



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

**Linda Dillon MLA**  
**Chairperson, Committee for Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs**

Graeme Dey MSP,  
Convener,  
Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

17 October 2016

Dear Mr Dey,

**Research Papers on potential impact on agricultural, fisheries,  
environmental and rural affairs as a result of the EU Referendum Vote.**

The Northern Ireland Assembly Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs recently commissioned a series of papers from the Assembly's Research and Library Service. These paper identified some potential questions that may need to be considered in terms of assessing the potential impacts of 'Brexit' on agricultural, fisheries, environmental and rural affairs in Northern Ireland.

The titles of the papers and a brief summary of what each paper covers alongside the date of publication on the Assembly's website, can be found below. The website link to access the papers is

<http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/assembly-business/committees/agriculture-environment-and-rural-affairs/research-papers-2016/>

9<sup>th</sup> September - [Possible models for the UK-EU relationship post 'Brexit'](#).

The exact nature of the relationship the UK and the EU will end up with remains unclear at this time and will be subject to potentially complex and protracted negotiations. This paper provides an overview of some of the most commonly cited potential alternatives open to the UK and EU and whilst the ultimate outcome may directly mirror one of these models or individual features within them, there could equally be potential for a bespoke UK-EU model. For the purposes of this paper the focus is on how each of the potential relationship models impact on issues relating to the environment, agriculture and fisheries within the context of EU regulation and single market access.

22<sup>nd</sup> September – Northern Ireland’s Environment, background and possible ‘Brexit’ considerations.

The paper considers some of the areas under environment that may be impacted by leaving the EU. It does this by:

- Identifying some of the main EU legislation in each area and briefly outlining how the legislation is transposed in NI;
- Notes possible questions for DAERA and the UK government in light of the considerations raised.

6<sup>th</sup> October – Northern Ireland’s agri-food sector – background and possible ‘Brexit’ considerations.

The paper highlights key features of the agriculture and food and drink processing sectors in Northern Ireland. It identifies and assesses some possible considerations around how the sectors may be impacted by leaving the EU. It identifies possible questions for DAERA and the UK government in light of the considerations raised.

13<sup>th</sup> October – Northern Ireland fisheries sectors – background and possible ‘Brexit’ considerations.

The paper highlights key features of the sea and inland fisheries sectors in Northern Ireland. It identifies and assesses some possible considerations around how the sectors may be impacted by leaving the EU. It identifies a range of possible questions for DAERA and the UK government in light of the considerations raised.

20<sup>th</sup> October – Rural Development funding for the rural community – background and possible ‘Brexit’ considerations.

The paper highlights the nature and impact of priority 6 Measures within the 2014-20 NIRD. It identifies and assesses some possible considerations around how Priority 6 Measures may be impacted by leaving the EU. It identifies a range of possible questions for DAERA and the UK government in light of the considerations raised.

27<sup>th</sup> October – Forms of farm support/subsidy as operated in selected countries and associated conditions.

The paper looks at the methods of agricultural support available in a range of countries. It identifies instances where direct payments are made and associated conditions and assesses the different forms of support, makes observations and raises a number of questions

The Committee, while recognising that the papers are hypothetical in nature, have found them to be useful and informative. In that spirit, it was agreed to send them to your Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Linda Dillon', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Linda Dillon MLA