

CONSULTATION SCHEDULE – 26 SEPTEMBER 2017

| 1 | RECEIVED FROM | TITLE | SUBMISSION BY |
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| | Department of Infrastructure, Transport NI | Apron Repairs at Bonamargy Bridge, Ballycastle | 29 September 2017 |
| <p>Council has been asked to comment on the apron repairs at Bonamargy Bridge, Ballycastle by 29 September 2017. This consultation document has been forwarded to Ballycastle DEA Members.</p> | | | |
| 2 | RECEIVED FROM | TITLE | SUBMISSION BY |
| | Department for Communities | Abolition of Class 2 National Insurance Contributions – Equality Impact Assessment | 3 November 2017 |
| <p>Council is invited to respond to the Department’s Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) on the planned abolition of Class 2 National Insurance contributions (NICs) and the reform of Class 4 NICs to introduce a new contributory benefit test for self-employed people.</p> <p>At the March 2015 Budget, the Chancellor announced the Westminster Government’s intention to abolish Class 2 NICs as part of the simplification of the NICs system for self-employed people. While NICs are an excepted matter under Schedule 2 to the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and the responsibility of Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs, Class 2 NICs are used to determine eligibility for some contributory benefits. Their abolition will, therefore, require a new eligibility test for self-employed people and consequential changes to social security legislation both here and in Great Britain. The benefits affected are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contributory Employment and Support Allowance; • Maternity Allowance; • Bereavement Support Payment; • State Pension; and • in certain cases, contribution-based Jobseeker’s Allowance. | | | |

Class 2 NICs are also relevant to the calculation of income for the purposes of entitlement to Carer's Allowance in that an amount is deducted for a notional Class 2 NIC.

It is proposed that a new eligibility test will be based on Class 4 NICs, which do not, at present, provide access to contributory benefits. This will not apply to entitlement to Maternity Allowance which will be assessed through a new set of rules based on payment of Class 3 NICs. The changes to the rules for entitlement have been designed to mitigate the effects of the abolition of Class 2 NICs as far as it is possible to do so. They are intended to ensure that self-employed people continue to build contributory benefit entitlement through the NICs system.

| 3 | RECEIVED FROM | TITLE | SUBMISSION BY |
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| | Office of Rail and Road | Draft Guidance for the Railways Infrastructure (Access, Management and Licensing of Railway Undertakings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 (the NI Regulations) and proposed changes to its existing economic Enforcement Policy | 29 September 2017 |

In January 2017 Directive 2012/34/EU, came into force in Northern Ireland through the NI Regulations. Directive 2012/34/EU requires a single national regulatory body for the railway sector in each Member State and provides that body with, among other things, enforcement powers. In addition, the ORR became the regulatory body for the railway sector in Northern Ireland, taking over that role from the Department for Infrastructure in Northern Ireland.

This is a consultation on draft guidance for the NI Regulations and proposed changes to our existing economic enforcement policy. New guidance and changes to our enforcement policy are required to reflect the NI Regulations and as such primarily affect stakeholders in Northern Ireland and users of the cross-border railway only.

ORR is keen to hear the views of stakeholders as part of this policy review

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| 4 | RECEIVED FROM | TITLE | SUBMISSION BY |
| | Western Health and Social Care Trust | Savings Plan Consultation | 5 October 2017 |

Further to previous correspondence regarding the Western Health and Social Care Trust Savings Plan Consultation, please find below details of public meetings to discuss the Plan. The consultation on the savings plan runs from 24 August 2017 to 5 October 2017 and the Trust is keen to hear from everyone.

<http://www.northerntrust.hscni.net/about/2981.htm>

| Date | Time | Location |
|--|-------------------|---|
| Monday 18 September 2017 | 2pm to 4pm | Roe Valley Leisure Centre Limavady |
| Thursday 21 September 2017 | 2pm to 4pm | Omagh Leisure Centre Omagh |
| Tuesday 26 September 2017 | 7pm to 9pm | Verbal Arts Centre Londonderry |
| Wednesday 27 September 2017 | 2pm to 4pm | Fir Trees Hotel Strabane |
| Thursday 28 September 2017 | 7pm to 9pm | Lakeland Forum Enniskillen |

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| 5 | RECEIVED FROM | TITLE | SUBMISSION BY |
| | DEFRA | Banning the Manufacture and Sale of Cosmetics containing Microbeads | 11 October 2017 |

Last year Defra committed to banning the manufacture and sale of cosmetics and personal care products containing microbeads which may harm the marine environment. They would like to thank the many who responded to their UK-wide public consultation on the topic earlier this year. Responses have been used to draft legislation for England and we plan to bring this ban into force by the end of 2017, with the ban on sale beginning on 1st January 2018 and the ban on manufacture beginning on 30th Jun 2018. This has now been formally notified in the London Gazette (<https://www.thegazette.co.uk/all-notices/London/notice>) and the draft legislation is available to view here until 11th October 2017:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/banning-the-use-of-microbeads-in-cosmetics-and-personal-care-products>.

The Devolved Administrations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will introduce separate legislation according to their own legislative processes and timetables to ensure that the ban will apply across the whole of the UK.

Any person may make representations on the draft legislation for England in writing to the Secretary of State. Any such representations should be sent by 11th October 2017 to: Marine Litter Policy Team, Defra, 8B Millbank, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR or by email to marinelitter@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Current Open Consultations

- HSENI – Proposals for the Freight Containers (Safety Convention) Regulations (NI) 2018 – 29 September 2017
- Department for Justice – Prisons 2020, Driving Continuous Improvement in the Prison Service – 29 September 2017
- HSENI – Proposals for the Ionising Radiations Regulations (NI) 2017 – 5 October 2017
- Fermanagh and Omagh District Council - The Draft Equality Action Plan for 2017-19 and Draft Disability Action Plan for 2017-19 – 20 October 2017
- Health and Social Care Trusts – Equality & Disability Action Plans – Have your say – 7 November 2017
- CARN/CO – Proposed Carnroe Weir Refurbishment, Lower River Bann – No date given for submission

Note: Copies of the consultations can be obtained from Democratic Services