



Department for the

Economy

An Roinn

Geilleagair

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Clerk to the Committee for the Economy

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Our ref: CQ DfE 419/26

Your Ref: EC2026:1013

Date: 22 09 2026

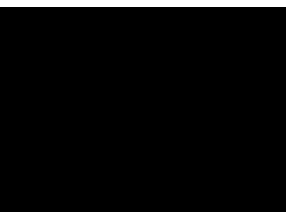
Dear Peter

Petroleum Exploration and Licensing (Repeal) Bill Further Written Submissions

Thank you for your letter of 11 September 2026 requesting a limited Keeling Schedule covering the changes to be made by the Bill to Section 1 of the Petroleum (Production) Act (Northern Ireland) 1964.

The Keeling Schedule is attached.

Yours sincerely



Departmental Assembly Liaison Officer

Keeling Schedule – Section 1 Petroleum (Production) Act (Northern Ireland) 1964

Prospective Amendments by the Petroleum Exploration and Licensing (Repeal) Bill

Petroleum (Production) Act (Northern Ireland) 1964

1964 CHAPTER 28

An Act to vest in the Ministry of Commerce the property in undeveloped petroleum in Northern Ireland; to make provision with respect to searching and boring for and getting petroleum; and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid.

[13th October 1964]

1 Vesting of undeveloped petroleum in the Ministry of Commerce.

(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the property in petroleum existing in its natural condition in strata in Northern Ireland is hereby vested in the Ministry of Commerce (in this Act referred to as "the Ministry").

(2) Subsection (1) shall not apply to any petroleum which vested in the Ministry by virtue of section 6 of and Schedule 1 to, the Minerals (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 1959 (in this Act referred to as "the Act of 1959").

~~(3) Without prejudice to its powers to grant licences under section 2, the Ministry shall have the exclusive right of searching and boring for and getting the petroleum vested in it under subsection (1) or by virtue of the provisions of the Act of 1959 referred to in subsection (2) ...1.~~

[(4) In subsection (1) "strata in Northern Ireland" includes strata beneath the internal waters adjacent to Northern Ireland, but does not include strata beneath the territorial sea of the United Kingdom adjacent to Northern Ireland.] **2**



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Committee for the Economy

Departmental Assembly Liaison Officer
Department for the Economy
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Our Ref: **EC2026:1013**

11 September 2026

Dear DALO,

**Petroleum Exploration and Licensing (Repeal) Bill
Further Written Submissions**

At its meeting of 9 September 2026, the Committee for the Economy received evidence from Letterbreen and Mullaghduin Partnership (LAMP) in respect of the Petroleum Exploration and Licensing (Repeal) Bill.

LAMP raised concerns that the Bill as it stands surrenders Northern Ireland's rights over untapped petroleum resources. LAMP suggested that as the Bill repeals Section 1(3) of the Petroleum (Production) Act (Northern Ireland) 1964, the Department is effectively surrendering Northern Ireland's ownership of petroleum and its exclusive right to exploit it, thereby creating a legal vacuum which might allow others to exploit this resource. A copy of the presentation is appended for your information.

The Committee noted that the Department had previously responded on this point more than once. Members nonetheless felt that the confusion expressed by some respondents to the call for evidence might be best addressed if the Department produced a limited Keeling Schedule – as suggested in your correspondence of 26 June 2026 - covering the changes to be made by the Bill to Section 1 of the Petroleum (Production) Act (Northern Ireland) 1964.

A written response in respect of the above before the Department's evidence session and informal clause by clause scrutiny of the Bill on 23 September 2026 would be greatly appreciated.

If you require further information or clarification in respect of the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Peter McCallion

Peter McCallion

Clerk to the Committee for the Economy

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