

Your Reference:
Our reference:

Heads of Planning
Local Planning Authorities

12 December 2023

Dear Head of Planning

Planning Consultations for Agricultural Developments

I am writing to advise you that DAERA has asked the NIEA to place a short pause on its use of the current NIEA Ammonia Operational Protocol (also known as the NIEA Ammonia Standing Advice) and so the NIEA will not be providing advice on any planning applications that the Agency receives in the coming days. This is to allow the Department to consider fully some new developments related to the use of the Protocol. We would therefore also ask that planning authorities do not make use of the guidance until we provide further clarity.

I am sorry for any inconvenience that this presents and will update you further on the position by Friday 22 December.

Yours sincerely,



Liz Loughran

Natural Environment Division - NIEA

Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.

