

Response ID [REDACTED]

Submitted to Utility Regulator (Support for Decarbonisation Preparation) Bill
Submitted on 2026-06-29 10:18:58

Introduction

1 What is your name?

name:

2 What is your email address?

email address:

3 Are you providing a submission on behalf of an organisation or business?

Yes

If yes, please provide the name of the organisation or business below:

Electric Vehicle Association Northern Ireland

Consent

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

yes:

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.

Utility Regulator (Support for Decarbonisation Preparation) Bill

Clause 1 (1)

6 Does this part of Clause 1 give the Utility Regulator sufficient power and/or responsibility in order to help decarbonise the energy sector in Northern Ireland?

No

If no, what powers / responsibilities should the Bill confer on the Utility Regulator in order to support decarbonisation, beyond the provision of advice?:

The Utility Regulator should be granted powers that provide it with a clear and unambiguous remit to drive and prioritise decarbonisation within energy regulation. We recognise there is a difficult reconciliation with one of its principal statutory objectives: "to promote the development and maintenance of an efficient, economic and co-ordinated gas industry in Northern Ireland." This creates a potential conflict between supporting continued gas infrastructure and delivering decarbonisation objectives, and we feel it is important that the UR clearly prioritises decarbonisation when regulating the full energy mix.

Clause 1 (2)

7 Should the Utility Regulator's support for decarbonisation be restricted to the provision of advice to the Department for the Economy?

No

If no, who else should the Utility Regulator be able to provide decarbonisation advice to?:

As per our previous answer, we believe the UR should have wider powers to prioritise decarbonisation within the energy mix, and as such should be able to provide support to the wider sector in developing policy and meeting the decarbonisation objective.

Clause 1 (3)

8 Do you support this aspect of Clause 1?

Yes

If no, please explain in the text box below.:

Clause 2

9 Should the relevant provisions be commenced immediately after Royal Assent?

Yes

If no, what conditions or restrictions might be placed on commencement?:

Additional Information/Comments

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

Additional information or comments.:

We support the overall aim that the UR should have a remit which includes decarbonisation and is aligned to wider government policy around the Climate Change Act and the NI Energy Strategy objectives. We recognise that the Bill takes a first step in giving the UR a mandate in this regard, but would be keen that decarbonisation is seen as a key priority within the UR's mandate.

Proposed Additions and Amendments

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

Information on any potential amendments:

Almost done...

12 If you provide an email address you will be sent a receipt and a link to a PDF copy of your response.

email:

