
STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2019 No. 81

The Nutrient Action Programme
Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019

PART 8

Powers, duties and functions of the Department

Implementation Report

34.—(1) The Department must prepare a report on the implementation of these Regulations at four-yearly intervals.

(2) A report in paragraph (1) must contain—

- (a) details of any steps taken to promote good agricultural practice;
- (b) a summary of the monitoring results on the effectiveness of the action programme;
- (c) a summary of the most recent review conducted under regulation 35.

(3) A report under paragraph (1) must be published—

- (a) in such manner as the Department considers appropriate;
- (b) by the last day of the six month period beginning with the day on which the four-yearly interval ends.

Reviewing the action programme

35.—(1) The Department shall review at four-yearly intervals, in consultation with the public, this action programme and, if appropriate, publish a revised action programme for the protection of waters against nutrients from agricultural sources.

(2) An action programme shall include such necessary measures as are required by these Regulations and shall contain a review of the action programme most recently made and of such additional measures as may be required.

(3) The Department shall—

(a) ensure that the public is given early and effective opportunity to participate in the preparation, review or revision of an action programme; and

(b) in doing so shall—

- (i) ensure that the public is informed by public notices or other appropriate means, such as electronic media, about any proposals for the preparation, review or revision of an action programme;
- (ii) ensure that the information about the proposals referred to in sub-paragraph (a), is made available to the public, including information about the right to participate in decision making in relation to those proposals;

- (iii) ensure that the public is entitled to make comments before any decision is made on the establishment, review or revision of an action programme;
 - (iv) in making any such decision, take due account of the results of the public participation; and
 - (v) having examined the comments made by the public, make reasonable efforts to inform the public of the decisions taken and the reasons and considerations on which these decisions are based, including information on the public participation process.
- (4) In carrying out their functions under paragraph (3), the Department shall ensure that reasonable time is allowed such as is sufficient to enable the public to participate effectively.
- (5) In carrying out their functions under paragraph (3), where the Department publish any information, the Department shall—
- (a) do so in a way as they consider appropriate for the purpose of bringing the information to the attention of the public; and
 - (b) make copies of that information accessible to the public free of charge through its websites or otherwise.
- (6) The Department shall specify in a notice on its websites or otherwise the detailed arrangements made to enable public participation in the preparation, review or revision of an action programme, including—
- (a) the address to which comments in relation to those proposals may be submitted; and
 - (b) the date by which such comments should be received.