

CONSULTATION SCHEDULE – Council Meeting 3 May 2022

	RECEIVED FROM	TITLE	SUBMISSION BY
1.	AECOM on behalf of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council	CONSULTATION ON PORTADOWN – ARMAGH RAIL FEASIBILITY	29 April 2022 Circulated by email on 26 April 2022
	<p>Summary</p> <p>AECOM have been appointed to undertake a feasibility study in relation to the potential re-opening of the former Portadown to Armagh rail line. The study will be undertaken on the assumption that the former alignment of the rail line between Portadown and Armagh City would be utilized.</p> <p>We are currently at an early stage of the study, and we are seeking to come to an understanding of the views of key stakeholders. We would be grateful if you could respond with any comments related to the potential re-opening of the rail line.</p>		
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2.	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs	CONSULTATION ON REFORMS TO THE PACKAGING WASTE RECYCLING NOTE (PRN) AND PACKAGING WASTE EXPORT RECYCLING NOTE (PERN) SYSTEMS AND OPERATOR APPROVAL	21 May 2022
	<p>Summary</p> <p>The Government Response to the 2021 consultation on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) outlined our decision to retain the PRN/PERN system as an interim solution for managing payments for non-household packaging waste. This system was originally introduced under the 1997 Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations as a way for producers to demonstrate that they have met their statutory recycling obligations each year, by obtaining evidence notes. These evidence</p>		

notes, called Packaging Waste Recycling Notes (PRNs) and Packaging Waste Export Recycling Notes (PERNs), are issued by accredited recycling processors or exporters for each tonne of eligible packaging waste recycled.

While wider EPR measures (including full net cost payments for household packaging, modulated fees, mandatory labelling and enhanced communications) should address many of the issues identified with the current producer responsibility arrangements, there are several minor reforms that may help to improve the functioning of the PRN/PERN market in the short term. This consultation seeks views on proposals to address the identified issues and improve the overall effectiveness of the system, including suggestions from the Advisory Committee on Packaging (ACP) and other industry bodies.

In particular, we are focusing on the following areas for reform:

- Reporting requirements on the sales of PRNs/PERNs
- Reporting requirements on how the revenue from PRN/PERN sales is used
- Timeframes for the trading of PRNs/PERNs
- The introduction of a 'technical competence' test for compliance scheme operators and accredited reproducers/exporters
- The interface with the introduction of a Deposit Return System (DRS)

We are also asking for additional views and evidence on other proposed changes to the PRN/PERN system, including:

The introduction of a compliance fee for producers that fail to meet their obligations

- <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/packaging-extended-producer-responsibility/reforms-to-the-prn-and-pern-systems/>

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3.	Ulster University	CONSULTATION ON SCREENING OF NEW POLICIES (NOVEMBER 2021 – MARCH 2022)	8 July 2022
	<p>Summary</p> <p>Screening of New Policies (November 2021 – March 2022)</p> <p>In accordance with Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and commitments made within our Equality Scheme, the University is consulting on the equality screening of the following new policies, as defined by the Equality Commission (NI):</p>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hybrid and Flexible Working Framework • Flexitime Policy <p>Link below includes summary document that lists and describes the policies and the outcome of screening, for your information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ulster.ac.uk/peopleandculture/employee-benefits/equality-diversity/equality-scheme/consultation-exercises
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Available to view

	RECEIVED FROM	TITLE	PUBLISHED
1.	Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs	Government response to the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging consultation	<p>The link to the Government response is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Packaging and packaging waste: introducing Extended Producer Responsibility - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) <p>The links to the DAERA response pages are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/packaging-waste-introduction-extended-producer-responsibility-packaging-summary-2021-consultation • https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/packaging-waste-introduction-extended-producer-responsibility-packaging-summary-consultation

Equality Screening Reports

	RECEIVED FROM	TITLE	PUBLISHED
1.	Department for Communities	Quarterly Screening Report: 1 January - 31 March 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/dfc-equality

2.	Department of Education	Quarterly Screening Report: 1 January – 31 March 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/de-equality-screenings
3.	Invest NI	Equality Screening Menopause Policy Hybrid Working Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.investni.com/about-us/our-approach/equality-commitment.html

Open Consultations (previously Listed)

- Department for the Economy, Consultation on Proposals to Raise the Eligibility Ceilings for the Debt Relief Scheme, submission by 28 April 2022
- Department of Health, Consultation on Introduction of Statutory Regulation of the Pharmacy Technician Workforce in Northern Ireland, submission by 16 May 2022
- Department of Health, Consultation on Minimum Unit Pricing for Alcohol in Northern Ireland, submission by 17 May 2022
- Department of Health, Consultation on the Reform of Adult Social Care, submission by 18 May 2022
- Department of Justice, Consultation on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking, submission by 3 June 2022
- Department of Health, Consultation on Hub and Spoke Dispensing, submission by 8 June 2022
- Department of Health, Consultation on EQIA – Review of Urgent an Emergency Care in Northern Ireland, submission by 15 June 2022