River Basin Management Plans 2015 – 2021

North Western River Basin District

Record of Public Participation and Consultation

December 2015







Record of Consultation and Participation

As a requirement of Article 14 of the Water Framework Directive (WFD), it is necessary to encourage the active involvement of all interested parties in the implementation of the WFD, in particular in relation to the production, review and updating of River Basin Management Plans. This background document summarises the steps taken nationally and within the North Western District to ensure that the development of the River Basin Management Plan has been produced through consultation and engagement with interested parties. The steps are summarised in three sections on:

- Consultation:
- Stakeholder Engagement; and
- Public access to information.

As part of the plan, the updated Record of Consultation and Participation sets out the consultation measures undertaken and identifies the changes that have been made to the plan as a result of the public consultation process.

1.0 Consultations

Table 1.0 outlines the consultations on Water Framework Directive that have been undertaken nationally and in the North Western River Basin District and the key outcomes arising from the consultations to ensure that the River Basin Management Plan has been produced through consultation and engagement with interested parties

Table 1 Consultations undertaken nationally and within Northern Ireland River Basin Districts

Title	Means of Dissemination	Key Outcomes
Consultations		
Water Framework Directive (Priority Substances and Classification) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010	The document was published on the Department of Environment (DOE) (www.doeni.gov.uk) website June 2010.	Synopsis of responses to the Consultation Was published on the Department of Environment website in September 2010
The Water Framework Directive (Priority Substances and Classification) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011	The document was published on the DOE website (www.doeni.gov.uk) and http://www.legislation.gov.uk/	January 2011
Guidance on the Water Framework Directive (Priority Substances and Classification) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011	The document was published on the DOE website. (www.doeni.gov.uk)	
Final Regulatory Impact Assessment (in respect of the Water Framework Directive (Priority Substances and Classification) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011)	The document was published on the DOE website. (www.doeni.gov.uk)	
The Water Framework Directive (Priority Substances and Classification) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 –	The document was published on the DOE website. (www.doeni.gov.uk) and http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ Hard copy was available on request, from Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), Water Management Unit, 17 Antrim Road, Lisburn.	Published December 2012 These Regulations amend the date, by which the Department of the Environment has to establish an inventory of emissions, discharges and losses of all substances listed in Table 38 of Part 2 of Schedule 1 to the Water Framework (Priority Substances and Classification) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011 from 31 st December 2012 to 22 nd December 2013
Draft Water Framework Directive (Priority Substances and Classification) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 Purpose to seek views on the introduction of new and updated environmental standards for Northern	This document was published on the DOE Website, (www.doeni.gov.uk) with hardcopies available on request from Water Policy Team, Goodwood House, 44 – 58 May Street, Belfast, BT1NN A number of consultees were advised directly	Consultation was open from 4 th June 2014 – 30 th September 2014 Final document - The Water Framework Directive (Priority Substances And Classification) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland)
Ireland's water through amendments. These	about the consultation.	2015

amendments are based on recommendations from WFD UKTAG in respect of biological, phosphorus and environmental standards		Came into operation 4 th March 2015.
Proposals on consolidated Water Framework Directive Priority Substances and Classification Regulations 2015 Purpose to seek views on the proposal to produce a consolidated set of regulations which incorporate the relevant parts of the two Priority Substances Directives and relevant parts of the NI Regulations which set out the WFD classification scheme.	This document was published on the DOE Website, with hardcopies available on request from Water Policy Team, Goodwood House, 44 – 58 May Street, Belfast, BT1NN A number of consultees were advised directly about the consultation.	Consultation opened 15 th June 2015 – 21 st August 2015
UKTAG Methodology for determining hazardous substances in groundwater	All documents relating to this consultation and final documents were published on the UKTAG website. (www.wfduk.org)	Between June and August 2011, a consultation took place on the methodology. The revised methodology was issued on 28th June 2012, along with the consultation response document. Final revised Methodology - 120628 JAGDAG det meth final.pdf Response on Final revised Methodology - 120628 Consult_responses_Final.pdf
UKTAG Hazardous / non-hazardous pollutant assessment of 20 substances: 2013/14 A public consultation was carried out on twenty substances, which were assessed in accordance with the methodology for determining hazardous substances for the purposes of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and Groundwater Daughter Directive	All document relating to this consultation and final documents were published on the UKTAG website. (www.wfduk.org)	This consultation was open February - March 2013. The consultation amounted to a practical trial of the determination methodology, the results of which are summarised in the consultation response document. In view of the concerns raised in the consultation, revisions are being made to the methodology; these will go out for consultation in mid 2015.

(GWDD), and as required under legislation that transposes these requirements into domestic legislation in the UK and Ireland.		
UKTAG Environmental Standards Phase 3	All document relating to this consultation and final documents were published on the UKTAG website. (www.wfduk.org)	Following a consultation that ended in June 2012, UKTAG finalised Phase 3 of its review of environmental standards. The Interim Final Environmental Standards Phase
		3 Report (not including zinc) was published in February 2013 following consultation feedback.
		The Environmental Standards Phase 3 Final Report (including zinc) was published in November 2013. Some minor amendments have been made since November, detailed in the change log.
		UKTAG produced a <u>response to the consultation</u> <u>comments</u> explaining how feedback has been incorporated into the final recommendations.
UKTAG Final Recommendations on Biological and Phosphorus Standards	The documents relating to the consultation and final document were published on the UKTAG website. (www.wfduk.org) The consultation	This consultation was open from 10 th December 2012 – 28 th February 2013.
Two reports were produced recommending new phosphorus for rivers and biological standards for	document in December 2012 with the final recommendation document being published 30 th September 2013.	Response to both consultations were published on the UKTAG website (www.wfduk.org)
rivers, lakes and marine, after consultation.		The final recommendation document was published 30 th September 2013 on the UKTAG website. (www.wfduk.org)
		Some minor amendments have been made since November 2013, detailed in the change log. The final recommendations documents have been updated accordingly.

UKTAG Good Ecological Potential Mitigation Consultation 2013 UKTAG first published guidance on the classification of ecological potential in 2008. This guidance has been reviewed which has led to proposals to better define a default flow regime for good ecological potential in rivers downstream of reservoirs and their intakes	The document was published on the UKTAG website in 30 th September 2013. (<u>www.wfduk.org</u>)	This consultation closed 16 th August 2013. A summary of responses received and the final River Flow for GEP final recommendations were published on the UKTAG website 30 th September 2013.
Timetable and Work Programme for Development of the Second Cycle River Basin Management Plans 2015-2021 This document outlined the consultations to be undertaken to develop the second cycle RBMPs 2015 – 2021. It set out the timetable and work programme to produce the second cycle and asked stakeholders to suggest new ways they could become involved.	The document was published on both the NIEA and DOE website in 18 th December 2012 Details were highlighted at WFD Stakeholder Forum and Catchment Stakeholder Groups. The document was circulated as per Department's circulation list and made available in hard copy, if requested, from DOE, Environmental Policy Division, Goodwood House, 44 – 58 May Street, Belfast, BT1NN	The statutory consultation was held during 20 th December 2012 – 22 nd June 2013 A total of 5 substantive comments were received, all from non-governmental organisations. A Synopsis of Responses to the consultation was published on the DOE and NIEA websites September 2013.
Significant Water Management Issues for the North Western River Basin Districts within Northern Ireland. The documents set out the latest assessment of the pressures and impacts on the water environment, describing progress made towards achieving the 2015 objectives and issues still needing to be addressed.	These documents and supporting information were published on both the NIEA and DOE websites on 22 nd December 2013 and made available in hard copy, if requested, from NIEA, Water Management Unit, 17 Antrim Road, Lisburn. Details were highlighted at WFD Stakeholder Forum and Catchment Stakeholder Groups. The consultation was also advertised in the Belfast Gazette (6 th January 2014), Belfast Telegraph (10 th and 17 th January 2014), Newsletter and Irish News (10 th January 2014)	This statutory consultation was held during the period 22 nd December 2013 – 22 nd June 2014 A total of 18 substantive comments were received A Synopsis of the Responses to the consultation was produced and published on the DOE and NIEA websites September 2014. Feedback from the consultation will help in developing proposals for the draft second cycle RBMPs.

North Western Draft River Basin Management Plan 2015 - 2021

This plan is an update to the Plan published in December 2009 and provide an overview of the proposed changes

These and relating supporting documents were published on the NIEA website 22nd December 2014. Links to the documents were also provided on the DOE website.

The consultation was also advertised in the Belfast Telegraph (22nd December and 5th January 2015), Newsletter and Irish News (22nd December 2014)

Consultation responses were returned to the River Basin Planning Team via e-mail or post

The consultation was held from 22^{nd} December $2014 - 22^{nd}$ June 2015.

A total of 22 responses were received. A synopsis of the comments received will be available on request and on the DOE website in early 2016.

The comments from the consultation have been noted and included within the final version of the Plans.

Table 2 - Stakeholder Engagement within Northern Ireland River Basin Districts

Below is a catalogue of scheduled meetings in which NIEA engaged with stakeholders. This includes public meetings with the Catchment Stakeholder Groups (CSG) focused upon specific catchments; a national stakeholders' forum; and projects delivered in partnership with stakeholders. This is not a definitive account of all engagement within this reporting cycle, as many more less formal, ad hoc forms of engagement took place.

Groups	Details of Events	Key Outcomes
Catchment Stakeholder Group Meetings Catchment Stakeholder Groups (CSG) comprise of local and regional stakeholder sectors/groups, and relevant Government agencies; brought together to support and encourage a joint approach to identifying and solving catchment scale water quality management issues which supports implementation of the Water Framework Directive. The CSG meeting occur on a biannual	There are 3 Catchment Stakeholder Groups within the North Western RBD: Lower Foyle Upper Foyle Erne and Melvin A database of stakeholder contact information has been maintained by NIEA in order to forward information and details of meetings.	More effectively addresses local water management issues by Regional and Catchment Management Officers. Greater sense of local involvement in water management issues. Helps in increasing awareness and understanding of linkages between River Basin Plans and local water management issues.

basis and are open to the public.	Since 2010 these groups have met 10 Dates of the meetings are list in Appendix 1 Meetings include presentation providing a regional operation update, Catchment Management Officer update and then a guest speaker e.g. River's Agency, Northern Ireland Water, DARD, Lough's Agency, Local Angling club. Some of the meetings had a workshop element when starting to create action plans allowing local issues to be identified and incorporated into the plan.	Minutes and presentations from all the CSG meetings were published in the NIEA website.	
N.I. Water Framework Directive Stakeholder Forum This forum covers a wide range of interests, including the environment, industry, agriculture and conservation; members include Ulster Angling Federation, Ulster Farmers Union, and Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, NI biodiversity Group and various government departments.	The Forum has met 14 times since 3 rd March 2009, most recently 16 th September 2015. 2015 - 25th March, 16 th September 2014 - 17th September, 18th June, 3rd April 2013 - 19th June, 20th March 2012 - 10 December, 18th April 2011 - 19 October, 13 April 2010 - 13 April 2009 - 8th December, 3rd March	Minutes of the meeting and related papers were published on the DOE Website.	
The Freshwater Summit An outcome from the Stakeholder Forum. The invitees included active stakeholders	First summit 9 th January 2014, Lagan Valley Island Centre Lisburn. Presentations focused on the positives, the challenges ahead and progress made to date, with speaker from NIEA River Basin Planning, Northern Ireland Water, Ulster Farmers Union and Freshwater Task Force Second summit 28 th August 2014, Lagan Valley Island Centre Lisburn.	To agree an action plan addressing key issues raised during the summit. To finalise the action plan, with the issues feeding into the second cycle River Basin Plan Programme of measures.	

	Presentation included – Summary of response to Significant Water management Issues Consultation. Water Catchment Partnership and Action Plan from the first summit.	
Water Environment Community Awards Recipients in the North Western RBD	Group Awarded	Project Summary
These awards were open to any individuals and groups who had a project that helped spread the word about the importance of our water	Reed Bed Project (Share Centre)	Educate people to have a sense of responsibility for their waste and see waste water as a resource that can be utilised to support/protect out natural water.
environment and inspire others to protect this valuable resource. Nine awards of £1,000 each were awarded in May 2011 and March 2012 to	Killyclogher Burn Project (Killyclogher and District Development Association)	Aim to bring small stretch waterway back to the attention of present generation
implement the projects throughout Northern Ireland.	Wonderful World of Water (Greenshoots)	Re established wetland area with easy access to enable on site teaching and recreation.
The award was promoted through the NIEA website, mailing lists and at CSG meetings.	Water Awareness (Enagh Youth Forum)	Create wider community involvement, to promote water awareness issues and carry out a clean-up campaign on Enagh Lough and the surrounding island
	Water for Life – The Derg Valley (Pettigo & District Angling Association)	Project documenting decreasing water quality over the years and work undertaken to improve it
Water Quality Improvement Grants within the North Western RBD	The Grant was promoted through the NIEA website, mailing lists and at CSG meetings.	
NIEA piloted a dedicated competitive grant	Awarded Project Titles	
scheme which was used to allocate funds to voluntary 'not for profit' bodies and local councils. The grants were designed to improve the aquatic environment and attain Water Framework Objectives as identified in the River Basin	River Restoration Project: Earls River on Lower Lough Erne	An overview of each project is listed in Appendix 2
	Fintona Community Adopts the River Quiggery	2.2. Non 3. 343 p. 6,330. lo llottod iii / ippolitiik Z
Management Plans. Each individual project was capped at £10K, with 5 projects awarded in this RBD for the 2 years the scheme ran.	River Foyle Invasive Species Management	

	Reviving the lower reaches of Killyclogher Burn Freshwater Pearl Mussel Enhancement Project	
Consultation on format for future stakeholder engagement.	A Survey was sent to all participants within the Catchment Stakeholder Groups 28 th July 2015 to explore how best to engage with stakeholders in a meaningful and productive manor through the second cycle of the Water Framework Directive.	The survey closed 21 st August 2015 56 replies were received. Outcome to hold 1 Catchment Stakeholder meeting within the River Basin District per year, with a biennial conference but continue with bilateral meetings with specific stakeholders. Synopsis of results of survey available upon request.

Table 3: Public Access to Information

It is necessary to ensure that stakeholders and the public have access to information they need to understand and comment on the development of the River Basin Management Plan. Significant efforts have been made to make information on the Water Framework Directive and the river basin planning process easily accessible to the public. The following table outlines the methods of dissemination that have been used to facilitate understanding of the Water Framework Directive and encourage participation in the development of draft River Basin Management Plans.

Means of Dissemination	Activities
NIEA Website	A Water Framework Directive section was set up on the NIEA website. This section included information relating to the first and draft second cycle River Basin Plans. Main pages/sub sections within it included • River Basin management plans 2015-2021 – included draft plan, related supporting documents, Significant Water Management Issues 2013 report. • River Basin Planning 2009 – 2015 – included 1st cycle plan, supporting documents, additional consultations • The River Basin map viewers - 1st and draft 2nd cycle • Public participation in river basin planning – details of Catchment Stakeholder Groups including minutes of meetings and presentations • Assessing the impact of the plan • Economic value of water In November 2015 the DOE and NIEA websites were redesigned, so layout and content on the page has changed but there is a main page dedicated to River Basin Planning where the River Basin Management Summary Documents 2009 and 2015 are available https://www.doeni.gov.uk/topics/water/river-basin-management with all other supporting documents located within the publications section.
DOE Website	Water Framework Directive page was set up on the DOE website. This page contained information relating to Water Framework Directive consultations and public participation – Stakeholder Forum minutes and presentations. It also contained links to the NIEA related section. In November 2015 this website was redesigned. (http://www.doeni.gov.uk)
Catchment Stakeholder Group Electronic Newsletters (E-zines)	E-zine's were produced for each Catchment Stakeholder Group. These were sent to stakeholder group members and were also available on the NIEA website. These newsletters we designed to help develop involvements at a local level with implementing the River Basin Plan.

	Lower Foyle CSG - 2 issues, Upper Foyle CSG - 4 issues and Erne & Melvin CSG - 4 issues
NIEA properties	Consultation documents and leaflets were made available from reception areas and information centres in NIEA properties.
Public events	NIEA staff support a number of local groups, providing advice and guidance as required and attend events to raise awareness of the water environment. This includes providing information on river basin management plans, local management area action plans and a display of 'good bugs'bad bugs'. These include agricultural shows, angling and community events. Examples include: Balmoral Show 2011 – 2014 (incl demonstration River Basin Planning Web mapper) Greenmount Horticultural Show September 2012 and Centenary Show June 2013 Clipper Event July 2012 Spring in the Sperrins May 2013 Source to Mouth of the Dennet August 2013 Moyola Family Open day Sept 2013 Omagh Show July 2014 Clogher Valley Show July 2013, 2014 Clogher Valley Show July 2013, 2014 Owenkillew Wetlands and Forest Day – Gortin 2011 Lough's Agency Fair Newtownstewart May 2011 Beneath the Burn – Killyclogher - Omagh 2011 Glenelly River Cleanup 2011 Loughmacrory Winter Fair 2011 Ardmore – Ashbrooke House event – Londonderry Foyle Days Event May 2011
Publicity material	Some guidance documents have also been produced for example on "Care in Agrichemical use near Waterways", "Proper use of Drains", "Landowner Awareness – Improving Water Quality in your local area" leaflet developed jointly with Loughs Agency, Ulster Farmers Union and DARD to raise awareness amongst landowners, "Surface Water Alterations Handbook" 'NIEA & Water Pollution – Improving water quality' postcards produced to raise awareness on the role of the NIEA Regional Operations team and who to contact if water pollution is observed, were produced and made available at all public events, Catchment Stakeholder Group meetings and at the Stakeholder Forum. Water quality plans in action' article was published in the Farming Life October 2010.

	Water Management Fact and Figures Booklet were produced 2011 – 2014. A publication providing a handy reference to facts and figures on condition of Northern Ireland's Waters. 239 Pollution hotline signs have been erected throughout Northern Ireland.	
Public notices	Notices of the publication of the consultation documents were placed in the Irish News, Newsletter, Belfast Gazette and Belfast Telegraph in line with their various publication dates. Notices were placed for 2015 - 2021 Draft River Basin Management Plans; Significant Water Management Issues for the Three River Basin Districts within Northern Ireland; The Timetable and Work Programme for Development of the Second Cycle River Basin Management Plans 2015-2021;	

Appendix 1

Catchment Stakeholder Group Meetings in the North Western RBD 2010 - 2015

Catchment Group	Date	Venue
Lower Foyle	18 th May 2010	Roe Valley Hospital, Limavady
	18 th October 2010	Roe Valley Hospital, Limavady
	24 th May 2011	Roe Valley Hospital
	22 nd November 2011	Roe Valley Hospital, Limavady
	24 th April 2012	Roe Valley Hospital
	6 th November 2012	Roe Valley Hospital, Limavady
	4 th June 2013	Roe Valley Hospital, Limavady
	22 nd October 2013	Roe Valley Hospital, Limavady
	15 th April 2014	Roe Valley Hospital, Limavady
	20 th May 2015	Roe Valley Hospital, Limavady
Unner Feyle	11 th May 2010	The Strule Arts Centre, Omagh
<u>Upper Foyle</u>	13 th October 2010	Owenkillew Community Centre, Main Street,
	13 October 2010	Gortin
	20 th April 2011	Derg Valley Leisure Centre
	27 th October 2011	Sion Mills Community Association Meeting hall,
	27 October 2011	Garden Road, Sion Mills
	18 th April 2012	Ardstraw Primary School
	14 th November 2012	Silverbirch Hotel, Omagh
	23 rd May 2013	Omagh Enterprise Company
	,	Great Northern Road, Omagh
	14 th October 2013	Lough View Centre Loughmacrory
	29 th April 2014	Owenkillew Community Centre, Gortin
	9 th June 2015	Hospital Road Community Centre, Omagh
Erne & Melvin	8 th June 2010	Castle Archdale Country Park
	16 th November 2010	Castle Archdale County Park, Irvinestown
	1 st June 2011	Castle Park Centre, Lisnaskea
	11 th October 2011	Fermanagh District Council, Townhall, Enniskillen
	24 th May 2012	Fermanagh District Council
	25 th October 2012	Belcoo Community Centre
	30 th May 2013	Waterways Ireland, Enniskillen
	7 th November 2013	Fermanagh House, Broadmeadow House, Enniskillen
	8 th May 2014	Castle Archdale
	6 th May 2015	NIEA Castle Archdale, Fermanagh
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Appendix 2

Summary of Successful Water Quality Improvement Grant Projects 2012

Organisation	Project Title	Project Overview
Enniskillen Angling Club	River Restoration Project: Earls River on Lower Lough Erne	a) add gravel and boulders to the river to improve the river structure and hydromorphical scoring. b) protect the river from ground poaching and siltation by fencing areas for protection using a fencing contractor. c) address light blockages from the south side by thinning to 50% shade in that direction using a suitable specialist contractor. d) stock with natural Lough erne fish stock to seed population building. e) identify if possible local flora for river bed to enhance variety.
Fintona Community Forum	Fintona Community Adopts the River Quiggery	Removal of debris and litter. Putting in place bank side revetment in areas of erosion and removing dead trees from the river will enhance habitat for spawning salmonids. By implementing an eradication plan for the invasive species it will improve the natural growth in the riparian zone and enhance habitat for invertebrates and fish life. Fencing off the riparian zone where it is impacted from livestock trampling will increase the natural regeneration of the bank side vegetation, improving invertebrate and fish numbers

Summary of Successful Water Quality Improvement Grant Projects 2013

Organisation	Project Title	Project Overview
Derry City Council	River Foyle Invasive Species Management	Identification of invasive alien species, produce management plans and help with the long term control along the River Foyle
Omagh District Council	Reviving the lower reaches of Killyclogher Burn	Control of Rhododendron and snowberry to let light reach the stream to encourage diversity and improve the riparian habitat. In-stream works to improve spawning bed and nursery habitat. Carry out local water education campaign with local schools followed up by a public event to mark World wetlands Day 2014.
Owenkillew	Freshwater Pearl	Working with farmers to create buffer strips to
Development	Mussel Enhancement	reduce sediment release and develop an
Company Limited	Project	awareness leaflet about the Pearl Mussel.