

**How to Respond**

This template provides an alternative means of responding to this consultation rather than by using the online survey facility.

This template replicates the questions posed in the DAERA Consultation on Proposal to Introduce a Protein Crops Payment Pilot Scheme for 2021Document found at: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/daera-consultation-proposal-introduce-protein-crops-payment-pilot-scheme-2021>.

The full text of the consultation can only be found on the Department’s website by following the link above or by contacting us to request a hard copy. It is recommended that you should read the full consultation document before completing your response.

You can respond using this template in the following two ways:

1. **By E-mail**

If you choose to respond this way you will need to download this document, complete it and then e-mail it to the following address –

Proteincropsconsult@daera-ni.gov.uk

*Or*

1. **By Post**

If you choose this way you will need to download this document, print it, complete it manually and then post it to the following address –

Protein Crops Payment Pilot Scheme Consultation

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

Brexit Division

Dundonald House

Upper Newtownards Road

Ballymiscaw

Belfast

BT4 3SB

Early responses are encouraged but all responses should arrive no later than **5pm on Friday 15 January 2021**. Before you submit your responses please read the “Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Confidentiality of Consultation Responses” section below, which gives guidance on the legal position.

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Confidentiality of Consultations**

The Department will publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. Your response, and all other responses to the consultation, may be disclosed on request. The Department can refuse to disclose information only in exceptional circumstances. Before you submit your response, please read the paragraphs below on the confidentiality of consultations and they will give you guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this consultation.

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority (the Department in this case). This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. The Department cannot automatically consider as confidential information supplied to it in response to a consultation. However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity, should be made public or treated as confidential.

This means that information provided by you in response to the consultation is unlikely to be treated as confidential, except in very particular circumstances.

The Lord Chancellor’s Code of Practice on the Freedom of Information Act provides that:

* the Department should only accept information from third parties in confidence if it is necessary to obtain that information in connection with the exercise of any of the Department’s functions and it would not otherwise be provided;
* the Department should not agree to hold information received from third parties ‘in confidence’ which is not confidential in nature;
* acceptance by the Department of confidentiality provisions must be for good reasons, capable of being justified to the Information Commissioner.

For further information about confidentiality of responses, please contact the Information Commissioner’s Office:

Tel: (028) 9027 8757

Email: ni@ico.org.uk

Website: [https://ico.org.uk/](https://ico.org.uk/about-the-ico/who-we-are/northern-ireland-office/)

**ABOUT YOU**

**Name (required)**

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**E-mail address (if responding electronically)**

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**Address (if responding by post)**

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**Organisation (if applicable)**

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Please note that the text boxes used throughout this template will expand to accommodate your response – there is no character limit.

**Q1: Please outline your views on whether or not support for protein crops should be introduced for 2021 and give your reasons.**

 **Comments**

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**Q2: What are your views on eligible crops being those in crop codes NF1 – NF5 as outlined in the discussion document?**

 **Comments**

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**Q3: Do you agree that the payment rate should be set at £330/ha?**

 **Yes** [ ]

 **No** [ ]

 **If "No", please state your preferred payment rate and why?**

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**Q4: Do you agree that the budget for this scheme for 2021 should be capped at £330,000?**

**Yes** [ ]

 **No** [ ]

 **If "No", please state an alternative cap alongside reasons.**

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**Q5: What are your views on the equality, rural needs implications and regulatory impact of the scheme?**

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**Q6: Do you have any comments you wish to make on support for protein crops?**

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