

# Response ID ANON-YYH4-KQV3-K

Submitted to Consultation on the establishment of a Just Transition Commission  
Submitted on 2025-01-20 09:47:25

## Ministerial Foreword

### Introduction

#### Consultation - Your information

A What is your name?

Name:  
Peter McEvoy

B What is your email address?

Email :  
peter.mcevoy@ulsterwildlife.org

C Are you representing an organisation, if so, what is your organisation?

Organisation:  
Ulster Wildlife

#### Consultation - Type of Body

1 Do you agree with the proposal that the Commission should be established as an Advisory Non-Departmental Public Body with the chair and its members recruited in line with the guidance issued by the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

Yes

Please provide your reasons and any suggested alternative.:

#### Consultation - Number of Members

2 Do you agree the Commission membership should be between 7-20 members?

Yes

Please provide your reasons and any suggested alternative.:

An adequate number of members is required to represent all sectors affected. The merits of applying weighting to those sectors having greater adaptation requirements should be considered, particularly land use and agriculture.

#### Consultation - Meetings per year

3 Do you agree the Commission membership should meet on average 15 days per year?

Yes

Please provide your reasons and any suggested alternative.:

This is a similar level of engagement to other JTC's in Scotland and Ireland. This requirement should be kept under review to assess effectiveness of the Commission. In addition, the ability to attract relevant expertise will depend on the ability to commit the time. 15 days will be too much for any expertise working full-time in their sector and too little to attract anyone requiring employment. It is likely to attract NED's or retired professionals.

#### Consultation - Secretariat

4 Do you agree that the Commission should be similar to the Scottish model and supported by a small team to provide a secretariat function to allow the Commission to function effectively?

Yes

Please provide your reasons and any suggested alternative.:

A small and efficient secretariat is required to assist with delivery of Commission business.

## Consultation - Term

5 Do you agree that members appointed to the Commission should serve a term of 5 years?

Yes

Please provide your reasons and any suggested alternative.:

It would also be standard practice to allow a second term, but require a member to stand down following 10 years of tenure.

## Consultation - Oversight Functions

6 Do you agree that the Commission would fulfil the oversight function required of it in the Act by reviewing and reporting on the development and implementation of:(a) any sectoral plan published under sections 13 to 21 of the Act;(b) any climate action plan published under section 29 or 51 of the Act; and(c) any scheme established by Regulations under section 31 of the Act.

Yes

Please provide your comments.:

The role of the JTC should cover all elements within the act, including work on adaptation measures. For example, according to Section 51 of the Act says "Climate action plans must be climate resilient" and the JTC should also review and report on those more adaptation focussed aspects of the Act.

We are also keen the JTC keep a review on the delivery of 'Nature-based solutions' as per Part 3 (34)

"Proposals and policies under section 29 shall as far as is practicable, support nature based projects that enhance biodiversity, protect and restore ecosystems, and seek to reduce, or increase the removal of, greenhouse gas emissions or support climate resilience."

## Consultation - Advice Functions

7 Do you agree that the Commission would be fulfilling its advice function by:(a) Responding to a Northern Ireland department's request for advice within agreed timeframes.(b) Issuing research and guidance documents for department's to review and consider when developing emission reduction policies.

Yes

Please provide your comments.:

## Consultation - Transport Sector

8 Should the Commission include representation from the Transport sector?

Yes

Please provide your comments.:

Transport is a key industry to help in the reduction of emissions and greening of NI infrastructure.

## Consultation - Energy Sector

9 Should the Commission include representation from the Energy sector?

Yes

Please provide your comments.:

Energy is a key sector for the reduction in emissions and adoption of green energy technologies.

## Consultation - Financial Sector

10 Should the Commission include representation from the Financial/Green Finance sector?

Yes

Please provide your comments.:

This is particularly important due to the financial opportunities and contribution to GDP that could be delivered through a green economy. A focus on the opportunities of Just Transition, rather than looking at historic activities that will be negatively impacted will be key to success. We'd welcome particular support for the land-use and farming sectors to ensure adequate investment in the most impacted sectors.

## Consultation - Any other Sector

11 Are there any other sectors in addition to the Transport, Energy, Finance and those listed in 37(4) of the Act that should be represented on the Commission – and if so, please provide reasons for your answer.

Yes

Please provide your reasons and any suggested alternative.:

IT is an increasing user of energy through data centres and needs to minimise emissions.  
The building sector is also facing a challenge to decarbonise through methodology, materials and recycling.

## Consultation - Committees

12 Do you agree the Commission should have a power to establish Ad-Hoc Committees or working groups to secure additional knowledge or expertise that may not be available with the Commission.

Yes

Please provide your comments.:

## Consultation - Key Priorities

13 What do you think the key initial priorities should be for the Commission?

Please provide your comments.:

An agreed definition of 'Just Transition' across the sectors.  
How to included Nature-based solutions and other 'soft' engineering solutions to climate mitigation/adaptation opportunities.