



# New Legislation - Climate Change Reporting by Public Bodies

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DAERA

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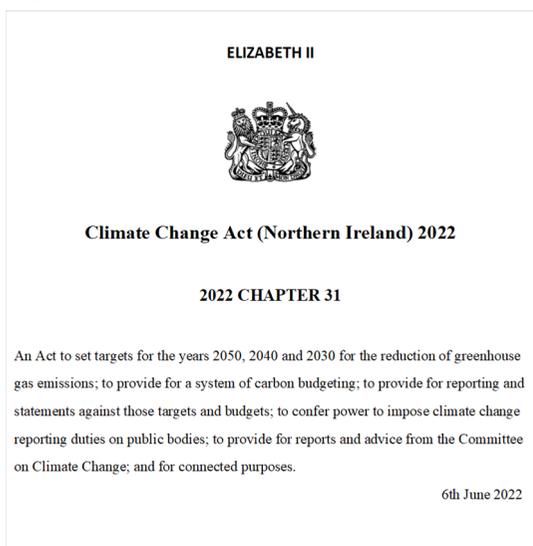
Today we act.  
Tomorrow  
we thrive.



Northern Ireland  
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# Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022



- The Act received Royal Assent on 6th June 2022.
- Section 42 of the Act requires DAERA:
  - to make regulations which will **place climate change reporting duties** on **specified** public bodies; and
  - to consult with public bodies and other stakeholders before making the regulations.
- The new regulations must come into operation before 6th December 2023.

# Specified Public Bodies

- The definition of ‘public bodies’ under the Act is very wide:
  - (a) a person or body with functions of a public nature;*
  - (b) a person who is a statutory undertaker within the meaning of The Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011*
- The new regulations will specify the public bodies who will be required to report.
  - Informed by stakeholder engagement - public body workshops, and a public consultation in 2023.
- Public bodies who are currently not included – those who already report under other elements of the Act regarding their commitments and functions set by the Act (e.g. NI Executive Departments & their Agencies, etc.)

# Climate Change Reporting Duties

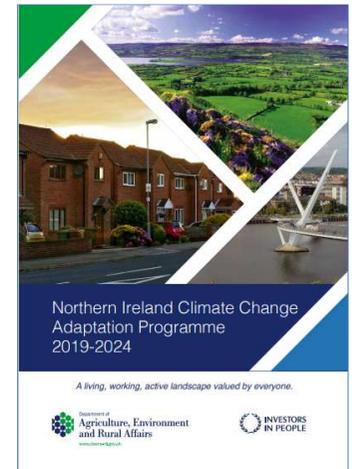
Section 42 gives powers to set a duty for specified public bodies to prepare reports containing:

- *an **assessment** of the **current and predicted impact of climate change** in relation to the body's functions;*
- *a **statement** of the body's **proposals and policies** for **adapting** to, or **mitigating** the effects of, climate change in the exercise of its functions;*
- *a **statement** of the **time-scales** for **implementing** those proposals and policies;*
- *an **assessment** of the **progress** made by the body towards implementing the proposals and policies set out in any previous reports prepared under the regulations.*

# Climate Change Reporting Duties

**Section 42 gives powers to require specified public bodies, when creating their reports, to have regard to:**

- *The latest 5-year UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA);*
- *the latest 5-year Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP); and*
- *the desirability of co-ordinating the body's proposals and policies with other parts of the UK, Republic of Ireland or elsewhere.*



# Other Powers

**Section 42 gives powers to include in the new regulations:**

- *Time periods which reports must cover, and within which a report must be submitted by the body;*
- *Allowances for co-operation between public bodies in the preparation of a report, or the preparation of a joint report by two or more public bodies;*
- *The form of reports; and*
- *Requirements around the publication of reports.*

# Climate Change Reporting Duties

## Important to note that:

- The **new regulations** - will **only** require climate change reporting by specified public bodies.
- The Act **does not** provide powers to require public bodies to deliver their functions in a certain way, or to deliver actions beyond the requirement to produce.
- **The new regulations** - must stay within the scope of Section 42 of the Act.



## Today's goal

to gather your views on:

- what reporting could look like;
- who should be required to report;
- how often; and
- how the information could be used.

to help inform:

- the development of the regulations;  
and
- the public consultation in early  
2023.



## Our final goal

- Well-informed NEW regulations
- Fit-for-purpose reporting regime

**REPORTING WILL HAVE  
MANY BENEFITS!**

# Act today. Protect tomorrow.



Today we act.  
Tomorrow  
we thrive.



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