



Office for Environmental Protection
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To: Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

Date: 22 June 2022

Sent by email to: terence.patton@daera-ni.gov.uk

Cc. kerry.anderson@daera-ni.gov.uk and karl.beattie@daera-ni.gov.uk

Dear Terence

The need for urgency in environmental matters

We write to express our concern regarding ongoing delays to the adoption of updated River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs).

With respect to RBMPs, regulation 28(4)(a) of the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 requires that the Department publish updated RBMPs by 22 December 2021. These plans have not yet been published and today marks six months since that statutory deadline passed. Updated RBMPs have not been published for any of the three river basin districts (RBDs) in Northern Ireland.

This delay is extremely regrettable, given the pressing environmental concerns at issue. These deadlines are designed to ensure that action to protect and improve our environment happens at pace as it must.

We appreciate there have been exceptional pressures (including a pandemic) in recent times, but nevertheless we would expect DAERA to give priority to the work necessary to meet statutory deadlines.

We would therefore be grateful if you could please provide an explanation of the reason for the ongoing delay and an update which sets out when the outstanding updated RBMPs will be published.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Helen Venn".

Helen Venn

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