

Regional Planning Governance & Legislation



Department for

**Infrastructure**

An Roinn

**Bonneagair**

Department for

**Infrastructure**

[www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk](http://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk)

Clarence Court  
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11 December 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE REVIEW OF THE PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT) REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2015 (the Development Management Regulations)**

I am writing to inform you that the Department for Infrastructure has issued a public consultation paper on proposals to review The Development Management Regulations.

These proposals are part of the [Planning Improvement Programme \(PIP\)](#) being brought forward by the Department, working closely with local government and partners, to improve current processes and the performance and delivery of the planning system.

The consultation proposes changes in three areas:

- a review of the classes of development to ensure they reflect current and future development trends and that the associated thresholds take a balanced approach to community consultation in planning applications for major development.
- proposals to make pre-determination hearings discretionary for councils which will help focus resources and reduce delays in issuing planning decisions for some planning applications; and
- proposals to introduce online/digital methods into the pre-application community consultation (PACC) process, to enhance accessibility and encourage participation in the planning process by a broader range of people.

The public consultation can be accessed via the NI Direct – Citizen Space website at the link below, and submissions can be made online:

<https://consultations2.nidirect.gov.uk/dfi-1/review-of-the-planning-development-management-regu>

Alternatively, copies of the public consultation documents can be downloaded from the Department for Infrastructure [website](#), requested by email at: [Legislation.planning@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Legislation.planning@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk) or by phoning NI Direct on 0300 200 7830.

The closing date for receipt of comments is **3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024**.

You have received this notification because your contact details are contained on a list of consultees used by DfI Planning when issuing public consultations, surveys, questionnaires, etc.

If you no longer wish to receive these notifications, your details can be removed by notifying the department using the same contact details as above.

Yours faithfully

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**DR KATHRYN McFERRAN**  
**(Acting) Director**