



Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.

Contents

Chief Executive's Foreword	2
NIEA Organisation Chart	4
NIEA Balanced Scorecard targets 2022-2023	5

Chief Executive's Foreword

I am pleased to present the Agency's Balanced Scorecard for 2022-2023 which sets out the key activities for the year.

Our priority to protect the environment and public health, while supporting our stakeholders and those we regulate, continues as we move forward following the coronavirus pandemic, the UK departure from the EU, and towards emerging commitments to deliver for nature whilst building ecological resilience to climate change.



The coronavirus pandemic tested the flexibility of our operating models and our organisational agility but also highlighted our ability to adapt and continue to deliver. This was achieved by working with the industry, environmental organisations, public, voluntary and community sectors. Looking ahead to long term recovery, innovative thinking and collaboration are key to progress new ways of working to deliver on and improve environmental outcomes. We must also be cognisant of the current economic situation and the challenges created by increased price inflation on energy and food.

Opportunities arise from challenge, and we now have a real opportunity to deliver jointly on a sustainable thriving environment for future generations through the NI Executive's Green Growth and Climate Action approach. The NIEA has an important role in supporting and influencing policy development on key issues such as climate change, circular economy, waste, biodiversity, outdoor recreation, animal disease control, environmental farming schemes and future agri-environment policies. Development of a number of key strategies, policies and pieces of legislation are planned for this year – including the Environment Strategy, the Biodiversity Strategy, the Third Cycle River Basin Management Plan, Peatland Strategy, Ammonia Strategy and Climate Action Plans . NIEA will provide evidence and advice to inform these.

As our stakeholders are crucial for the delivery of our environmental outcomes, we will continue to strengthen these relationships and engage with the wider Department, other public bodies, industry and the community and voluntary sector. For example, through the Environment Fund, we aim to provide funding to not-for-profit organisations and Councils to deliver nature recovery, conservation, and access. We will inform the design and delivery of the Peace Plus 2021-27 programme, which will be important for delivery of environmental objectives and outcomes for Northern Ireland.

Our key role as regulators of activities potentially harmful to our land, air and water quality remains our top priority. This includes working with local councils to ensure that waste

is responsibly managed. We will continue to promote how “going beyond environmental compliance” can bring significant benefits for businesses, helping to unlock the economic opportunities provided by the climate change and resource efficiency agendas.

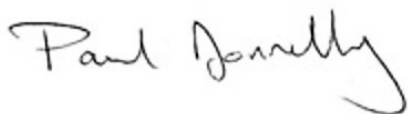
We will publish the 3rd Cycle River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for consultation and work with water infrastructure and agriculture policy colleagues to improve water quality through implementation of the programme of measures agreed with them and others.

In response to the hugely detrimental effect of wildfires, a NI Strategic Wildfire Group and Wildfire Stakeholder Forum has been established to develop a Strategic Framework for Wildfire in NI. Partners are working together to assess the environmental impact of fires, to plan for habitat recovery, and to consider future preventative measures for the area.

We are committed to our role in connecting the public with our living landscapes. Through the management of our country parks and nature reserves we seek to ensure the provision of safe and enjoyable outdoor experiences for all to aid health and well-being. NIEA will continue to develop and use alternative regulatory approaches, making greater use of IT, including desk-based compliance checks, and focus active frontline team responses to priority issues that are likely to cause environmental harm. In addition, we have increasingly been making our Environmental Information (Open Data NI) and licensing / permitting services available online. NIEA will continue to contribute to significant DAERA transformative programmes including work on science, data and digital services - all of which are key elements of our decision making and service delivery.

As environmental issues become more prominent in our minds and mainstreamed into policy and practices, the provision of regulation, science, evidence and advice from NIEA will become more important than ever. This input will be essential to help inform sustainable policies and approaches in which outcomes delivering for a vibrant economy, the health and wellbeing of society and a healthy environment are achieved.

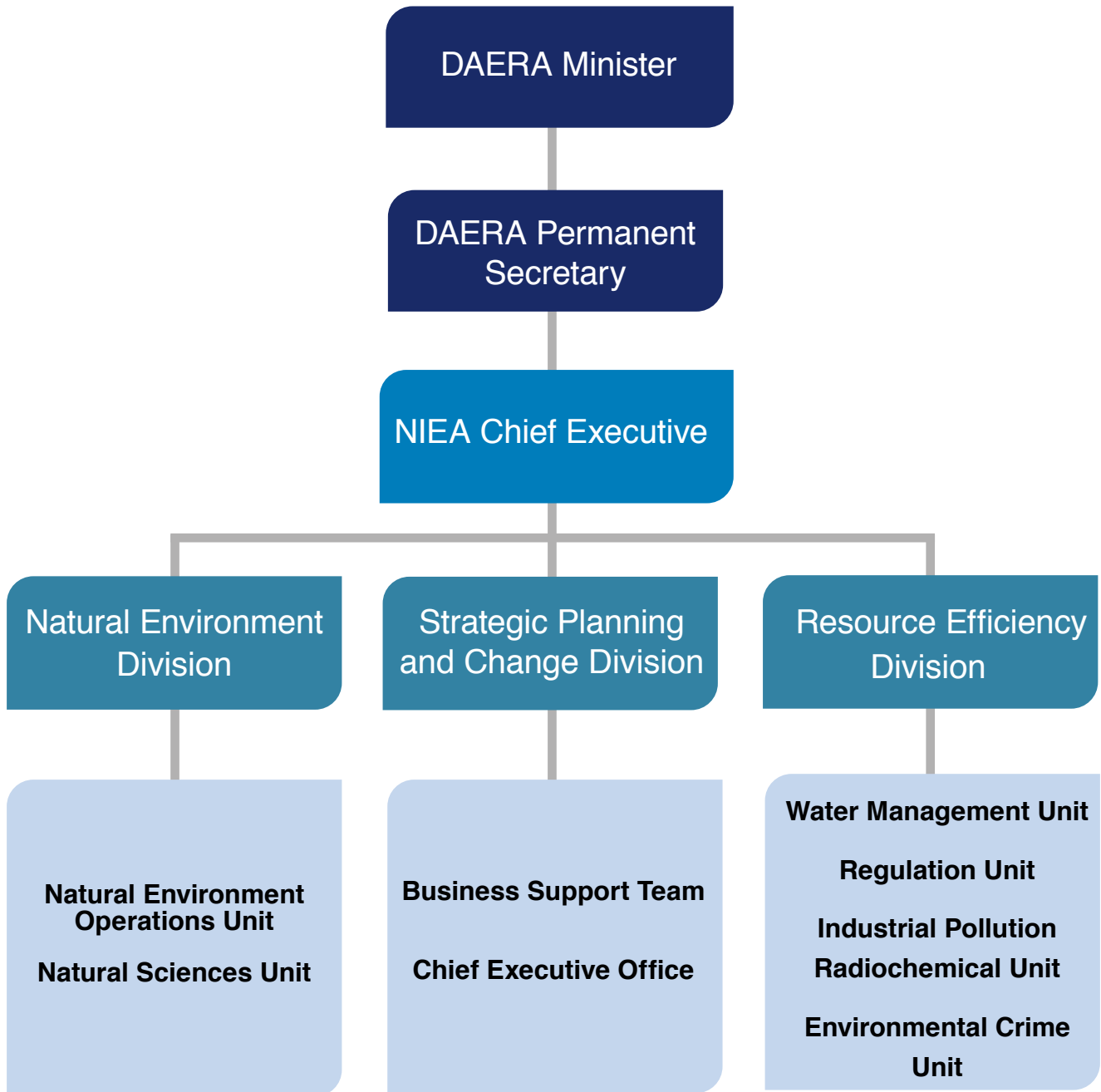
The coronavirus pandemic has demonstrated how essential the environment is for public health and well-being as well as heightening public awareness, behaviours and desire for environmental policy development. We must recognise the opportunities all of this presents and continue to tackle the challenges we face in 2022/23.



Paul Donnelly

Chief Executive, NIEA

NIEA Organisation Chart



NIEA Balanced Scorecard targets 2022-2023

NIEA Business Plan targets (linked to DAERA target 2)			
NIEA target number	What we will do - include KPIs	When we will do it by	SRO and Business Area
1 DAERA LEVEL TARGET & NIEA KPT1	Create a Natural Environment Funding Programme.	31 March 2023	Director, Natural Environment Division
2	Take forward action in relation to wildfire management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue tender to develop a Mournes wildfire prevention plan. • Issue public consultation on draft Strategic Way Forward for addressing the risk of wildfires in Northern Ireland. • Host a UK Wildfire Conference. 	31 March 2023	Director, Natural Environment Division

NIEA Business Plan targets (linked to DAERA target 13)			
NIEA target number	What we will do - include KPIs	When we will do it by	SRO and Business Area
3 DAERA LEVEL TARGET	Deliver the required 2022 Cross Compliance inspection programme for the protection of water resources and the conservation of wild birds, flora and fauna to include at least 5% of farms operating under a derogation.	31 December 2022	Director, Resource Efficiency Division
4 DAERA LEVEL TARGET	In relation to Drinking Water supplies - Deliver 95% compliance with microbiological parameters at Private Drinking Water Supplies and 90% of events notified by NI Water categorised within 5 days.	31 March 2023	Director, Resource Efficiency Division

NIEA Business Plan targets (linked to DAERA target 13)			
NIEA target number	What we will do - include KPIs	When we will do it by	SRO and Business Area
5 NIEA KPT 2	<p>Deliver the Mobuoy Remediation Project 2022/2023.</p> <p>KPIs to include; (i) Updated Detailed Quantitative Risk Assessment (DQRA), (ii) Remediation Options Appraisal.</p> <p>Key Performance Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the Updated Detailed Quantitative Risk Assessment (DQRA) for the Mobuoy site. • Complete the Remediation Options Appraisal - Identify the Remediation Option for the Mobuoy site and submit a paper to the Mobuoy Remediation Project. 	<p>28 February 2023</p> <p>31 March 2023</p>	Director, Resource Efficiency Division
6	<p>Implement the plans for the Regulatory Change Programmes of Regulatory Transformation Project (RTP) to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult on a new financially sustainable NIEA regulatory charging policy to align with the new Environmental Permitting Regime. • Digital Transformation of services to achieve a minimum of 90% of water and waste regulatory applications via the online platform. • Digital Transformation of services to achieve a minimum 75% of water and waste regulatory site inspections via electronic platform. 	31 March 2023	Director, Resource Efficiency Division

NIEA Business Plan targets (linked to DAERA target 13)			
NIEA target number	What we will do - include KPIs	When we will do it by	SRO and Business Area
7 NIEA KPT 3	<p>Help protect the environment by providing effective and efficient regulation and enforcement to regulated businesses and industry by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • carrying out at least 75% risk based environmental regulatory compliance inspections/audits* • Achieve 90% compliance with regulatory requirements using agreed compliance assessment methodology**. <p>*Frequency of inspections is determined for each site annually using the agreed Risk Rating Model within the Business area. This Model identifies sites at risk and the number of inspections required during the year (e.g., high risk site may require 4 site inspections pa whilst low risk sites may require 1-2 site visits pa).</p> <p>**Each Business area has an agreed Regulatory Compliance Assessment methodology in place to determine site compliance. It is important to note that site inspections are part of the site compliance assessment but in addition, other relevant site information is considered such as; site analytical/ monitoring data, site annual reports, site environmental assessments, complaints/ incident reports, etc.</p>	31 March 2023	Director, Resource Efficiency Division

NIEA Business Plan targets (linked to DAERA target 13)			
NIEA target number	What we will do - include KPIs	When we will do it by	SRO and Business Area
8 NIEA KPT 4	Help protect the environment and improve water quality by delivering 90% of Freshwater Monitoring requirements for NI water protection legislation and for regulatory compliance (discharge quality and flows).	31 March 2023	Director, Resource Efficiency Division
9	<p>Continue to deliver, as appropriate, the operational changes resulting from transition from the EU Exit, supporting customers and stakeholders. Deliver programmes on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to work collaboratively with DAERA policy colleagues to operationalise legislative and policy changes as a consequence of ongoing negotiations between UK Government and the EU on the Northern Ireland Protocol, for the suite of Chemicals Regulations - REACH, POPs, mercury, F-gas and ODS, pesticides, detergents and Market Surveillance. • Continue to work collaboratively with key partners such as HSENI, local councils, UKG, and UK Environment Agencies to develop and strengthen collaborative working, for the suite of Chemicals Regulations - REACH, POPs, mercury, F-gas and ODS, pesticides, detergents and Market Surveillance. 	31 March 2023	Director, Resource Efficiency Division

NIEA Business Plan targets (linked to DAERA target 13)			
NIEA target number	What we will do - include KPIs	When we will do it by	SRO and Business Area
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement changes of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) Regulations due to be published 2nd Quarter 2022. • Undertake at least two chemicals information campaigns. 		
10	<p>Support improvements in statutory planning responses through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing the client liaison officer role for each council area and holding at least 2 yearly meetings with each. • Ensuring the development and implementation of contingency planning arrangements with regards to the new Planning Portal for 10 council areas and the stand alone Mid Ulster District Council Planning Portal. 	31 March 2023	Director, Natural Environment Division
11	Commission review of NI terrestrial protected sites (initial review with recommendations and vision for delivering new protected areas targets).	31 March 2023	Director, Natural Environment Division



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