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By Email:

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Your reference: N/A

Our reference: AE2-20-15721~2

Dear Head Planner

Date: 31 May 2023

## **Planning Consultations for Agricultural Developments**

Over the last number of months NIEA have been continuing to consider our standing advice on air pollution and agricultural developments, and as a result a decision has been taken to pause the issuing of ammonia planning advice pending the outcome of these considerations.

You will have also noted the recent announcement by the Office of Environmental Protection (OEP) that it intends to carry out an investigation into the advice given by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) on ammonia emissions in Northern Ireland. DAERA will be engaging positively with the OEP during the course of the investigation and looks forward to considering any recommendations which may result.

The Department intends to publish a call for evidence to support the development of new guidance in the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely,

## MARK HAMMOND Director – Natural Environment Division - NIEA

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