

Planning Policy Division
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30 April 2015

Dear Sir/Madam

Consultation Paper on the Planning (Hazardous Substances) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

I am writing to advise you that this Department has published the above Consultation Paper. The purpose of the consultation is to obtain views on the amendment to the Planning (Hazardous Substances) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 (“the Hazardous Substances Regulations”) described within the paper. The Department would also welcome views on the Equality Impact Assessment Screening and Partial Regulatory Impact Assessment documents at Annexes A and B of the Consultation Paper.

The closing date for the receipt of comments is **11th June 2015**.

The Hazardous Substances Regulations apply Directive 96/82/EC on the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances as amended (“the Seveso II Directive”), to the planning process in Northern Ireland. The Seveso II Directive requires Member States to ensure that the objectives of preventing major accidents involving dangerous substances and limiting the consequence of such accidents are taken into account in their land-use planning policies. There are also requirements to have appropriate separation distances between establishments covered by the Directive and various types of areas and for additional technical measures for existing establishments.

The Seveso II Directive was reviewed by the EU and is being replaced by Directive 2012/18/EU (the Seveso III Directive) in June 2015. The new Directive changes the list of hazardous substances that it controls and now includes specific requirements on public consultation relating to decisions on where hazardous substances are to be located and on development around those locations.

Copies of the Consultation Paper may be downloaded from the Planning NI website at www.planningni.gov.uk. Additional copies, or copies in alternative formats, if desired, can be obtained from the above address by telephone or text phone (details are given below and on the website).

Telephone: (028) 90823498

Text phone: (028) 9054 0642

Guidance on how to respond to the consultation is included in the Consultation Paper.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Torney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T'.

JOE TORNEY