

**Status:** Point in time view as at 28/02/2022. This version of this part contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Environment Act 2021, PART 3. (See end of Document for details)

## SCHEDULES

VALID FROM 25/07/2022

### SCHEDULE 2

#### IMPROVING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT: NORTHERN IRELAND

### PART 3

#### INTERPRETATION

##### *Meaning of “natural environment”*

- 9 In this Schedule the “natural environment” means—
- (a) plants, wild animals and other living organisms,
  - (b) their habitats,
  - (c) land (except buildings or other structures), air and water,
- and the natural systems, cycles and processes through which they interact.

##### **Commencement Information**

- I1** Sch. 2 para. 9 not in force at Royal Assent, see [s. 147\(3\)](#)

##### *Meaning of “environmental protection”*

- 10 In this Schedule “environmental protection” means any of the following—
- (a) protection of the natural environment from the effects of human activity;
  - (b) protection of people from the effects of human activity on the natural environment;
  - (c) maintenance, restoration or enhancement of the natural environment;
  - (d) monitoring, assessing, considering, advising or reporting on anything in paragraphs (a) to (c).

##### **Commencement Information**

- I2** Sch. 2 para. 10 not in force at Royal Assent, see [s. 147\(3\)](#)

##### *General interpretation*

- 11 (1) In this Schedule—

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“current environmental improvement plan” has the meaning given by paragraph 1(8);

the “Department” means the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland;

“environmental improvement plan” has the meaning given by paragraph 1 (and see also paragraph 3(10));

“environmental principles” has the meaning given by paragraph 6(5);

“improving the natural environment”, in relation to an environmental improvement plan, is to be read in accordance with paragraph 1(5);

“making” policy includes developing, adopting or revising policy;

“Minister of the Crown” has the same meaning as in the Ministers of the Crown Act 1975;

[<sup>F1</sup>“OEP” has the meaning given by section 22;]

“policy” includes proposals for legislation, but does not include an administrative decision taken in relation to a particular person or case (for example, a decision on an application for planning permission, funding or a licence, or a decision about regulatory enforcement);

“policy statement on environmental principles” has the meaning given by paragraph 6.

- (2) Section 41(3) of the [Interpretation Act \(Northern Ireland\) 1954 \(c. 33 \(N.I.\)\)](#) applies in relation to the laying of a document before the Northern Ireland Assembly under this Schedule, as it applies in relation to the laying of a statutory document under an Act of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in [Sch. 2 para. 11\(1\)](#) inserted (28.2.2022) by [Environment Act 2021 \(c. 30\)](#), s. 147(6)(7), [Sch. 3 para. 30\(4\)](#) (with s. 144); S.R. 2022/54, art. 2(1)(a)

#### Commencement Information

- I3** [Sch. 2 para. 11](#) not in force at Royal Assent, see [s. 147\(3\)](#)

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