



<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>CONSULTATION REPORT</b>
<b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup> October 2020</b>
<b>For Decision or For Information</b>	<b>FOR INFORMATION</b>

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)</b>	
Strategic Theme	
Outcome	
Lead Officer	Director of Environmental Services

<b>Budgetary Considerations</b>	
Cost of Proposal	Nil
Included in Current Year Estimates	
Capital/Revenue	
Code	
Staffing Costs	

<b>Screening Requirements</b>	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	No	Date:

1.	<p><b>DEPARTMENT FOR THE ECONOMY</b></p> <p><b>(correspondence dated 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020)</b></p>
	<p><b><u>Draft Gas (Internal Markets) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 and Associated Gas (EU Exit) Amending Regulations</u></b></p> <p>The Department for the Economy has published a consultation paper on proposed legislative measures which would make a number of amendments to the Gas (Northern Ireland) Order 1996; the Energy (Northern Ireland) Order 2003; and the Energy Act 2008 in order to:</p> <p>(i) Transpose, where necessary, the requirements of EU Directive 2009/73/EC ('the Gas Directive') as amended by EU Directive 2019/692 ('the Gas Directive Amendment') which mainly relate to arrangements for gas pipe-lines which connect with a third country outside the European Union;</p> <p>(ii) Provide legislative clarity on arrangements for regulating a gas storage facility sited in the territorial seas adjacent to Northern Ireland and organising third party access in compliance with Gas Directive requirements; and</p> <p>(iii) Following on from the above, make any necessary consequential amendments to NI energy legislation which will be effective from 31 December 2020 to ensure that the legislation continues to operate effectively from the end of the transition period following the UK's exit from the EU.</p> <p>The proposed legislative measures are mainly designed to ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place for regulating gas transmission pipelines which connect Northern Ireland with a country outside the EU, and for arranging third party access to a gas storage facility sited in the territorial seas adjacent to Northern Ireland. No such infrastructure currently exists in NI, or is planned, so these legislative changes are anticipated to have no immediate practical impacts other than ensuring compliance with an EU Directive.</p> <p>Further information on the reasons for, and effects of, the proposed legislative measures are outlined in the consultation paper, draft regulatory impact assessment, draft equality screening form and draft rural needs impact assessment which are available at the following link:  <a href="https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/consultations/legislative-measures-transpose-gas-directive-200973ec-amended-by-directive-2019692">https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/consultations/legislative-measures-transpose-gas-directive-200973ec-amended-by-directive-2019692</a></p> <p>Stakeholders are invited to send comments on any of these documents by e-mail to <a href="mailto:gasbranch@economy-ni.gov.uk">gasbranch@economy-ni.gov.uk</a> or, alternatively, by post to the address below:</p> <p>Gas Policy Branch</p>

	Department for the Economy Room 44 Netherleigh House Massey Avenue Belfast BT1 4JP
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	Comments are required by 5.00pm on Friday 23 October 2020.
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