



**Causeway
Coast & Glens
Borough Council**

Planning Department
Cloonavin
66 Portstewart Road
COLERAINE
BT52 1EY

Katrina Godfrey, Permanent Secretary
[REDACTED]

Date: 07 August 2023
Your Ref:
Our Ref:
(Please quote at all times)

Dear Mrs Godfrey

Subject: Planning Consultations for Agricultural Developments

I write on behalf of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Planning Committee in relation to the above.

At its meeting held on 28 June 2023, the Planning Committee resolved that I write on their behalf to express their concerns regarding the correspondence received from Mark Hammond, Director of Natural Environment Division dated 31 May 2023 in relation to the above.

The postponement of the issuing of planning advice to Local Planning Authorities for agricultural developments pending the continuing consideration of NIEA's standing advice on air pollution and agricultural developments is considered an unacceptable position to take. It is understood that NIEA has been considering its position on ammonia since 2019 and no timeframe has been provided within the correspondence for the conclusion of this continuing consideration. It is noted that the Call for Evidence to support the development of new guidance has issued. However, Members are apprehensive over the lack of timeframe for the issuing of updated guidance as there remains quite an extensive process to be completed.

Members note the issues raised in relation to ammonia and recognise the changes to working practices that local farmers are putting in place to assist in the reduction of air pollutants in Northern Ireland. In the 2022/23 business year, this Council received the second highest number of agricultural type applications out of the 11 Councils. Members are concerned that the impact from pausing of advice will delay the processing of agricultural planning applications and the associated impact this will have on local food production and improved practices.

As you will understand, there is a legislative requirement (Article 15 of The Planning (General Development Procedure) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 that places a duty on the statutory consultee to respond to consultation. Members query how this current position fulfils this legislative requirement and are concerned regarding the uncertainty and challenge that this position brings to the planning process.

I trust that you will take into account the concerns raised by Planning Committee Members and review your position expeditiously.

Yours sincerely



Denise Dickson

Head of Planning

Cc SOLACE, Ulster Farmers Union, NILGA