time scales or not setting one only allows the issue to be kicked down the road. Every year it would be decided that they can't do it that year due to financial budget issues other pressures. Giving a set target doesn't allow it to be missed

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Assume this would be similar to normal eligibility criteria. Minimum size holding with a cutt off at the top end.

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-3J3A-6H3U-Q

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-06-04 13:57:39

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :
[redacted]

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish in full.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

The bill obviously need to have financial support measures to support those small farmers whose farms are located on severely disadvantaged area land such as the Mournes and Slieve Croob areas for example

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

The ANC Bill presents an important opportunity to support those small farmers whose farms are located on severely disadvantaged area land such as the Mournes and Slieve Croob areas for example. These family farms are the custodians of our countryside. They maintain the landscape, support diversity, sustain local communities and produce the livestock that underpin much of our wider agriculture sector. When most people think of the Mournes and Slieve Croob areas for example they think of tourism, natural beauty and outdoor recreation. What is often overlooked is the role that local farmers play in preserving and maintaining that landscape. The Mournes were recently devestated by very extensive wild fires. These fires caused a lot of long term damage to the environment and a contributing factor to the vastness of the damage is the fact that the mountains are no longer grazed to the extent that they need to be to be to control the vegitation at a level that would not lend itself to such wild fires getting totally out of control. Supporting upland farming is not only about supporting agriculture it is about protecting rural communities, safeguarding our environment and ensuring that future generations can continue to live and work in these areas and maintain the character of such areas for future generation to enjoy.

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

No because it would be a case of robbing Peter to pay Paul to coin a well known phrase to support those small farmers whose farms are located on severely disadvantaged area land such as the Mournes and Slieve Croob areas for example. Supporting upland farming is not only about supporting

agriculture it is about protecting rural communities, safeguarding our environment and ensuring that future generations can continue to live and work in these areas and maintain the character of such areas for future generation to enjoy.

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

Yes of course it will as it will do nothing to change the way current trends in Agriculture Funding have had such an effect on farms and farming communities located on severely disadvantaged area land

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

They are just not important they are vital. Supporting upland farming is not only about supporting agriculture it is about protecting rural communities, safeguarding our environment and ensuring that future generations can continue to live and work in these areas and maintain the character of such areas for future generation to enjoy.

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Yes undoubtly so. It would also help to change farming practices to ensure that the Mournes for example would be less suceptible to fire damage as was recently seen in the area. These fires caused a lot of long term damage to the environment and a contributing factor to the vastness of the damage is the fact that the mountains are no longer grazed to the extent that they need to be to be to control the vegitation at a level that would not lend itself to such wild fires getting totally out of control.

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

The level of support should reflect the severity of natural constraints otherwise the more disadvantaged the land is will result in it becoming less and less able to not only support farming practices bot also access to such areas for recreation etc

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

Vitally Important to our members farm businesses

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

25–49%

Please provide information to support your answer:

Most of our members would be in the above category

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Significant

Please provide information to support your answer:

The farmers maintain the landscape, support diversity, sustain local communities and produce the livestock that underpin much of our wider agriculture sector. When most people think of the Mournes and Slieve Croob areas for example they think of tourism, natural beauty and outdoor recreation. What is often overlooked is the role that local farmers play in preserving and maintaining that landscape. The Mournes were recently devestated by very extensive wild fires. These fires caused a lot of long term damage to the environment and a contributing factor to the vastness of the damage is the fact that the mountains are no longer grazed to the extent that they need to be to be to control the vegitation at a level that would not lend itself to such wild fires getting totally out of control. Supporting upland farming is safeguarding our environment and ensuring that future generations can continue to live and work in these areas and maintain the character of such areas for future generation to enjoy.

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

I think an ANC payment scheme would certainly start to change thing around.
Where such payment arrangements are in place in Scotland for example they seem to be working well.

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

No it shouldn't have any effect of other schemes

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

The sooner the better

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

This would certainly be an improvement on what is in place at present

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Otherwise they become less meaningfull with time

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Again there has to be a start point of reference somewhere

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Again there has to be a starting point of reference

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Again nothing should be ruled out as change happens and legislation should reflect this on an ongoing basis

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

As soon as possible seems the only way to go

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

The bill as outlined would be a great help to our members and as such would be an improvement on the present arrangements

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Again as I have said above the bill as outlined would be a great help to our members and as such would be an improvement on the present arrangements
It really depends on the implementation of the Bill rather than it's content.
Words are very fine and are to be welcomed but its the outworking of those words and how they are implemented that is the important part of the Bill.
As such it's hard to give a definite view on potential amendments at this moment in time.

Response ID ANON-3J3A-6H3U-Q

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-06-04 13:57:39

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :
[redacted]

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish in full.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

The bill obviously need to have financial support measures to support those small farmers whose farms are located on severely disadvantaged area land such as the Mournes and Slieve Croob areas for example

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

The ANC Bill presents an important opportunity to support those small farmers whose farms are located on severely disadvantaged area land such as the Mournes and Slieve Croob areas for example. These family farms are the custodians of our countryside. They maintain the landscape, support diversity, sustain local communities and produce the livestock that underpin much of our wider agriculture sector. When most people think of the Mournes and Slieve Croob areas for example they think of tourism, natural beauty and outdoor recreation. What is often overlooked is the role that local farmers play in preserving and maintaining that landscape. The Mournes were recently devestated by very extensive wild fires. These fires caused a lot of long term damage to the environment and a contributing factor to the vastness of the damage is the fact that the mountains are no longer grazed to the extent that they need to be to be to control the vegitation at a level that would not lend itself to such wild fires getting totally out of control. Supporting upland farming is not only about supporting agriculture it is about protecting rural communities, safeguarding our environment and ensuring that future generations can continue to live and work in these areas and maintain the character of such areas for future generation to enjoy.

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

No because it would be a case of robbing Peter to pay Paul to coin a well known phrase to support those small farmers whose farms are located on severely disadvantaged area land such as the Mournes and Slieve Croob areas for example. Supporting upland farming is not only about supporting

agriculture it is about protecting rural communities, safeguarding our environment and ensuring that future generations can continue to live and work in these areas and maintain the character of such areas for future generation to enjoy.

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

Yes of course it will as it will do nothing to change the way current trends in Agriculture Funding have had such an effect on farms and farming communities located on severely disadvantaged area land

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

They are just not important they are vital. Supporting upland farming is not only about supporting agriculture it is about protecting rural communities, safeguarding our environment and ensuring that future generations can continue to live and work in these areas and maintain the character of such areas for future generation to enjoy.

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Yes undoubtly so. It would also help to change farming practices to ensure that the Mournes for example would be less suceptible to fire damage as was recently seen in the area. These fires caused a lot of long term damage to the environment and a contributing factor to the vastness of the damage is the fact that the mountains are no longer grazed to the extent that they need to be to be to control the vegitation at a level that would not lend itself to such wild fires getting totally out of control.

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

The level of support should reflect the severity of natural constraints otherwise the more disadvantaged the land is will result in it becoming less and less able to not only support farming practices bot also access to such areas for recreation etc

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

Vitally Important to our members farm businesses

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

25–49%

Please provide information to support your answer:

Most of our members would be in the above category

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Significant

Please provide information to support your answer:

The farmers maintain the landscape, support diversity, sustain local communities and produce the livestock that underpin much of our wider agriculture sector. When most people think of the Mournes and Slieve Croob areas for example they think of tourism, natural beauty and outdoor recreation. What is often overlooked is the role that local farmers play in preserving and maintaining that landscape. The Mournes were recently devestated by very extensive wild fires. These fires caused a lot of long term damage to the environment and a contributing factor to the vastness of the damage is the fact that the mountains are no longer grazed to the extent that they need to be to be to control the vegitation at a level that would not lend itself to such wild fires getting totally out of control. Supporting upland farming is safeguarding our environment and ensuring that future generations can continue to live and work in these areas and maintain the character of such areas for future generation to enjoy.

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

I think an ANC payment scheme would certainly start to change thing around.
Where such payment arrangements are in place in Scotland for example they seem to be working well.

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

No it shouldn't have any effect of other schemes

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

The sooner the better

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

This would certainly be an improvement on what is in place at present

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Otherwise they become less meaningfull with time

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Again there has to be a start point of reference somewhere

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Again there has to be a starting point of reference

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Again nothing should be ruled out as change happens and legislation should reflect this on an ongoing basis

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

As soon as possible seems the only way to go

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

The bill as outlined would be a great help to our members and as such would be an improvement on the present arrangements

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Again as I have said above the bill as outlined would be a great help to our members and as such would be an improvement on the present arrangements
It really depends on the implementation of the Bill rather than it's content.
Words are very fine and are to be welcomed but its the outworking of those words and how they are implemented that is the important part of the Bill.
As such it's hard to give a definite view on potential amendments at this moment in time.

Response ID ANON-2W5T-2S2C-C

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-06-23 13:57:07

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :
[redacted]

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Farmers need to be supported, no farmers no food

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

They have higher running costs and are at a greater disadvantage, struggling to break even running their business, all while they look after our landscape and environment

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

I think this should be an extra payment separate to FSP

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

As mentioned before it is very hard to farm in these areas, higher rainfall, poorer quality soil, very hard to make a living in these areas

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

It could pay a bill for farmers and thus help the local economy

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Yes some areas are more disadvantaged than others and the payment should reflect this

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

As mentioned before it could pay a bill for me, it could allow me to reinvest in my business to try to keep it sustainable

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

All land (100%)

Please provide information to support your answer:

I live in the sperrins

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

None

Please provide information to support your answer:

I wasn't head of holding when the payment was last paid

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Fencing schemes to protect water quality

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

I don’t think those receiving ANC should be penalised, it would defeat the purpose of the scheme

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

A long drawn out process suits no one

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

It should reflect how costs have increased between now and then

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Yes because of inflation

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

I believe this payment should on be paid to those who are genuinely trying to farm their land, not looking handy money, I think farmers should have 10 hectares minimum to receive it

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

I'm sure this has been well researched by the department

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

All areas should be under review

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

As I said before, this should be for genuine farmers, not those who do the bare minimum looking hand outs

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-5R6F-7G7P-8

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-06-23 14:38:38

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Government and Farming organisations do not seem to be prioritising ANC farmers removing payments and also cutting Single Farm Subsidies to accommodate large beef finishers who are not helping the farming economy but have added to the increase in cost of weanlings and store cattle. Pushed the prices so high as they had the free money from the government which was paid for by reducing the ordinary 7/8 ths payments This has resulted in an unsustainable price for beef cattle at the factory. Yet there is no reduction for the housewife at the butcher's. Prices out of the extreme and quality gone down

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Farms in poor ground areas need support to ensure that good sucklers can trive in a healthy rearing environment. Not pushed full of enhancers to produce premature growth
This is the type of animal that people want to rear the offspring off for fattening in a natural way in a healthy natural environment and all encouragement and support should be in place in particular financial to enable ANC farmers to do this
In fact the farmers union etc have lost the track of why these payments including ANC and Single Farm Subsidies were first introduced were to enable the farmer on poor land to make a living and be able to produce a good animal whether it be sheep or cattle. Instead they have been pushing these farmers out and increasing all support to the large farmers who are in overproduction and the house wife is no longer wanting the products of the intensive farming. It's time for the government to give their support to the small farmers and ensure that the meat we are buying in the butcher's and on the supermarket shelves is a product of Northern Ireland. We also need to ensure that the meat the same butcher's bring in from the meat factory is born reared and processed in Northern Ireland and not brought into the country for processing
The housewife now wants to know all these details before we part with our money

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

The ANC payment has to come from a separate budget. If government cuts the Farm Sustainability Payment fund anymore or adds anymore conditions to getting the payment the ordinary hard working farmer producing good clean healthy natural grown animals will get nothing. These payments were originally introduced and intended to be for the smaller farmers not intensive farming but governments have listened to the farmers unions etc pushing for the intensive farmers all the time and have been cutting The FSP from smaller farmers to suit their own agendas
However housewives are the end user at home purchasing milk meat and poultry and unless it's guaranteed local produce from start to finish we are not buying and we will travel to wherever we can get that product so as to ensure our families are getting natural food and not intensively farmed rubbish

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

Farmers in ANC areas cannot be expected to continue farming without a decent income yet the majority will hold onto the land. So it is imperative that government provides a separate budget for ANC payments and not from FSP and it's time the unions started properly representing those farmers. People want a quality piece of meat etc locally produced and definitely not from an intensive farm. And it's the ANC farmers who can produce that animal with the natural flavours from the natural grazing environment
Also the consumer is now eating less quantity but is demanding the top quality products in the butcher's with the details of where it came from with the meat.

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Common sense has to prevail and the greed of the large lowland farmers are now being seen for what they are. Producing large quantities of animals for slaughter and overproduction of milk. All of which have no quality or flavour. People now want a natural source of milk and meats and are prepared to travel and bulk buy to get that product We need more farm shops selling local produce

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Given the poor ground and harsher weather conditions on ANC soil payments will undoubtedly aid with alleviating production costs

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

As previously paid in earlier schemes the SDA and DA need to be separate with a higher payment to those in SDA areas. Common sense has to prevail in that the poorest ground needs the most financial support. This was why the subsidies were introduced and intended for the farmers it the pressure from large farmers and their representatives removed practically all payments to them. And I believe will continue to do so in the terms of unbelievable greed not need. Disregarding the high quality of the animals reared on SDA and DA ground

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

Farming on SDA and DA ground takes a lot more time work and costs to produce grass silo and grazing than the costs to the lowland farmers yet this has largely been ignored by the farming industry and their representatives to government
It's time for change. The housewife does not want produce from an intensive farm anymore and will go as far as to say it's not a healthy product

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

Don't know / unsure

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Significant

Please provide information to support your answer:

A loss in income

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

The ANC payments need to be reinstated as SDA and DA and paid accordingly and given there separate budget and not taken from the SFP

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

As with SFP it should be planned and done in a way that it works alongside other farming and environmental schemes as the previous SDA and DA schemes worked before everything was focused on supporting the lowland intensive farmers at the expense of the farmers in ANC areas

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

If the scheme is acceptable to the farmers in the ANC areas including timescales there should be no problems

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Definitely not I believe the payment levels need to increase as we are now 8 years on from 2018 and costs have risen considerably in the past 8 years. The least they need to rise is the percentage increase in the price index over the last 8 years to the current 2026 levels

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Common sense has to prevail in that if the end user wants a natural high quality locally produced meat product the costs of production will increase annually

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Providing this work alongside other farming schemes

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Unsure

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-2D2B-4M7V-R

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-06-23 16:35:48

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :
[redacted]

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Just concerned where the funding for the scheme comes from?

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Living and working in anc is a very difficult task.Longer housing period for livestock which adds to more feed costs and labour.

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

That would be robbing Peter to pay Paul!! When we receive that money before that was an additional payment

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Not at all

Please provide information to support your answer:

Not sure about the question sorry

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Employment plays a role in anc be it full time or part time.Farming in rural hill areas is a way of life and protecting nature at the same time.

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Without a doubt,As I said earlier cost of living keeps rising so every scheme available is welcome

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Absolutely severely disadvantaged land needs more help with the limited amount of options available

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

Cash flow to keep the farm afloat in difficult times

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

All land (100%)

Please provide information to support your answer:

[redacted]

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Significant

Please provide information to support your answer:

Long wet winters providing shelter and housing animals to protect soil from erosion through trampling is one of many reasons

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Maybe some sort of scheme to help provide housing and shelter for livestock helping protect the environment

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

No it shouldn't the anc was always an important payment in years gone by and that helped alot in the way the countryside looks today

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

No

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

It should be reinstated as soon as possible plus a back payment from which it was illegally taken from us

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Not Answered

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Not Answered

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-8X6F-7Y6V-8

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-06-23 16:44:18

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :
[redacted]

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

75–99%

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Significant

Please provide information to support your answer:

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-9A5R-5X3D-5

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-06-23 17:02:35

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Particularly with the reduction in SFP if you are a sheep farmer. Cant access 17 percent available to beef and suckler farmers

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

As above. Parity for sheep farmers

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

Less likely to happen

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Difficult farming and continuing with current difficulties and costs. Little prospects for young farmers

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Target those most in need

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

With the introduction of the sap, funding will continuously be moved from the severely disadvantaged areas

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

All land (100%)

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Moderate

Please provide information to support your answer:

No environmental investment due to lack of funds

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

ANC payments would reduce the need for intensification and benefit the environment

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Too many people /groups involved. Slows decision making

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Why would you not?

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-2W5T-2S2J-K

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-06-23 17:59:59

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :
[redacted]

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

All land (100%)

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Significant

Please provide information to support your answer:

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-6M9E-2B6E-G

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-06-23 20:56:25

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish in full.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Not concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Not at all

Please provide information to support your answer:

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

[redacted]this year from September to June at a very significant cost which is not reflected in the sale of livestock. The cost of keeping a suck cows is significantly higher that a farmer in ghe lower laying land

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

All land (100%)

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Significant

Please provide information to support your answer:

It's was the boost that took the burden of feeding over a long winter. It it boosted the local coummity because farmers where fit to pay bills but meal fertilizer etc

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

So many farmers in ANC areas where left behind from the mountain and the wetlands of Fermanagh northern ireland. The reinstatement of ANC would bring these farmers on to a more leave footing with the rest of the farming community.

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-7P4K-5B4A-J

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-06-23 22:04:09

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish in full.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

The LFA should never of been taken off farmers, the payments should be put back before farmers in rural areas and less productive ground are all gone.

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Without this payment the smaller hill farm's will not be profitable and the young will not want to stay on the farm.

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

The payments should be taken from the large farms that have got the largest payments and give them an unfair advantage.

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

There needs to be a package of support set aside especially for this bill..

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

If we don't act now the young farmers will move away to the city's or abroad to afford to rear a family.

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Yes

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

I think it should be based on your government subsidies and a limit set.

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

It would maybe change my mind, at the minute I don't think their is a future in a small farm.

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

All land (100%)

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Significant

Please provide information to support your answer:

It's been a big loss of income

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

It should be taken from the big farms getting massive subsidies

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

No

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

It should be done now.

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

It should be in line with inflation since then.

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

There should be a limit depending on the size of your sfp

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

Not Answered

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-5R6F-7P8G-9

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-06-23 22:18:37

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :
N/A

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish in full.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

25–49%

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Significant

Please provide information to support your answer:

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Probably will but shouldn't

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-4Y7Y-8D5V-4

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-06-23 22:23:24

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Unsure

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

Not Answered

Please provide information to support your answer:

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

All land (100%)

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Moderate

Please provide information to support your answer:

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

Not Answered

Please provide information to support your answer:

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

No

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

Not Answered

Please provide information to support your answer:

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Not Answered

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Not Answered

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-9F9E-6S2B-T

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-06-23 22:53:50

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

All farmers in these areas require this support

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

We are a farming family and have been at a great disadvantage in the [redacted] We have extra fertiliser to buy to ensure growth of our winter feeding supply therefore there is extra cost due to living in an ANC area. We need the support especially with the ongoing rises in Fertiliser Diesel and other dry forages used for feeding.

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Any support is welcome

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

Due to the ongoing costs mentioned above to sustain farming families and their businesses

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

As above

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

As above. We have extra difficulty getting grass and other food supplies to grow in ANC therefore we need extra support.

Also due to weather constraints our cattle could not get out of the shed till June whereas in other areas they are out in February. This means we need to supply silage round bales and dry forages to keep them in good health and productive on a healthy basis

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

It should be equal based on need.
When SFP was brought up and evened up it was better for all families

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

As above

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

All land (100%)

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Significant

Please provide information to support your answer:

We have less money to provide or introduce environmental protections

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

No

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

This needs to be quicker
Farming families in these areas require this support urgently

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Inflation and costs are higher at present significantly since 2018 the rates set must reflect this in the support

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-9A5R-5X9V-W

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-06-24 04:42:14

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :
[redacted]

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Not concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Not concerned as I feel this is the first step in the right direction towards reinstating the payment.

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

As ANC areas are the most inefficient areas to operate in

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Allocating this from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund, would be my second option to a separate fund, but if so, it would mean that it helps to even the playing field

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

With current costs, constraints and struggle to meet margins, this may save some family farms. More so even help them to invest for a more environmentally sustainable farm.

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Yes as cost currently are stretched too high to produce food

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Significantly depends on the level of payment

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Yes, but i also believe there should be a reassessment of DA and SDA

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

It would be a step towards my farm business surviving

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

All land (100%)

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Significant

Please provide information to support your answer:

Since the cessation of the payment, my farm his not made a profit, leaving me unable to invest in natural habitat development on my land.

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Yes, there should be stronger measurements towards natural habitat development

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

I believe it would help encourage development and that ANC payment should be part of environmental support schemes

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

This act must be efficient and not be dragged out, we have lost the ANC payment for long enough

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

It needs reassessed

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

There are areas currently viewed as ANC should be reconsidered and non ANC

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-3K3W-9Y8X-A

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-06-25 15:57:10

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :
[redacted]

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

75–99%

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Significant

Please provide information to support your answer:

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Needs to have risen with inflation

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Should be on holding now

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Farmers in these areas need additional funding to help keep farms profitable. Especially those that graze mountains and reduce the fire risk

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-5V9G-8V6P-Y

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-06-27 10:02:13

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :
[redacted]

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

50–74%

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Significant

Please provide information to support your answer:

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

No

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-9T8Q-4C8S-R

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-06-29 15:05:18

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Where is the money coming from? This has to be in addition to the current FSP payment and not a reduction in FSP entitlement values as seen with other schemes.

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

This must be in addition to the current FSP payments

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

To some Extent

Please provide information to support your answer:

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

All land (100%)

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Moderate

Please provide information to support your answer:

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-6P8P-7W7E-R

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-06-29 16:43:45

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

75–99%

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Significant

Please provide information to support your answer:

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-9B4H-6K6G-N

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-06-29 18:40:05

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

It was stopped before without any reason

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

The land is more difficult to make a living from yet we provide the raw material for the beef and sheep finishers

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

It's all needed

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

To many young people leaving the land

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

All land (100%)

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Moderate

Please provide information to support your answer:

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-3H8Q-4G6A-P

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-06-29 20:59:05

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

50–74%

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Significant

Please provide information to support your answer:

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-8T9G-8Q6X-3

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-06-29 23:07:07

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Hill farms especially sheep farms have had no schemes for a long time but are lossing parts of their oayment to give to beef farms and feed lots who can get as big a payment as they want with no cap. Even crop farmers sre getting paid to retain winter stibble while hill farmers get nothing for enivironmental schemes

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Yes and the moneg is there vecause 5 million was given to rathlin island for birds.

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

No this needs to be from a different fund and it depebds on the payment amount. Another payment taken out of the fsp fund would be robbing peter to pay paul.

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

Seinn feinn are talking about it but thef fail to nention what is the amount paid

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Keeps stock on hill land and will help stop gorse fires

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Livestock on hill land need more feed produce a later kamb that always doesnt get top prices

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Mskes it fairer

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

Would help with feed costs and pur hases of breeding rams

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

All land (100%)

Please provide information to support your answer:

Its all disadvantaged. Bog and high grazing. Put a lowland farmer there for a year it would give him depression.

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Significant

Please provide information to support your answer:

I havnt invested much for years no macjinery no sheds no spsre money and rising costs

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

A proper enivironmentak scheme for lower stocking rates.

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Ehy would it it never did before

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

No

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

It needs bought in immediatly because the DUP took it off immediatly and i wonder wss it a green orange issue on yheir thinking.

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

It needs to be in line with inflation

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

It makes sense.

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Why are hill farmers capped alk the time. Its like they are second class

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Land stays the same so does sea levels

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Only the mapping people know this

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Why should it not. The DUP needs to explain why it was taken off.

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

This paymdnt should never of being taken away. It seems to be used as a arguement between seinn feinn and DUP. The DUP must explain with the ufu why they both wanted it removed and was it a sectarian issue.

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-5Y5T-2F7B-8

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-06-29 23:17:32

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

It is a serious struggle hill farming and this additional support which we had previously is badly required

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Our working environment is a lot harsher than the low lands for example our cattle don’t get turned out to May as opposed to low land cattle turned out in February/March which adds significant feed costs to the hill farmer

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Can not be taking money from one scheme to use on another. A separate payment like previously should be appplied

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

I am a young farmer and if we received this payment it would mean that I could expand or modernise the farm

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

We always used this money previously to purchase fertiliser and feed around spring time, when the payment was retracted it was a struggle to come up with those funds and our wage reduced

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

No it should be all treated as one

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

To buy fertiliser and feed and modify the farm to make it a safer work place

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

All land (100%)

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Significant

Please provide information to support your answer:

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Yes, a sheep headage scheme similar to our counterparts in south ireland

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

No it should always be a separate payment solely to aid those farmers in struggling farming communities

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

No

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

We should have this payment by next spring which is 9 months

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

To keep our rural hill farming communities in operation this is a must need payment. I am a [redacted] farmer and one of very few my age in the industry. I wish it was more profitable business as it is a great way of life and with payments like the ANC it brings that sought after way of life a little bit closer to grasp.

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-3C5V-4N5D-V

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-06-30 00:09:20

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

I farm a small holding that has created an [redacted] I should get financial help to allow me to maintain this area

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

As above in 1st question

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

We need additional funding

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

If I do not get financial assistance how can I maintain this area to the current standards

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

As previous answers

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

My holdin[redacted]There's only a few in northern ireland. I need additional funding to help maintain it

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

All land (100%)

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Significant

Please provide information to support your answer:

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional financial help and dedicated support

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

It likely will but it should not. It should be totally separate

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Absolutely not we are now in 2026. Really need to get real with the support

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

What ever is best to support these important areas

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

A review of what's included and how much financial support is provided should be looked at

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-2E4H-6U5K-X

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-06-30 05:26:04

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

As farmers, we need guaranteed and published funding in order to plan and make ongoing investment in our farms. This directly impacts upon the production of food and environment.

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Definitely. We are in a situation where almost every farmer in these areas, along with their spouses/partners, are working nearly fulltime off farm in order to sustain the farm and their homes. This is a ridiculous situation. We cannot sustain this.

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

This money needs to be ringfenced, guaranteed and published. It cannot be lumped in to other payment funds. "Robbing Peter to pay Paul"comes to mind.

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

What has happened since ANC and LFA payments stopped is no longer sustainable. Farming families all working off farm to try and cover cost of production. Everyone is making money out of farmers and farming except the farmers. Young people have left and continue to leave rural communities.

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Yes. Who else works 2 jobs to sustain one job? This is completely unsustainable that farmers and their families are working multiple jobs to stand still. Why gave government no focus or concern around food production and food security?

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Yes, absolutely. We are currently subsidising our farms in these areas from off farm income. Households cannot afford this any longer.

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Farming Severely disadvantaged land has significant costs that disadvantaged and arable land does not. For example, we are now housing cattle for up to 8 months each winter given increased rainfall in these areas. These areas produce the majority of ur beef and lamb!

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

I work fulltime off farm and so does my wife. We also work another 50hrs per week on the farm whilst raising 3 young children. It takes all of our wages just to run the house now and we are getting the farm into more debt just to stand still.

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

All land (100%)

Please provide information to support your answer:

All of my land falls into ANC.

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Moderate

Please provide information to support your answer:

I am doing more travel for off farm employment, as well as wife, in 2 diesel cars, just to sustain the farm.

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Farmers need rewarded for the food they produce, not the acres they farm. Getting paid for mountains that produce next to nothing, where no money is circulated back into the economy through draining, reseeding, liming etc is ridiculous. ANC field farming needs the financial help, take the money away from those farmers who have hundreds of acres of mountains but with bare minimum of sheep on them.

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

I cannot see the correlation.

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

We need urgent support.

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

But we need to allow for inflation

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Inflation us happening with all input costs, therefore of course.

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

But do not be paying for hundreds of actes of mountains that produce nothing. This needs to be targeted at field farmers.

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

We need to focus on field farmers. Those with huge average of miubtains are already receiving large sums of ANC payment

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

.

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

.

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Farm families, that are working off farm to try and keep the farm going need urgent assistance

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

None I can think of

Response ID ANON-6H9G-8Z4W-U

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-06-30 06:35:21

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :
[redacted]

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

How to they expect those families and businesses to survive in areas so remote at times and dealing with really restrictive conditions. We don't want to lose this culture or traditions.. they have value in our society.

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

We need these cultures and traditions respected and kept and help to flourish

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

I feel this is more of a rural heritage issue and should be under that umbrella if there even is one. This needs financial support.

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

It's getting tougher and with no incentive or support the traditional farming systems in these areas will disappear and that would be awful to society. We can't keep letting our culture and traditions disappear.

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

It would be a life line to some of those farming in anc

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

This would be fair and trust way of doing it

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Not Applicable

Please provide information to support your answer:

Although our land is on assi, I am not sure if it is considered an area of constant, although it very much is when it comes to what we can do on our own land.

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

Don’t know / unsure

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Moderate

Please provide information to support your answer:

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

It shouldnt if done right

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Feels it should be more

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

This makes sense

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-9A5R-5X7A-6

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-06-30 07:02:37

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :
[redacted]

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

It is important to secure funding to ensure farms are kept going in these poorer areas

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

We are at a disadvantaged with our poorer ground and it takes more money to keep our farm going

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

I think it would leave it a more level playing ground

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

To some Extent

Please provide information to support your answer:

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

75–99%

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Significant

Please provide information to support your answer:

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-8Q3M-3D7J-1

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-06-30 12:32:39

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

I as a farmer would not be happy with this, if it takes money out from the existing budget for farmers

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

This should not be reintroduced at the expense of other farmers

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

If it takes money out of my business to fund this now you ld not be happy

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

None (0%)

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

None

Please provide information to support your answer:

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Take money out of the same budget just to fund other farmers

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

No

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Why? The single farm payment does not increase by that amount so why should this

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Not a fair system to take money out of budget to other farmers and then increase it every year, when other farmers are struggling and get no uplift in their payments every year

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-3J3A-6D8K-E

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-06-30 13:50:23

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :
[redacted]

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

We do not want the funding coming off Farm Sustainability Payment

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

The uplands are survival for mostly small family farms, where young people are leaving to work elsewhere

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Farmers have already lost 17% of FSP, it will soon not be worth applying for

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

We do not need another raft of rules for ANC for pin money

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Winters long, heavy rainfall, heavy land give upland farmers a major disadvantage to farms in the lowland areas

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

It would certainly assist with extra costs incurred

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

If it is disadvantaged at all .....it should all attract the same payment

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

Very important due to higher costs, weather conditions and late growth.
Cattle require more winter forage and feed for animals which results in small margins

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

All land (100%)

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Moderate

Please provide information to support your answer:

There are less repairs and maintenance carried out to to high costs with stock

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Yes assistance with fertility issues in herds.

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

They should all complement each other

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Yes it will also take farmers 12 months to prepare

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Complete waste of time and finance when costs have almost double in that time

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Yes should be index be linked

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Things have changed alot since 2018 and the current ANC should reflect that change. Less suckler cows, less beef bred cattle.

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

The area would be worth revising based on climate temperature and land quality

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Yes good to move fast

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-6S7Y-8R9T-G

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-06-30 13:46:07

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :
[redacted]

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish in full.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

The absence of guaranteed funding creates uncertainty for farm businesses and undermines confidence in the scheme. A statutory requirement to establish regulations is welcome, but the effectiveness of the Bill will ultimately depend upon long-term, ring-fenced funding. Without a clear financial commitment, farmers cannot make informed business or environmental management decisions.

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Farmers in Areas with Natural Constraints face permanent natural disadvantages, including poorer soils, steep terrain, higher rainfall and shorter growing seasons, which increase production costs and limit productivity. Financial support is therefore justified to help ensure these farms remain economically viable and continue producing high-quality food.

Beyond supporting farm businesses, active farming in ANC areas delivers a range of wider public benefits. Well-managed grazing livestock help maintain vegetation at sustainable levels, reducing the build-up of coarse grasses, heather and scrub that can become fuel for wildfires. Active farming also contributes to biodiversity, carbon storage, water quality, landscape conservation and the vitality of rural communities.

Achieving these outcomes depends on appropriate stocking densities. Under-grazing can allow excessive vegetation to accumulate, increasing fuel loads and wildfire risk, while over-grazing can damage sensitive habitats, expose soils, reduce biodiversity and weaken the long-term resilience of upland landscapes. ANC payments should therefore support sustainable, evidence-based grazing management that strikes the right balance for both farming and the environment.

Without appropriate support, there is a greater risk of reduced grazing, land abandonment and the accumulation of unmanaged vegetation, increasing the likelihood and severity of wildfires, particularly during prolonged dry periods. Recent wildfire incidents across Northern Ireland have highlighted the importance of maintaining active land management in upland and marginal areas.

ANC payments should therefore be viewed as an investment not only in agricultural production but also in the resilience of rural landscapes, supporting sustainable grazing systems that deliver environmental, economic and social benefits.

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

ANC payments compensate for permanent natural disadvantages and should not come at the expense of basic income support available to all active farmers. If funded entirely from the Farm Sustainability Payment budget, many businesses would effectively see support redistributed rather than increased.

Countryside Alliance Ireland believes DAERA should seek additional funding or ensure that the ANC scheme is financed separately so that both objectives can be achieved.

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

Without guaranteed funding, the legislation risks becoming largely symbolic. Farmers require certainty that payments will be available if the regulations are introduced.

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Many livestock farms in upland and disadvantaged areas operate on narrow profit margins. ANC payments help sustain grazing livestock, preserve permanent pasture and maintain active farming in areas where alternative land uses are limited.

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Input costs, including feed, fertiliser, fuel and machinery, have increased significantly in recent years while farmers in ANC areas often experience lower stocking rates and reduced output potential. ANC payments help offset these unavoidable disadvantages.

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

A tiered approach reflects genuine differences in farming difficulty and ensures support is targeted fairly. Farmers operating in severely disadvantaged areas generally incur greater additional costs and should receive correspondingly higher payments.

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

For individual respondents this should reflect personal circumstances.

From an organisational perspective:

ANC payments remain an important component of farm resilience and business confidence across many livestock farms in Northern Ireland.

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

None (0%)

Please provide information to support your answer:

N/A

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

None

Please provide information to support your answer:

N/A

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

ANC payments should sit alongside wider measures including:

Investment grants for hill and upland farms.
Support for environmental land management.
Incentives for peatland restoration where appropriate.
Predator and wildlife management where legally appropriate.
Improved rural infrastructure, including broadband and road access.
Measures that encourage young farmers to remain in disadvantaged areas.

ANC support should complement, not replace, other environmental and productivity schemes.

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

ANC payments address natural disadvantage whereas environmental and productivity schemes reward additional actions or investment. These schemes have different objectives and should operate alongside one another.

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Twelve months provides sufficient time to develop regulations while ensuring farmers are not subjected to unnecessary delay. Given that Northern Ireland operated an ANC scheme previously, much of the administrative framework already exists.

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Using the previous scheme provides a sensible baseline and continuity for farmers while avoiding unnecessary disruption.

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Index-linking is essential if payments are to retain their real value over time. Without annual uprating, inflation would steadily erode the effectiveness of the scheme.

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

The previous eligibility rules provide a practical starting point and are familiar to both farmers and DAERA. However, there should also be periodic review to ensure they remain appropriate and do not unintentionally exclude genuine active farmers.

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

The existing definition provides consistency with current legislation and offers continuity for farmers.

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Periodic evidence-based review is appropriate to ensure all genuinely disadvantaged land is correctly classified. Any review should be transparent, science-based and undertaken in consultation with affected landowners and farming organisations.

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Early commencement is welcomed as farmers have already experienced several years without ANC support.

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Countryside Alliance Ireland believes active farming is fundamental to maintaining Northern Ireland's countryside. Family farms in disadvantaged areas underpin local communities, support rural employment, preserve traditional landscapes and deliver significant environmental benefits. The reintroduction of ANC payments would represent an important investment in the long-term sustainability of these areas.

The Bill should therefore be supported, accompanied by adequate long-term funding and integrated into a wider rural development strategy that values both food production and environmental stewardship.

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Countryside Alliance Ireland recommends consideration of the following amendments:

Include a statutory commitment that DAERA must maintain a dedicated budget for ANC payments.
Require periodic independent review of payment rates and ANC designations.
Ensure payment rates remain indexed to inflation as a minimum.
Provide for regular consultation with farming and rural stakeholder organisations before significant changes are made.
Include a requirement to assess the impact of the scheme on rural communities, agricultural viability and environmental outcomes every five years.

These amendments would strengthen certainty for farmers while ensuring the scheme remains responsive, transparent and effective over time.

Response ID ANON-2T6S-9W2U-6

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-06-30 15:10:11

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :
[redacted]

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish in full.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

I am concerned that the Bill currently contains no guaranteed financial support measures, as this creates uncertainty for farmers operating in Areas of Natural Constraint (ANC). Farms in these areas already face higher input costs, lower productivity, and greater exposure to weather and terrain limitations. Without a clear funding commitment, it is difficult to plan investment, maintain stock levels, or sustain long-term viability.

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Financial support is essential to ensure the viability of farming in ANC areas. These farms play a critical role in food production, rural employment, and landscape management but operate at a natural disadvantage. Payments help offset higher costs and prevent land abandonment.

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Using the Farm Sustainability Payment fund could be appropriate, provided it does not dilute existing supports for lowland farms. Any reallocation must ensure fairness and maintain overall sector stability.

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

Without funding, the Bill risks being ineffective in practice. Policies alone will not sustain farming in ANC areas—financial backing is required to achieve real outcomes.

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

ANC payments are important in maintaining agricultural activity in marginal areas. Without them, there is a risk of reduced stocking levels, land abandonment, and loss of rural communities.

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Reintroducing ANC payments would help offset higher production costs such as feed, transport, and labour. This would improve farm resilience and sustainability.

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

A tiered system is appropriate, as land classified as severely disadvantaged faces greater challenges than moderately disadvantaged land. Payments should reflect these differences to ensure fairness.

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

ANC payments are often a key part of farm income in marginal areas. Without them, many farms would struggle to break even, particularly small and family-run operations.

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

75–99%

Please provide information to support your answer:

The majority of land operated falls within ANC classification, meaning farm performance is heavily impacted by natural constraints such as soil quality, rainfall, and terrain.

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Moderate

Please provide information to support your answer:

The loss of payments has reduced investment in land management, which may lead to poorer grassland quality, reduced biodiversity management, and lower stocking densities.

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional measures could include targeted environmental schemes, upland-specific grants, or capital support for infrastructure improvements such as fencing, drainage, and farm access.

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

ANC payments should complement, not restrict, access to other schemes. Farmers in these areas should still be eligible for environmental and productivity supports.

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

A 12-month timeframe is appropriate as it ensures that the introduction of ANC payment regulations is not unnecessarily delayed. Farmers in Areas of Natural Constraint require clarity and financial certainty as soon as possible to make informed business decisions. However, it is also important that the Department uses this time effectively to design a fair and practical scheme that reflects the needs of farmers operating in disadvantaged areas. Timely implementation alongside proper consultation and planning is essential to ensure the scheme is both workable and effective.

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Starting payment levels in line with the 2018 ANC Regulations is a fair and practical baseline, as these rates were previously accepted and understood by farmers. This provides continuity and avoids creating an immediate funding gap. However, it is important that these rates are reviewed regularly to reflect current cost pressures and inflation.

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Linking payment increases to the price index is essential to ensure that payments retain their real value over time. Input costs such as feed, fertiliser, fuel, and labour have risen significantly in recent years, and without indexation, support payments would quickly become inadequate. This approach provides a fair and transparent method of maintaining support levels.

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Using the eligibility criteria from the 2018 Regulations provides a clear and established framework that farmers are already familiar with. This helps ensure ease of implementation and reduces administrative complexity. However, there should be some flexibility to review thresholds where necessary to ensure that genuinely active farmers in ANC areas are not excluded due to changes in farm structure or land use since 2018.

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

The current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints provides a consistent and established basis for identifying disadvantaged land. It reflects factors such as poor soil quality, terrain, and climate, which directly impact farm productivity. Maintaining this definition ensures continuity and avoids confusion, particularly for farmers who have previously operated under the same framework. However, it should remain under periodic review to ensure it continues to accurately reflect changing conditions.

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

There should be provision to review and, where necessary, update ANC designations. Farming conditions can change over time due to climate, land use, and environmental factors, meaning some areas may no longer accurately reflect their classification. A review process would help ensure fairness, so that

all genuinely disadvantaged areas receive appropriate support while also maintaining confidence in the scheme.

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Immediate commencement is important to avoid further uncertainty for farmers in ANC areas. Delays in progressing the Bill into action could place additional strain on already vulnerable farm businesses. Starting the Act straight after Royal Assent ensures momentum is maintained and signals a clear commitment to delivering support as quickly as possible.

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

The Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC) Payments Bill is a welcome and necessary step towards supporting farmers who operate under inherent and unavoidable disadvantages. These farm businesses play a vital role in food production, environmental management, and sustaining rural communities, yet face consistently higher costs and lower productivity due to factors outside their control.

To ensure the success of the Bill, it is essential that long-term, ring-fenced funding is secured so that farmers can have confidence in the continuity of support. Payment rates should be regularly reviewed and linked to inflation to ensure they remain meaningful in the face of rising input costs.

It is also important that the scheme is designed to be straightforward and accessible, avoiding unnecessary administrative burden, and that it works alongside other agricultural and environmental schemes rather than limiting access to them.

Ultimately, the effectiveness of the Bill will depend on how quickly and practically it is implemented. With the right level of commitment and resourcing, the ANC payment scheme has the potential to significantly improve the resilience and sustainability of farming in disadvantaged areas.

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Guaranteed funding: Provide clear, ring-fenced financial support.

Regular payment reviews: Ensure payments reflect real costs, not just inflation.

Flexible eligibility: Allow adjustments over time to reflect changes in farming.

Review land classification: Keep ANC designations accurate and fair.

Ensure timely implementation: Avoid delays in delivering support.

Align with other schemes: Ensure compatibility with environmental and farm supports.

These amendments would improve certainty, fairness, and long-term sustainability.

Response ID ANON-2T6S-9W2H-S

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-06-30 16:23:34

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Not at all

Please provide information to support your answer:

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

All land (100%)

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

None

Please provide information to support your answer:

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-5X2B-4E6C-K

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-06-30 16:41:05

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Not concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

All land (100%)

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Significant

Please provide information to support your answer:

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-5X2B-4E6R-2

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-06-30 21:05:00

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

To some Extent

Please provide information to support your answer:

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

75–99%

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Significant

Please provide information to support your answer:

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-8T9G-8Q7Z-6

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-06-30 22:39:30

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

Not Answered

Please provide information to support your answer:

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

All land (100%)

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Significant

Please provide information to support your answer:

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

All costs have got very high

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-3H8Q-4P8A-1

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-06-30 23:17:49

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish in full.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

ANC needs prioritised to support farmers in less disadvantaged areas

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Farmers are struggling in areas such as the hills and poor ground

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Hill farmers need all the support they can get

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

To some Extent

Please provide information to support your answer:

Money needs ring fenced for ANC payments

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

This is paramount as Hill farmers are a vital part of our Community and face the harshest conditions

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Yes, this would enable hill farmers to be more productive

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Of course severely disadvantaged areas means it is harder to make an income and there needs to be equality

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

Without the anc payment being reinstated we will lose our hill farmers resulting in higher costs to the consumer

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

50–74%

Please provide information to support your answer:

Land is very hilly and not easily accessible

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Significant

Please provide information to support your answer:

I haven't been able to upgrade or sustain the land

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

I feel the anc scheme is the only measure which will alleviate hardships for hill farmers

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

No, farms with better ground are thriving whereas disadvantaged areas are striggling

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

I feel this is more than adequate timeline

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Yes, this was a vital support to hill farmers

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

This is only fair system

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Yes this was fair and reasonable

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Yes disadvantaged and hilly areas

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Areas previously included were fine

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Yes asap

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

ANC payments are vital to sustain rur farming in hilly and diadvataged areas, there is a real danger of losing 100's of small famers with a risk of shortage of supplies to food chain resulting in higher consumer costs

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

I feel priority should be given to hill farmers who struggle with terrain and conditions

Response ID ANON-4G5R-5S2U-H

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-07-01 08:12:03

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Not Answered

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

75–99%

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Significant

Please provide information to support your answer:

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

No

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-6M9E-2E2P-T

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-07-01 10:39:29

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

50–74%

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Significant

Please provide information to support your answer:

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-4T9E-2M7G-3

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-07-01 12:33:43

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :
[redacted]

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

[redacted] is concerned that the Bill contains no guaranteed financial support measures. Long-term certainty is essential for all farmers across Northern Ireland, giving them the confidence to plan, invest and build resilient farm businesses. Through our work with farming families, we see the impact that financial uncertainty has on both business viability and mental wellbeing. A clear commitment to ongoing financial support would provide greater stability for the agricultural sector and help safeguard the future of farming across Northern Ireland.

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

[redacted] would support ANC payments being allocated alongside the Farm Sustainability Payment only if they are funded through additional monies and do not reduce the overall Farm Sustainability Payment budget. Simply dividing the same funding across multiple schemes risks reducing the level of support available to all farmers. Any ANC payment should therefore be additional, recognising the extra challenges faced by farmers operating in areas with natural constraints, while ensuring the wider farming sector is not financially disadvantaged.

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

[redacted] believes these payments are important in helping to maintain agricultural activity in Areas of Natural Constraint (ANC). Farmers in these areas often face higher production costs and more challenging farming conditions, making financial support an important contribution to the long-term viability of their businesses. Maintaining farming activity in ANC areas also supports rural communities, protects the environment and helps sustain the health and wellbeing of farming families.

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

[redacted] believes payment levels should reflect the severity of the natural constraints faced by farmers. Those farming in the most challenging areas often experience higher production costs and fewer opportunities to improve profitability. A differentiated approach would ensure support is targeted where the need is greatest, while helping to maintain viable farm businesses, support rural communities and ensure no farmers are financially disadvantaged.

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Not Applicable

Please provide information to support your answer:

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

None (0%)

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Not Answered

Please provide information to support your answer:

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

[redacted] believes that, alongside any ANC payment scheme, there should be measures that strengthen the long-term resilience of farm businesses. This could include support for business development, knowledge transfer, succession planning, environmental improvements and initiatives that promote the health and wellbeing of farming families. A balanced approach that combines financial support with practical and personal support will help build a more sustainable and resilient farming sector across Northern Ireland.

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

Not Answered

Please provide information to support your answer:

N/A

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

[redacted] considers a 12-month timeframe to be appropriate, provided there is meaningful engagement with the farming sector and sufficient time to develop clear, practical and workable regulations. It is important that implementation is not unnecessarily delayed, as farmers need certainty to plan for the future. [redacted] sees first-hand through its services. Timely introduction of the regulations will help provide greater stability and confidence across the agricultural sector.

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

[redacted] agrees that payment levels could initially start at those provided under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018, provided this is viewed as a starting point rather than a long-term position. Payment levels should be kept under regular review to ensure they remain appropriate, reflect changing economic conditions and continue to provide meaningful support to farmers facing natural constraints.

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

[redacted] agrees that the existing eligibility provisions should continue to apply, provided they remain fair, transparent and fit for purpose. Retaining established criteria will provide continuity and certainty for farmers while the new legislation is introduced. However, the provisions should be kept under review to ensure they continue to reflect the needs of the farming sector and do not unintentionally disadvantage any farmers.

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Not Answered

Please provide information to support your answer:

no view

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

Not Answered

Please provide information to support your answer:

no view

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Not Answered

Please provide information to support your answer:

no view

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

[redacted] elcomes the opportunity to respond to the consultation on the Agriculture Bill. We believe the Bill should provide clarity, certainty and long-term financial support for all farmers across Northern Ireland, recognising the vital role they play in food production, environmental stewardship and sustaining rural communities.

[redacted] perspective, the financial resilience of farm businesses is closely linked to the mental wellbeing of farming families. Through our frontline services, we see the impact that financial uncertainty, policy changes and business pressures can have on individuals and families. We therefore encourage the Department to ensure that any future agricultural policy is simple, transparent and adequately funded, providing farmers with the confidence to plan for the future.

Finally, [redacted] believes that no farmer or farming community should be financially disadvantaged as a result of changes introduced through the Bill. Any new schemes or support measures should complement, rather than reduce, existing levels of financial support, ensuring a fair and sustainable future for agriculture across Northern Ireland.

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

None

Response ID ANON-4V8Q-4X9T-C

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-07-01 16:22:43

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

To some Extent

Please provide information to support your answer:

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

All land (100%)

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Significant

Please provide information to support your answer:

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Esa payment

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-3H8Q-4P8Q-H

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-07-01 20:16:28

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :
[redacted]

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

What the farmers get might not add up to very much and also some farmers might have a low stocking rate to collect the payment which is not fair either

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

We have more costs in these areas like long winter s

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Money should not be taken off the farmers at the start it’s extra we need

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Farming always spending the money in local community

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

All land (100%)

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Moderate

Please provide information to support your answer:

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Everything is a lot more expensive in 2026

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-6Z3M-3H9S-Q

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-07-01 21:48:07

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Farming isnt getting any easier and with the single farm payment for farmers being cut ever year and nothing for the sheep farmers never mind farming that isnt easy and sheep are disappearing throught the country and very little young farmers want to be at it and i dont blame them

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Yes it should be for hill ground its alot harder for making the whole thing work and pay for itself

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

Will help the sheep farmers that dont get anything extra bonus

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Off course it will

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Well in my eyes it shud be looked into in the way that the money wud be distributed as the way it is now there is alot of people getting money and not farming and just claiming ground

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

Everything is getting dearer and dont get fairly paid for farmers produce

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

Don't know / unsure

Please provide information to support your answer:

Im not sure exactly because we dont know and the way things are with the department u never know to its here

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Moderate

Please provide information to support your answer:

Well the anc payment was the only payment we were getting cause we had no entitlements at the time

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Some sort of support for sheep farmers

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Alot of the schemes dont do alot to really help the farming thats trying to make things work

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

No

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

This has been talked about long enough

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Well starting somewhere is better than nothing

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Dont see why cause the bigger your business is the bigger the bills and bigger the costs

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

Not Answered

Please provide information to support your answer:

Im not sure exactly were these stop and start

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

As us hill farmers would like to see some sort of push on this

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-3H8Q-4P8N-E

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-07-01 22:08:16

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

To some Extent

Please provide information to support your answer:

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

Don't know / unsure

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Significant

Please provide information to support your answer:

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

No

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-3J3A-6D5D-4

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-07-02 08:29:33

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :
N / A

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Schemes needed funding to be implemented

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

There was support for many years for farmers who farm marginal/ hill land. The land is less productive and the costs are higher to work on marginal land therefore additional support is essential

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

In the past i believe this payment was funded outside of the SFP funds

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

This is very important to keep hill farms viable

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

This payment will b vital to maintaining hill farming going forward

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

The poorest land requires highest level of support

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

I received an ANC payment on my farm until it ceased. This source of income is badly missed. The SFP is reducing/ going and hill farms need support to remain viable

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

All land (100%)

Please provide information to support your answer:

My farm is or was classified as SDA land

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Significant

Please provide information to support your answer:

I used to try to use the Anc money to make improvements on my farm, fencing, repairs to yard or buildings, sheugh cleaning and essential maintenance. Since loosing this funding, i have been able to undertake less maintenance and the farm is in poorer shape as a result

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

The ANC payment was straightforward, it worked in the past and should be easy to reinstate

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

This has already been talked about for yrs, lets get it implemented

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Payments should be increased from 2018 levels to reflect inflation

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

DARD had land classified as SDA or LFA. That seemed reasonable to me

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

ASAP please

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

This is potentially a very important source of income for hill farms and will support remote rural communities

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Na

Response ID ANON-6S7Y-8M8S-9

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-07-02 21:15:55

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :
[redacted]

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish in full.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

All land (100%)

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Significant

Please provide information to support your answer:

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

No

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-4V8Q-4X6C-R

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-07-03 12:41:55

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :
Ulster Wildlife

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish in full.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Throughout consideration of the Bill, uncertainty regarding funding has been a significant issue, with no clear indication of whether payments would be funded through additional resources or potentially drawn from existing agricultural budgets.
We are particularly concerned that, in the absence of guaranteed additional funding, there is a risk that resources could be diverted from other important agricultural and environmental programmes. This could undermine the delivery of existing policy objectives without providing certainty to farmers or taxpayers.

Ulster Wildlife supports the principle of providing support to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints. However, any such support should be accompanied by clarity regarding the long-term funding mechanism, the scale of investment, and how it aligns with wider agricultural and environmental policy objectives.

We also believe that public funding should be linked to clear public benefits, including environmental outcomes. Without certainty on funding arrangements and the conditions attached to payments, it is difficult to assess whether the Bill will represent good value for money or effectively contribute to nature recovery, climate resilience and sustainable farm incomes.

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Ulster Wildlife agrees that financial support should be provided to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints. These areas contain a significant proportion of Northern Ireland's upland and High Nature Value farmland and support many of the habitats, species and ecosystem services that are of benefit to society as a whole. Farmers in these areas often operate under genuine natural disadvantages and face challenges that can affect the long-term viability of their businesses.

However, Ulster Wildlife's support is contingent on how that support is designed and delivered. We do not support a return to untargeted area-based payments that simply compensate production constraints without delivering wider public benefits. Instead, we believe financial support should be linked

to the environmental and societal outcomes that these landscapes are uniquely placed to provide.

There is a strong overlap between Areas with Natural Constraints and High Nature Value farming systems. The same characteristics that limit agricultural productivity frequently underpin biodiversity value, carbon storage, water regulation and landscape quality. Financial support should therefore reward farmers for the delivery of these ecosystem services and public goods.

Ulster Wildlife's preferred approach is that agri-environment schemes remain the primary mechanism for supporting farmers in these areas, with any ANC support complementing rather than replacing environmental schemes. We believe this would provide a more effective use of public funds, deliver better environmental outcomes and help secure the long-term resilience of farming businesses in marginal areas.

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

While we support the principle of providing support to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints, we believe that any ANC scheme should be funded through additional resources rather than through the redistribution of existing agricultural support budgets. Diverting funding from the Farm Sustainability Payment would simply redistribute existing support rather than create meaningful new investment in marginal farming areas.
Throughout discussions on the Bill, funding clarity and additionality have been identified as major concerns. In the absence of a clearly identified additional funding source, there is a risk that ANC payments could reduce resources available for other agricultural and environmental priorities.
Ulster Wildlife is also concerned that reallocating existing funds could create unnecessary competition between different policy objectives, including farm viability, nature recovery and climate action. The industry request for a sheep support scheme is one example of unintended consequences, where the implementation of two beef headage schemes was perceived to be inequitable to the sheep industry

A sustainable approach should ensure that support for ANC farmers is delivered without undermining the development of effective agri-environment schemes and other measures that deliver public goods.

We therefore believe that if government wishes to introduce ANC payments, it should provide clarity on the long-term funding source and ensure that any support is genuinely additional, rather than being financed through reductions elsewhere in the agricultural support framework.

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

The primary purpose of the Bill is to create a framework for supporting farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints. However, without clarity on the source, scale and long-term availability of funding, it is difficult to determine how the proposed scheme would achieve its objectives or provide certainty for farmers.
The absence of identified funding arrangements also makes it impossible to assess the potential impacts on existing agricultural and environmental budgets. If funding were to be drawn from current support programmes, there is a risk that the Bill could simply redistribute existing resources rather than provide meaningful additional support to farmers in ANC areas.

Furthermore, uncertainty regarding funding limits the ability to design an effective support scheme that delivers clear outcomes. Ulster Wildlife believes that support for ANC farmers should contribute to wider objectives, including biodiversity recovery, climate resilience and sustainable farm incomes. Without certainty regarding financial resources and delivery mechanisms, there is a risk that these objectives will not be realised.

The lack of financial detail also creates uncertainty for farmers themselves. Farm businesses need confidence that any future support mechanism will be adequately funded and capable of delivering long-term stability. Legislation that establishes a framework without clear provision for funding risks creating expectations that may not ultimately be met.

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Farmers in these areas often face genuine natural disadvantages, including lower productivity potential and higher operating costs, which can affect the long-term viability of farming businesses. The continuation of active land management is important not only for rural communities but also for maintaining many of Northern Ireland's most valuable upland and marginal landscapes.
However, we believe the key issue is not whether support is provided, but how that support is designed. Many ANC areas overlap with High Nature Value farming systems and contain significant biodiversity, carbon and landscape assets. Financial support should therefore help maintain agricultural activity in a way that also rewards the delivery of environmental outcomes and ecosystem services.

Ulster Wildlife's view is that maintaining agricultural activity and achieving nature recovery objectives should be complementary goals. Well-targeted support can help sustain farming businesses while also encouraging habitat management, biodiversity conservation and climate resilience. Conversely, support that is not linked to wider public benefits risks missing an important opportunity to deliver better outcomes for both farmers and the environment.
We therefore agree that financial support plays an important role in maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas, but believe it should be targeted,

adequately funded and aligned with the delivery of public goods and environmental outcomes.

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

While reintroducing ANC payments may help offset some production costs in the short term, Ulster Wildlife does not believe that untargeted payments are the most effective or sustainable means of supporting farmers in these areas. Such payments risk subsidising production costs and may inadvertently encourage financially or environmentally unsustainable practices to continue.

We believe public investment should instead focus on rewarding the delivery of public goods and ecosystem services, recognising the significant biodiversity, carbon storage, water management and landscape benefits provided by many ANC farming systems. This would create a stronger and more resilient business model by establishing environmental delivery as a source of farm income and profitability, while directing support towards activities that are better suited to the natural characteristics of ANC land.

In our view, the long-term objective should be to support farm viability through the delivery of environmental outcomes and ecosystem services, rather than through the continued subsidisation of production constraints alone.

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

While more severely constrained land may face greater production challenges, our view is that public funding should be targeted primarily towards the delivery of public goods and ecosystem services rather than compensating for production limitations alone.

The environmental value of land is not necessarily determined by the degree of agricultural constraint. Many ANC areas support High Nature Value farming systems, priority habitats, species-rich grasslands, peatlands and other assets that deliver biodiversity, climate and water quality benefits. Support should therefore be designed to reward the outcomes being delivered, rather than simply the level of constraint experienced by the land manager.

If financial support is provided, Ulster Wildlife would favour a system that reflects environmental delivery, ecosystem services and wider public benefits. Such an approach would better align with the principle of public money for public goods and ensure that funding is directed towards activities that contribute to nature recovery, climate resilience and sustainable land management.

Differential payments based solely on the severity of natural constraints risk reinforcing a model that compensates for production constraints rather than encouraging the transition towards more resilient and environmentally sustainable farming systems.

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Not Applicable

Please provide information to support your answer:

Ulster Wildlife has never received ANC payments. However, through our work with over 500 farmers who have been either in or eligible for the EFS Higher scheme, we have seen firsthand the importance of financial support for farms in ANC areas. These payments financially reward farmers for the positive management of some of Northern Ireland's most important habitats. DAERA statistics highlight that the least profitable farms are upland beef and sheep farms, which require subsidies to avoid making a financial loss. Schemes such as agri-environment measures are critical to ensuring farm viability.

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

75–99%

Please provide information to support your answer:

The farms we work with in agri-environment (EFS Higher) are almost all in the ANC area. We believe over 90% of Co. Fermanagh is in classed as an SDA (eligible for past ANC payment) which is where the majority of our HNV farms are based.

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Not Answered

Please provide information to support your answer:

N/A

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Our preferred approach is to strengthen and expand agri-environment schemes, ensuring that farmers are rewarded for the delivery of public goods and ecosystem services. Many ANC areas overlap with High Nature Value farming systems and contain important habitats, carbon-rich soils, water catchments and landscapes. Targeting support towards the management and enhancement of these assets would provide a more direct and effective means of delivering benefits for farmers, society and the environment.

Expansion of agri-environment schemes, including Farming with Nature and future Higher Level Schemes, to provide meaningful support for environmental land management with payments linked to outcomes and the delivery of ecosystem services, including biodiversity conservation, habitat restoration, carbon storage, water quality improvements and landscape management.

Advisory and knowledge-transfer programmes to help farmers develop resilient business models based on environmental delivery and sustainable land management.

Where ANC payments are retained, consideration could be given to structuring them as a targeted supplement to environmental schemes rather than as a standalone income support payment. This would help ensure public funding is linked to measurable public benefits.

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Ulster Wildlife believes that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme could limit access to, or reduce the availability of, other farming or environmental support schemes if it is funded from existing agricultural budgets rather than through additional resources.

In particular, there is a risk that finite public funding could be diverted from agri-environment schemes, habitat restoration programmes or other measures that support both farm viability and environmental delivery. However, this outcome is not inevitable. If ANC payments were funded through genuinely additional resources and designed to complement existing schemes, they could operate alongside other support mechanisms without restricting access. The impact will therefore depend largely on how the scheme is funded and implemented.

Ulster Wildlife's preference is for increased investment in environmental land management and High Nature Value farming systems, with support directed towards the delivery of public goods and ecosystem services.

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

No

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Ulster Wildlife does not consider the proposed 12□month time limit to be appropriate.
The Bill leaves many important questions unanswered, including funding arrangements, eligibility criteria, payment rates, environmental requirements and how any ANC scheme will interact with existing and future agricultural support measures. Developing effective regulations will require detailed consultation with farmers, environmental organisations and other stakeholders, and sufficient time to assess potential impacts and unintended consequences.
There is also a need to ensure that any future ANC scheme aligns with wider agricultural policy developments, particularly the ongoing implementation of Farming with Nature and the development of future agri-environment schemes. These programmes have taken a number of years to develop and are still evolving. Introducing ANC regulations within a fixed 12□month period risks creating duplication, conflict or unintended competition between schemes. This could reduce overall effectiveness and create additional complexity for farmers.

We are particularly concerned that current agri-environment provision remains inadequate, with limited options available and no new Higher Level scheme yet in place. A rushed implementation timetable could result in an ANC scheme being introduced before the wider policy framework is sufficiently developed.

In practice, any ANC support should be designed to complement agri-environment schemes, with agri-environment payments rewarding the delivery of specific environmental outcomes and ANC support, if introduced, operating as a targeted top-up that helps maintain farm viability in constrained areas.

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

The previous ANC scheme was designed primarily to compensate for production constraints associated with farming in marginal areas. While this may have provided income support, it did not directly incentivise the delivery of environmental outcomes or public goods. We believe future support should be designed around contemporary policy objectives, including nature recovery, climate resilience and the delivery of ecosystem services, rather than simply replicating historic payment structures.

Furthermore, payment rates established in 2018 are unlikely to reflect current economic realities. Any future support scheme should include a mechanism to regularly review and uprate payment rates to reflect inflation and changes in the costs of land management. Failure to do so risks eroding the value of support over time and reducing its effectiveness.

Habitat management rates under the Environmental Farming Scheme remained largely unchanged for approximately a decade despite significant increases in labour, machinery and input costs. As a result, the real value of those payments declined substantially over time, reducing their ability to incentivise and adequately reward environmental management.

Many ANC areas support High Nature Value farming systems that deliver significant biodiversity, carbon, water and landscape benefits. Public investment should therefore be focused on rewarding the delivery of these public goods and ecosystem services.

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Payment rates should be reviewed and increased regularly to reflect inflation and changes in the costs of land management. Failure to adjust payment rates over time can significantly erode their real value and effectiveness.
Our experience of agri-environment schemes demonstrates the importance of this issue. Under the Environmental Farming Scheme (EFS), many habitat management payment rates remained unchanged for approximately a decade despite significant increases in labour, machinery, fuel and other operating costs. As a result, the real value of those payments declined substantially, reducing their ability to adequately reward environmental management and incentivise participation.
However, while annual inflation-linked increases provide a reasonable baseline, the Department should also retain the ability to undertake periodic reviews to ensure payment rates continue to reflect actual costs and policy objectives. In some circumstances, costs associated with environmental management or farming activities may increase more rapidly than general inflation.

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

There are a number of new policy areas relating to agriculture, nature and climate since 2018 and it is important to review the eligibility and policy intent to ensure it is fit for purpose.

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

The definition comes from Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 which created the Areas of Natural Constraint (ANC) framework to support farmers working on marginal, difficult terrain There are additional policy areas that should be taken into consideration particularly around carbon, water and biodiversity that could alter these definitions. Areas where it is appropriate to optimise land management for ecosystem services with sustainable levels of agriculture and less focus on maximising farm outputs should also be considered.

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Areas where it is appropriate to optimise land management for ecosystem services with sustainable levels of agriculture and less focus on maximising farm outputs should also be considered.

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-9G3W-9U7J-S

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-07-04 16:16:46

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :
[redacted]

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

50–74%

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Significant

Please provide information to support your answer:

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

No

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-9D9N-5J3N-4

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-07-04 20:30:25

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :
[redacted]

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

The money for this must be new money and not taken from the Farm Sustainability pot.

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Already 9% and6.5% have been deducted from this pot for beef and Suckler cow payment.

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

If there's no new money then it won't work.

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Not sure about that.

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Extra money will always help.

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Depends on the quality of the land.

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Not Applicable

Please provide information to support your answer:

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

25–49%

Please provide information to support your answer:

Some of our land is classified DA

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

None

Please provide information to support your answer:

We continue to farm as before

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Drainage grants and grant for lime.

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Quite possible

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

No

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

That time frame is possibly too short.

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

This should be a new scheme.

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Providing it is new money

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

good starting point

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Land has not changed

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Not Sure

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

As long as this new money.

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-9B4H-6Z2R-B

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-07-05 10:55:58

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:

2 What is your email address?

Email:

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Not Answered

Please provide information to support your answer:

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

All land (100%)

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Significant

Please provide information to support your answer:

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-6J5R-5F6Z-J

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-07-05 13:07:36

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

[redacted] areas are struggling to make their farms viable. Many have to get off farm work to supplement farm income to prop up their farm business

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Many farmers operating in ANC areas are disadvantaged financially trying to farm poorer land..

winter housing of stock is much longer requiring extra feeding which adds expense to the farm business

Farmers operating on better lands do not have as much to spend as much providing winter fodder

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

In the past ANC payments were totally seperate and I think it should remain that way

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

no point in robing one scheme to pay another

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Farmers in ANC areas are struggling to make farms viable. Many young folk do not see a future in farming in these areas

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

ANC payments would have a great input to cover many costs in these areas

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

This could be a posibity

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

ANC payments would help to make the farm business viable and encouage young people to stay in rural areas

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

75–99%

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Moderate

Please provide information to support your answer:

more stock kept to try and make ends meet. increased stock rates tend to do more damage to the actual ground . The land is too wet and poor to carry additional stock

Pooched ground tends to release more carbon which is a negative for the environment

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

In the poorer anc areas an additional payment should be made to decrease stock to protect the release of carbon

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

may do

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

No

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Given that ANC payments were paid in the past it should not be necessary to haave a 12 month waiting time

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

with inflation from 2018 the payment should be index linked accordingly

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

As all overheads keep going up ANC payments should be made keep pace with this by index linking it

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

all lands within ANC should attract an equal payment per hectre

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

In some areas in the west of the province da lands should be re classified given the wet climate we operate in

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

n/a

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

n/a

Response ID ANON-6J5R-5F3V-B

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-07-05 23:58:21

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
Órfhlaith Begley MP

2 What is your email address?

Email:
orfhlaith.begley@sinnfein.ie

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish in full.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Not concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

This bill will provide significant and substantial support for our farming community and therefore financial support should be made available so this is given a priority. If the political will is there then financial support should be provided to farmers.

Previously the department has been able to make resources available when a policy priority has been identified. I understand DAERA has spent £9million on agency staff and funding has been provided for many other initiatives such as the soil nutrient health scheme.

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

I strongly agree that financial support should be available for farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraint.

Farming in ANC areas presents unique and unavoidable challenges, including poorer land quality, difficult terrain, harsher weather conditions, and higher production costs. These factors limit opportunities to improve efficiency and productivity compared with farms in more favourable locations.

Despite these challenges, ANC farmers play a vital role in sustaining livestock production, supporting our rural economies, managing the countryside, and delivering a wide range of environmental and biodiversity benefits.

Those in upland and disadvantaged areas have faced further pressure with the removal of the ANC scheme. There currently is no recognition of the additional costs and constraints of farming in such adverse land.

There is a clear need to introduce support to not only to maintain the economic viability of these farm businesses but also to protect the wider public benefits. If financial assistance is not forthcoming there is a high risk of land abandonment and reduced agricultural activity. As a local representative of West Tyrone we want to ensure our rural way of life is sustained and supported.

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

A dedicated funding allocation should be established to provide for ANC payments to ensure there is targeted support for farmers operating under these circumstances.

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

To some Extent

Please provide information to support your answer:

There must be dedicated financial support to ensure that ANC farmers are supported in the vital role that they play for food production and sustaining our rural communities.

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

These payments are vital to maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas particularly areas like the Sperrins which I represent.

Targeted support ensures that farming is sustained and made viable for future generations. The fact that these farmers operate under more challenging conditions must be recognised and supported.

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

The reintroduction of the financial ANC payments would significantly assist ANC farmers. Previously when a similar scheme was operational I heard first hand from many farmers, how these payments helped them to alleviate production costs.

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

The previous scheme was very effective and any future scheme should be reflected of what was previously implemented.

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Not Applicable

Please provide information to support your answer:

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

None (0%)

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

None

Please provide information to support your answer:

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

Not Answered

Please provide information to support your answer:

I believe a sheep scheme should also be introduced.

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

Not Answered

Please provide information to support your answer:

The ANC payment provides an important source of income support for farmers operating in areas where natural constraints increase the cost of agricultural production and limit income-generating opportunities. In addition to supporting individual farm businesses, these payments deliver wider economic benefits by sustaining spending within rural communities through the use of
agricultural merchants, contractors, and other rural businesses.

Providing targeted support to farmers in Areas with Natural Constraints is also consistent with the Department's responsibility to recognise and address the disadvantages associated with farming in these regions. An ANC payment would help offset the additional costs and income limitations arising from natural constraints, while complementing other support schemes that promote environmental enhancement, climate action, farm sustainability, and business development.

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

The 2018 criteria is a useful starting point, but it should be reviewed. Farmers should not be unfairly excluded. Any new scheme should be inclusive of farmers facing genuine natural constraints.

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

Not Answered

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-9F9E-6S7A-X

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-07-06 01:11:19

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
Daryl McLaughlin

2 What is your email address?

Email:
info@nimea.co.uk

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :
Northern Ireland Meat Exporters Association

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish in full.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Not concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

While it would be ideal if there was guaranteed financial support there is no reason why that money couldn't be found from the NI Executive after the bill becomes law. NIMEA would prefer that the money would not be taken from the ring-fenced agriculture fund and that for ANC it would be new additional money for for its intentions.

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Provided it is not funded out of the existing ring-fenced Agri fund and that its new and additional money.

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

As above.

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

To some Extent

Please provide information to support your answer:

Obviously it would be ideal for money to be found in advance however if there is political will to find support then there is no reason that it cant be done.

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

ANC provided targeted financial support to farmers operating on difficult, marginal land, such as steep hills or poor soils. It was to compensates these farmers for extra production costs and lost income, keeping vital agricultural businesses alive in remote areas. There has been a downward decline in breeding ewes and suckler cows and the progeny of them help to underpin jobs in the beef and sheep processing sector in the North. Over 5,000 people are employed directly in the beef and sheep meat processing sector and in 2024, the food and drink sector supported an estimated 108,970 full-time equivalents. The North accounts for approximately 8% of total UK indigenous food production by volume, despite representing less than 3% of the UK population. We produce about one-sixth of UK beef and veal by volume (17%). For sheep meat its about 7% by volume. (Source - NIFDA Economic Impact Assessment. https://nifda.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/NIFDA-Economic-Impact-Study-FINAL-290426.pdf)

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Production costs for farmers can sometime be difficult to control and manage when sometime there are factors beyond their control. For example Covid-19 pandemic, the illegal Russian invasion of Ukraine and the more recent war in the middle east with the USA and Iran. The ANC payment would certainly help assist in alleviating some production costs.

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Given that there are a lot of small farms and farmers with land in so many different parts it would be much simpler to have one standard rate. This would keep the scheme simple and fair and easier to administer therefore keep the operational costs low as well.

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Not Applicable

Please provide information to support your answer:

NIMEA is a trade association representing the beef and sheep processing sector.

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

Don’t know / unsure

Please provide information to support your answer:

Not applicable. (As above)

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Not Answered

Please provide information to support your answer:

Not applicable . (As above)

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

A Sheep Support Scheme. The North sheep farmer is at a very negative and competitive disadvantage than a sheep farmer in the Republic of Ireland. There have been multiple sheep support schemes over the years and there hasn't been anything like that for sheep farmers in the North now for some time.

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

We cant see why this would be the case as its not the case in other jurisdictions.

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Provided that there is a functioning Government (Executive & Assembly) post election to implement.

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Provided that funding can be found and supported.

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Not aware of issues.

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

N/A

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

N/A

Response ID ANON-4G5R-5S4Z-R

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-07-06 15:23:52

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Funding was withdrawn and not replaced

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Where did previous funding go? Hill sheep farmers are losing out again as hills are mainly suitable for sheep, no opportunity to reclaim lost income unlike cattle farmers.

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

All suckler cow money not claimed and not all entitlements used e.g. confiscated ones.

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

ANC`s are difficult to farm and maintain to a reasonable standard.

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

It would be going directly to ANC`s where it is needed.

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

It should be targeted to where it is most needed.

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

It`s loss was a blow to farm viability and upkeep suffered.

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

75–99%

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Significant

Please provide information to support your answer:

Upkeep of farm has suffered as income had to be sought from off farm work. Farming became part time.

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Provide a sheep scheme as was provided for suckler and beef farmers.

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Help to reinforce ANC income is badly overdue.

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

Response ID ANON-9A5R-5G2C-J

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-07-06 15:30:33

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :
RSPB NI

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish in full.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

The absence of any guaranteed financial support is a significant concern, particularly given the lack of clarity around both the source of funding and whether it would represent additional investment.

If a new Area of Natural Constraint (ANC) payment were to be funded through reallocating the existing agriculture budget , rather than providing new, targeted support for farmers in these areas it may amount only to a redistribution of funding rather than an overall increase in support. This raises questions as to whether the Bill would meaningfully address the financial challenges facing these farm businesses.

There is also a need to ensure that any new ANC scheme does not inadvertently draw funding away from other important agriculture and environment programmes such as the Farming with Nature (FwN) Scheme - which should be the primary mechanism for delivering environmental outcomes.

More fundamentally, there is a need for a clear and coherent approach to how public funding is structured. In line with a public money for public goods framework, agri□environment schemes (like FwN) should form the primary source of public investment in these areas, rewarding the delivery of biodiversity, climate and other environmental outcomes. ANC payments should operate as a targeted top□up linked to these outcomes and supporting farm viability.

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Financial support should be provided to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC), as these businesses face structural challenges, such as poor soils, difficult terrain and lower productivity, that limit their ability to generate income from agricultural markets alone.

However, we do not support a return to untargeted area-based payments that simply compensate production constraints without delivering wider public benefits.

Many ANC farms are also High Nature Value (HNV) farming systems. These low-intensity systems play a vital role in maintaining biodiversity, supporting rare and threatened species, and managing carbon-rich habitats such as peatlands and semi-natural grasslands. The environmental benefits they provide, ranging from climate regulation to water quality and flood mitigation, are significant, but are not rewarded by the market.

Many HNV farms are therefore heavily reliant on public subsidy to remain viable, reflecting the fact that they produce less market output but deliver disproportionately high environmental value. Without appropriate financial support, there is a real risk that these systems could decline or be lost, leading to negative consequences for biodiversity, climate targets and rural communities.

For these reasons, there is a strong justification for continued and increased public investment in ANC areas. However, this support should be clearly framed within a public money for public goods approach, ensuring that funding is directed towards sustaining farming systems that actively deliver environmental outcomes. In this context, financial support should not simply compensate for production constraints but should recognise and reward the delivery of these wider ecosystem services, while ensuring that farm businesses remain viable and able to continue managing these important landscapes into the future.

As set out in responses to other questions, we consider that the most effective route for delivering this support is through robust and well-funded agri-environment schemes, with any ANC payment operating as a targeted top-up to support the viability of farms delivering environmental outcomes.

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

We would not support ANC payments being allocated from the existing Farm Sustainability Payment (FSP) budget where this simply represents a redistribution of funding rather than the provision of additional or more effectively targeted support for farmers in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC).

A key challenge facing these farmers is the ongoing reduction in direct payments under the FSP, alongside limited access to agri‑environment schemes, leaving many unable to recover that loss of income. Reallocating funds from the FSP without improving access to alternative support risks further eroding farm viability.

There is, however, a clear case for reallocating funding within the agricultural budget, particularly towards strengthening agri‑environment schemes. For farmers in ANC areas, many of whom manage High Nature Value (HNV) systems, these schemes represent the most effective route for support, as they reward the delivery of biodiversity, climate, and other environmental outcomes.

By contrast, shifting funding from the FSP to an ANC payment without environmental conditionality risks simply moving money within the system, without improving incomes or rewarding the public goods these farms provide. Any reallocation should therefore prioritise access to agri‑environment schemes and deliver a meaningful net gain for farmers in ANC areas.

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

Significantly

Please provide information to support your answer:

As set out in response to Questions 7 and 8, the absence of guaranteed financial provision, combined with the risk of simply reallocating funding without additional or more effectively targeted support for farmers in ANCs, significantly limits the Bill's ability to deliver meaningful support in practice. Without additional, clearly defined funding, the Bill is unlikely to address the underlying viability challenges facing farmers in Areas with Natural Constraints, particularly those managing High Nature Value systems.

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Maintaining agricultural activity in Areas with Natural Constraints is essential, but this is primarily because of the role active farming plays in sustaining High Nature Value (HNV) landscapes. In these areas, low‑intensity farming systems have created and maintained a careful balance between agriculture and nature, supporting rare and threatened species, carbon‑rich habitats and wider ecosystem services. If this management were to cease or be replaced by either abandonment or more intensive production, there would be significant negative consequences for biodiversity, climate resilience and landscape quality.

HNV farming systems are therefore critically important, but they are also economically marginal and often unable to remain viable without public support. Much of the environmental value they provide, such as biodiversity conservation, carbon storage and water regulation, is not rewarded by the market, meaning that continued agricultural activity in these areas is closely tied to appropriate public subsidy.

The key issue is not whether support is provided, but how it is designed. Given the significant biodiversity, carbon and landscape value found in many ANC areas, support should reward the delivery of environmental outcomes alongside maintaining agricultural activity.

Therefore, maintaining agricultural activity alone should not be the sole objective. Support should be delivered through robust, well‑designed and adequately funded agri‑environment schemes that actively reward the management practices responsible for these outcomes. At present,

agri‑environment provision remains insufficient, with limited access for support that maintains existing high-quality habitats in ANC areas. Getting this right would have a far greater impact where a combination of effective agri‑environment schemes and a targeted ANC top‑up could both sustain farm viability and secure environmental outcomes.

In this context, ANC payments can play an important supporting role but should be designed in a public money for public goods approach. Ensuring that farmers are rewarded for delivering environmental outcomes, rather than simply maintaining production, is key to sustaining both these farming systems and the landscapes they support over the long term.

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

While reintroducing ANC payments may help offset some production costs in the short term, we do not believe that untargeted payments are the most effective or sustainable means of supporting farmers in these areas.

As highlighted throughout this response, many ANC areas overlap with High Nature Value (HNV) farming systems that deliver significant biodiversity, carbon storage, water management and landscape benefits. The key issue is therefore not simply reducing production costs but ensuring that public investment rewards the environmental outcomes and ecosystem services these farming systems provide.

Financial support that focuses solely on compensating for production constraints risks perpetuating a model that provides income support without addressing the underlying viability challenges facing these farms. In contrast, directing funding through robust agri‑environment schemes would create a stronger and more resilient business model, helping to establish environmental delivery as a source of farm income while supporting management practices better suited to the natural characteristics of ANC land.

In our view, the long‑term objective should be to support farm viability through the delivery of environmental outcomes and ecosystem services, with any ANC payment operating as a targeted top‑up to agri‑environment scheme support, rather than through the continued subsidisation of production constraints alone.

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

While farms in the most constrained areas often face greater economic and production challenges, we do not believe that the level of public support should be determined primarily by the severity of those constraints. Instead, funding should be targeted towards the delivery of environmental outcomes and wider public benefits.

Many ANC areas contain High Nature Value (HNV) farming systems, peatlands, species-rich grasslands and other important habitats that provide significant biodiversity, climate and water quality benefits. However, the environmental value of a farm is not necessarily linked to the degree of natural constraint it faces. Support should therefore be directed towards rewarding the public goods being delivered, rather than simply compensating for production constraints.

Such an approach would more closely align with the principle of public money for public goods, ensuring that public investment delivers nature recovery, climate resilience and sustainable land management outcomes alongside farm viability. Differential payments based solely on the severity of natural constraints risk reinforcing a model that compensates for farming difficulties rather than encouraging the management practices needed to sustain nature-rich landscapes and resilient farm businesses.

As outlined elsewhere in this response, robust and adequately funded agri‑environment schemes should be the primary mechanism for supporting farmers in these areas, with any ANC payment operating as a complementary top‑up linked to environmental delivery and farm viability.

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Not Applicable

Please provide information to support your answer:

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

Not Answered

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Not Answered

Please provide information to support your answer:

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

There are a number of alternative and complementary measures that should be considered alongside an ANC payment scheme, particularly to ensure that public funding delivers meaningful environmental and economic outcomes.

Most importantly, robust, well-designed and adequately funded agri-environment schemes should form the primary mechanism for supporting farmers in Areas with Natural Constraints. High Nature Value (HNV) farming systems, which are commonly located in these areas, deliver significant public goods, including biodiversity conservation, carbon storage and landscape management, but are often economically marginal. These systems depend on targeted support that rewards the specific management practices underpinning these outcomes, rather than relying on untargeted income support alone.

At present, however, agri-environment provision is insufficient. There is limited support available for the maintenance of existing high-value habitats, and no new Higher Level / Priority Habitats scheme yet in place. Addressing this gap should be a priority, as a well-functioning agri-environment framework would more effectively direct funding to those farms delivering the greatest environmental value.

In addition, there is a strong case for:

• A targeted HNV "top-up" payment, recognising the additional costs and lower incomes associated with managing these high nature value systems
• Improved farm advisory support, to help farmers adapt business models and enhance resilience
• Place-based investment, including support for local supply chains and rural infrastructure, to strengthen the viability of marginal farming communities

In this context, ANC payments can play a useful supporting role in helping to address structural constraints and maintain farm viability. However, they should be designed to complement, rather than substitute for, a broader policy approach based on public money for public goods, where funding is clearly linked to the delivery of environmental outcomes.

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

There is a potential risk that, if poorly designed or funded from existing budgets, an ANC scheme could indirectly constrain access or reduce the availability of other farming or environmental support schemes, for example, by creating competition for limited funding or by reducing the availability of agri-environment support. This is particularly concerning given that current agri-environment provision is already inadequate.

For High Nature Value (HNV) farming systems, which depend on targeted support to maintain low-intensity management, it is essential that ANC payments complement rather than substitute for agri-environment schemes. In practice, this means ensuring that ANC payments are designed to complement agri-environment schemes, with agri-environment payments rewarding the delivery of specific environmental outcomes, and ANC support providing a targeted top-up that helps maintain farm viability in constrained areas. Taken together, this can ensure that nature-friendly farming becomes a viable and rewarding part of the farm business, rather than an additional cost burden.

If designed in this complementary way, an ANC payment scheme can support wider policy objectives without limiting access to other schemes.

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

No

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

A 12-month timeframe risks prioritising speed over the development of a well-designed and effective scheme. As set out in previous responses, it is essential that any ANC scheme is aligned with wider agricultural policy, particularly the development of robust agri-environment schemes, which are not yet fully in place.

Allowing additional time would help ensure the scheme is properly designed, integrated and capable of delivering meaningful outcomes for both farm viability and the environment.

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Starting payment levels based on the 2018 ANC Regulations would not be appropriate, as they do not reflect current economic conditions, policy objectives or the evolving focus on environmental delivery. Since 2018, farm input costs have increased significantly, while the agricultural policy framework has shifted towards a public money for public goods approach.

Replicating historic payment rates risks embedding an outdated model that primarily compensates for constraint, rather than recognising the full value of High Nature Value (HNV) farming systems and the public goods they provide.

Payment levels should instead be reviewed and designed to reflect:

• The environmental outcomes and public goods being delivered
• The value of High Nature Value (HNV) farmland and priority habitats being managed
• The need to maintain viable farm businesses that support nature recovery and climate resilience

As set out in previous responses, this should be closely aligned with the development of agri‑environment schemes, ensuring that ANC payments complement a broader system that properly rewards environmental delivery, rather than relying on legacy payment structures.

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Linking payment increases to inflation is important to ensure that support does not erode in real terms over time, particularly given rising costs and the ongoing financial pressures facing farmers in Areas with Natural Constraints. Without such a mechanism, the value of payments would gradually decline, reducing their effectiveness in supporting farm viability.

However, while index-linking is appropriate, the overall payment framework should not be tied solely to historic payment rates. As set out in previous responses, payment levels should reflect the environmental outcomes and public goods being delivered, the value of High Nature Value (HNV) farmland and habitats being managed, and the need to maintain viable farm businesses that support nature recovery and climate resilience.

Annual increases should therefore ensure payments remain meaningful but must sit within a broader approach that aligns public funding with both farm viability and the delivery of environmental outcomes.

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Eligibility provisions based on the 2018 Regulations should not be applied automatically, as they reflect a legacy approach that does not align with current policy objectives or the transition to a public money for public goods framework. Criteria such as minimum farm size and qualifying forage area risk excluding smaller or more marginal High Nature Value (HNV) farming systems, which can deliver significant environmental benefits despite limited productive capacity.

Many of these farms operate under the most severe constraints and play a critical role in maintaining biodiversity, carbon‑rich habitats and wider ecosystem services. Applying rigid, production-based eligibility thresholds could therefore undermine the targeting of support towards those systems most in need and most valuable from an environmental perspective.

Eligibility should instead be reviewed to ensure that it supports the inclusion of farms delivering public goods and aligns with the development of agri‑environment schemes and new policy areas.

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

As highlighted throughout this response, we believe that any ANC payment should be guided by the principle of public money for public goods, ensuring that public investment delivers nature recovery, climate resilience and sustainable land management outcomes alongside farm viability, rather than simply compensating for production constraints.

The current definition focuses mainly on the physical constraints of the land on market production, but this does not fully reflect the environmental value of the farming systems in these areas. Many farms within ANC areas are High Nature Value (HNV) systems, where low‑intensity farming supports biodiversity, carbon storage and important habitats.

A definition based solely on constraint risks overlooking the importance of these systems and may limit the ability to target support effectively. Moving forward, there is a strong case for ensuring that the identification of ANC areas is better aligned with environmental outcomes and the delivery of public

goods, while still recognising the underlying production challenges faced by these farms.

A more appropriate definition would therefore recognise both the constraints farmers face and the role these systems play in maintaining environmentally valuable landscapes.

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Areas with significant potential to deliver biodiversity, climate and other ecosystem services through low intensity farming and sustainable land management should also be considered.

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Overall, while there is a clear case for supporting farmers in Areas with Natural Constraints, the Bill in its current form represents a largely incomplete framework. In particular, the absence of clarity on funding, the lack of linkage to environmental outcomes, and limited alignment with wider policy significantly weaken its potential effectiveness.

A central consideration should be the role of High Nature Value (HNV) farming systems, which are prevalent in these areas and deliver a wide range of public goods, including biodiversity, carbon storage and landscape management. The viability of these farm businesses is closely tied to their ability to continue delivering these outcomes, yet current policy mechanisms, particularly agri‑environment provision, remain insufficient.

Farmers managing High Nature Value (HNV) systems within Areas with Natural Constraints should be at the forefront of public investment, given their critical role in delivering biodiversity, carbon storage and wider ecosystem services. Under a public money for public goods approach, these farmers should have the greatest access to agri‑environment funding and be best placed to benefit from it. However, the current reality is the opposite. Ongoing delays in the rollout of a Farming with Nature Higher Level or Priority Habitats scheme, combined with limited support for the maintenance of existing habitats, mean that many of these farmers are at a disadvantage. This leaves some of the most environmentally valuable and economically marginal systems least able to access the support required to sustain both their businesses and the public goods they provide. Addressing this imbalance must be a priority within future policy design.

There is therefore a need to move beyond a model that simply compensates for constraint, towards one that actively supports the delivery of environmental outcomes. This requires a more coherent and integrated approach, where robust and adequately funded agri‑environment schemes form the primary mechanism for supporting farmers in these areas, complemented by a targeted ANC payment that can help maintain farm viability.

Without this alignment, there is a risk that the Bill will replicate shortcomings of previous policy approaches, providing untargeted support without delivering meaningful benefits for either farmers or the environment. With the right amendments, however, the Bill presents an opportunity to better align financial support with both the needs of farmers in marginal areas and the long-term goal of nature recovery.

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

ANC as a ‘top-up’ payment for agri-environment scheme participation.

A potential key amendment that could significantly strengthen the Bill is to make ANC payments conditional on the farm business having an agri‑environment agreement in place. In practice, this would mean that ANC payments operate as a targeted top‑up to schemes such as Farming with Nature.

This approach would ensure that public funding is clearly linked to the delivery of environmental outcomes, aligning with a public money for public goods framework. It would also improve targeting, as many farms in Areas with Natural Constraints are High Nature Value (HNV) systems, and would benefit most from participating in agri‑environment schemes.

Requiring an agri‑environment agreement would bring several advantages. It would provide a clear and measurable mechanism for delivering

biodiversity, climate and land management outcomes, while avoiding the need to create a separate compliance system within the ANC scheme itself. It would also encourage greater uptake of agri‑environment schemes in marginal areas and improve the viability of HNV farming systems by combining agri‑environment payments with a dedicated ANC top‑up, helping to make nature‑friendly farming a viable profit centre for the farm business.

However, for this approach to be effective, it must be supported by a sufficiently robust and accessible agri‑environment offer. At present, there are limitations in the Farming with Nature scheme, particularly in relation to support for maintaining existing habitats, and there is no new Farming with Nature (FwN) Higher Level or Priority Habitats scheme yet in place. Without addressing these gaps, there is a risk that some farmers, particularly in marginal upland areas, would have limited ability to access the required agreements.

This amendment should therefore be implemented alongside the expansion and development of agri‑environment schemes, including the introduction of a robust FwN Priority Habitats / Higher Level scheme. With these elements in place, linking ANC payments to agri‑environment participation could provide a coherent, targeted and outcomes‑based approach, ensuring that financial support both sustains farm businesses and delivers long-term environmental benefits.

Response ID ANON-4Q3W-9C5J-A

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-07-06 22:50:21

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :
Ulster Farmers' Union

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish in full.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

The UFU welcome the bill and support it in principle. However any funding for ANC payments must satisfy a clear additionality test. The Department must demonstrate that the introduction of ANC payments will be funded either through additional Executive resources or through a reallocation of DAERA funding from outside the direct farm support budget. Under no circumstances should ANC funding reduce, delay, top-slice, displace or otherwise diminish any existing or planned support for farmers. Any proposal that fails to meet this test would simply redistribute financial pressure within an already stretched DAERA budget and would not meet the UFU definition of "new money". Should the funding allocation fail to satisfy the above conditions, the UFU will withdraw their support for the Bill proceeding to the next stage.

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Any funding for ANC payments must satisfy a clear additionality test from the department. The Department must demonstrate that the introduction of ANC payments will be funded either through additional Executive resources or through a reallocation of DAERA funding from outside the direct farm support budget. Under no circumstances should ANC funding reduce, delay, top-slice, displace or otherwise diminish any existing or planned support for farmers. Any proposal that fails to meet this test would simply redistribute financial pressure within an already stretched DAERA budget and would not meet the UFU definition of "new money". Should the funding allocation fail to satisfy the above conditions, the UFU will withdraw their support for the Bill proceeding to the next stage.

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Please see our response to question 6 and 7.

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

To some Extent

Please provide information to support your answer:

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

The ANC payment ensured productive agriculture activity was maintained in ANC areas. The loss of the ANC funding has lowered farm incomes that was used to provide cash flow during the most difficult times of the year and has constrained investment on ANC farms. There is a continuous decline in sucker cow and breeding ewe numbers and the UFU believe the loss of the ANC payment is significant in this. In the DAERA Agriculture Census numbers of suckler beef cows reduced from 226,000 in 2024 to 213,774 in 2025. This is a drop of 12,226 down 5% on 2024 and 9% on 2023. Breeding ewes have reduced from 930,447 in 2024 to 864,522 in 2025, this is a drop of 65,925 down 7% on 2024 and 11% from 2023. The new Sustainable Agriculture programme includes a protein scheme, a beef carbon reduction scheme (BCRS) and suckler cow scheme which many ANC farmers will not benefit from due to land type. These schemes will reduce ANC farmers Farm Sustainbility Payment (previously known as Basic Payment Scheme) by 17% with no way of regaining this loss of income. Data from DAERA Farm Incomes 23/24 show cattle and sheep farmers in less favoured areas (LFA) has an average farm business income loss of -£10,807 and an average net farmer income loss of - £17,909 when direct support payments are removed. The UFU still receive many queries from members about the loss of the ANC payment and many of these members are asking when a new one will be reinstated.

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Farming in ANC land creates many challenges and additional costs for ANC farmers. Low temperatures, excess soil moisture, poor soil drainage, unfavourable texture and stoniness, shallow rooting depths, poor chemical properties and steep slopes are just some of the challenges that farmers farming in these areas face. ANC land is poor quality not suited for crops and limited to the type of livestock you can graze on it. Farmers are limited to grazing sheep and cattle in lower numbers due to lower availability of grazable grasses, herbs and plants. In the ANC areas there is longer winters from early September to April with a short growing season. Therefore, many ANC farmers will have higher production costs for feed, forage, overheads etc for housing livestock in the winter months. Also the Environmental Farming Scheme (EFS) introduced grazing restrictions on ANC land including blanket bogs and upland heaths from 1st November to 28th February and lower stocking rates. Therefore, many ANC farmers had to either reduce livestock numbers, house livestock or graze livestock on other land which may have had to be rented at an additional cost. ANC farmers will usually have lower yields of livestock born on farm that is also sold at lighter weights compared to lowland farmers. ANC land is not as fertile and therefore forages from the land are lower quality (lower protein level available to animals) compared to more fertile land. The land is usually to steep or wet to apply fertilisers, dung or slurry to improve soil fertility and grass growth. Most ANC farmers will have their Farm Sustainability Payment reduced by 17% with no way of making up this income loss as ANC land is not suited for growing protein crops, finishing beef animals and the suckler scheme targets are not suited to a hill suckler farm. The majority of ANC farmers are small family farmers with low incomes that would not survive without direct support from government. Alternative enterprises are limited in these areas due to lack of investment, planning issues, land type etc. ANC farmers will mostly sell their livestock produce in summer/autumn months including store lambs, weanlings and breeding stock. Due to this seasonality product many ANC farmers have no other source of income throughout the remainder of the year. Whereas the ANC payment was paid in April-May usually when ANC businesses have their biggest input costs due to feeding livestock feed and forage. The payment was always welcomed and helped businesses survive until livestock sales. In recent years fertilisers have increased by minimum £50-200 per tonne and concentrates have increased by £20-£50 per tonne. The ANC payment was useful in cash flows to cover these costs. Vaccinations and animal medicine products have also increased in cost. ANC farmers also have additional costs of maintaining hill areas such as fencing, stone walls, maintenance of land etc. If the land was not looked after the land would become wild which would be a negative result for the environment and food production. The UFU strongly believes that the ANC payment would help significantly to alleviating some of these costs.

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

In the past ANC was paid on disadvantaged and and disadvantaged land and the UFU would like to see the ANC paid on both lands as they both face the same challenges.

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

On behalf of UFU ANC farmer members the ANC payment was very important to the farm businesses financial viability. As discussed above ANC farmers face many additional costly challenges that reduce their overall farm business profitability. The ANC payment helped to contribute to the financial viability of businesses following these significant challenges that cannot be avoided due to land type.

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

Not Answered

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Significant

Please provide information to support your answer:

The UFU believe that the ANC scheme significantly benefited the environment and biodiversity in these areas. ANC farmers are vital for the maintenance of the environment in the ANC habitats, without farmers the land would become wild and biodiversity would be lost. ANC land also sequesters carbon helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Currently the UFU does not feel Farming for Nature Transition Scheme is delivering to ANC farmers. However we do understand the new measures in Farming for Nature may deliver some benefits to ANC farmers however we would be deeply concerned with the requirements of this scheme and if farmers will have to spend money in order to regain it in full or proportion therefore not generating any profit from the scheme.

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

We believe ANC farmers who receive ANC payment scheme should not be disadvantaged from receiving other environmental support schemes. We see the ANC payment as a direct support to productive farming in ANC areas.

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

Yes

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

Clause 1 (3)

19 Do you agree with payment levels starting as per those paid under the Areas of Natural Constraint Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

20 Do you agree that payment rates should be increased annually, by at least the percentage increase in the prices index for that year?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

21 Do you agree that the eligibility provisions (relating to size of holding, qualifying forage area) as set out in the 2018 Regulations should apply to the proposed ANC Bill?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (4)

22 Do you think the current definition of Areas with Natural Constraints remains appropriate?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

We would like the ANC maps to be updated regularly to ensure no farmer is unfairly missing out on the ANC scheme.

Clause 2 (1)

24 Are you content with the commencement of the Act on the day after receiving Royal assent?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Additional Information/Comments

25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

Throughout the generations, farmers have inherited knowledge, skills and professional expertise from the previous generation farming ANC land however unfortunately farming ANC land is becoming less viable for the next generation and therefore this knowledge, skills and professional expertise are being lost. There is more and more land abandonment particularly in isolated and mountain areas. Managing land in ANC areas is very different from low land farms and it is not something you read in a textbook alone. Managing heather and peatland in hand with livestock, is very different from low land farming. To ensure the environment is managed and food production continues NI needs the next generation to continue farming the uplands areas.

The ANC payments help to keep ANC farmers farming in rural areas which in turn contribute to the local rural economy. To preserve rural populations, people need rural communities and rural employment. In agriculture for every 1 job, it contributes to 1.5 jobs in the wider economy. In NI we produce food for £10 million people. If farmers in ANC land can no longer make a sustainable income they will stop food production. If this stops where does the food come from? NI red meat industry produces world class products with the highest environment, animal health and welfare standards.
The need for off farm income has become greater, particularly for farms in ANC which raises the point as to why ANC payments are so important to farms.

Proposed Additions and Amendments

26 Please provide information on any potential amendments that you feel would enhance the Bill and the rationale for those.

Information on any potential amendments:

We would like the bill to extend beyond farmers with breeding sheep and suckler cows to include beef finishing and dairy farmers. We would also like the bill to include disadvantaged areas as the old ANC scheme.

Response ID ANON-7W7J-3V4M-S

Submitted to Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments) Bill
Submitted on 2026-07-06 23:26:39

Introduction

1 What is your name?

Name:
[redacted]

2 What is your email address?

Email:
[redacted]

3 If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business please state its name.

Name of organsisation or business :
[redacted]

Consent

4 Please confirm that you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee's Privacy Notice by clicking the button below.

Yes

5 How would you like your submission to be published?

Yes. Publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Areas with Natural Constraints (Payments)Bill

Clause 1 - Regulations on payments for areas with natural constraints

6 At this point in time, the Bill does not have any guaranteed financial support measures. What is your view on this?

Concerned

Please provide your reasoning for your answer?:

The money may need to be taken from some other vital support for farmers.

7 Do you agree that financial support should be provided by the Department to farmers operating in Areas with Natural Constraints (ANC)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

Farmers in ANC areas -get only two cuts of silage compared to farmers in low land that get three of four
-only get their cows out in May compared to farmers in low land that get there cattle out in March/April and they have to house them earlier in the Autumn.
-have to lamb their ewes later and so miss the bigger price for spring lamb. There is not as much grass so there is more feed costs.

8 Would you be content for ANC payments to be allocated from the Farm Sustainability Payment fund?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

9 Do you think the current lack of financial support measures in the Bill will affect how effective it is in practice?

To some Extent

Please provide information to support your answer:

10 Do you agree that these payments are important for maintaining agricultural activity in ANC areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

11 Do you agree that reintroducing an ANC payment would significantly help alleviate production costs for farmers in these areas?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

12 If ANC payments are provided – do you feel there should be different levels depending on the severity of natural constraints (for example, disadvantaged vs severely disadvantaged land)?

Yes

Please provide information to support your answer:

13 If applicable to you - how important are ANC payments to the financial viability of your farm/business or one that you work for?

Very Important

Please provide information to support your answer:

14 If applicable to you - what proportion of the agricultural land you own or work on is currently classified as an ANC?

All land (100%)

Please provide information to support your answer:

15 If applicable to you - what environmental impact (if any) has the cessation of ANC payments had on your farm, or a farm you work for?

Moderate

Please provide information to support your answer:

16 Are there alternative measures that you feel should be considered, either instead of or alongside an ANC payment scheme?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

17 Do you believe that the introduction of an ANC payment scheme would limit access to other farming or environmental support schemes?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

Clause 1 (2)

18 The Department must introduce the regulations within 12 months of the Act coming into operation. Do you consider this time limit appropriate?

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Yes

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23 Are there areas currently designated or not designated as ANC that you believe should be reviewed or reconsidered?

No

Please provide information to support your answer:

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25 Please provide any additional information or comments on any aspect of the Bill that you feel is relevant.

Additional information or comments.:

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Information on any potential amendments: