



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development

Mr Ian Bowden
Belfast City Council
Adelaide Exchange
24 - 26 Adelaide Street
Belfast
BT2 8GD

24 January 2014

Dear Mr Bowden,

The Reservoirs Bill

I write, on behalf of the Committee, to invite Belfast City Council to make an oral presentation along with Newry & Mourne District Council and Craigavon Borough Council; respectively regarding the Reservoirs Bill. The Bill has been developed by the Rivers Agency after public consultation;

<http://www.dardni.gov.uk/index/rivers/reservoirs-bill-ni/reservoirs-safety-policy-proposals.htm>

The Bill was formally introduced to the Northern Ireland Assembly on 20 January 2014 and is expecting to receive its Second Reading on 4 February 2014. The Bill is then expected to be referred to the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development which will have responsibility for the Committee Stage of the Bill.

The Committee would like to invite your organisation to attend the Committee meeting of Tuesday **25 February 2014**. The meeting will be held in Room 30, Parliament Buildings at 1.30pm. Your briefing is scheduled for **1.40pm**.

For security purposes you should only bring one other person with you and you will need to provide the name of that person attending in advance. When you arrive, you are requested to present yourself to Committee Staff. You should also note that as Tuesday is a sitting day of the Assembly car parking can be limited and you may wish to allow time on arrival for parking.

You should be prepared to make a short presentation or opening statement, which should not exceed ten minutes, after which the Members will be given the opportunity to ask you any questions they might have (for around 30 / 35 minutes). I would ask that you prepare a short, bullet pointed summary of the main points you wish to make in advance of the meeting. It would be most helpful if you could structure your response to the specific clauses of the Bill, and, if appropriate, could you suggest alternative or additional wording to clauses, which may assist the Committee's consideration of the need for any amendments to the Bill.

You can find information on the Committee, its role, remit and Membership at the following link;

<http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/Assembly-Business/Committees/Agriculture-and-Rural-Development/>

Any advance briefing papers and the names and titles of those attending should be forwarded by email to committee.agriculture@niassembly.gov.uk by Wednesday **19 February 2014**. Please be aware that your evidence session will be considered in an open, public Committee meeting and is likely to form part of any Report that the Committee may make to the NI Assembly.

If you do not have access to the internet or e-mail facilities or you have any other enquiries, please contact the Committee Office on **028 9052 1541**.

Information regarding the Bill can be obtained from the Assembly's website –

<http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/Assembly-Business/Legislation/Primary-Legislation-Current-Bills/Reservoirs-Bill/>

You can also find minutes of evidence that the Committee has taken on the Reservoir Bill at the website links below;

<http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/Assembly-Business/Official-Report/Committee-Minutes-of-Evidence/Session-2013-2014/November-2013/Reservoirs-Bill-DARD-Pre-introductory-Briefing/>

<http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/Assembly-Business/Official-Report/Committee-Minutes-of-Evidence/Session-2012-2013/April-2013/Reservoir-Community-Asset-Survey--Rivers-Agency-Briefing/>

<http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/Assembly-Business/Official-Report/Committee-Minutes-of-Evidence/Session-2012-2013/September-2012/Reservoirs-Bill-Consultation-Outcome/>

<http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/Assembly-Business/Official-Report/Committee-Minutes-of-Evidence/Session-2011-2012/February-2012/Reservoirs-Bill-Policy-Proposals/>

A Research Paper on the Bill is also likely to be on the website in the near future.

You may also find it useful to check what other organisations have said about the Bill and the Minutes of Evidence will be placed at the following web site link as soon as they are available.

<http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/Assembly-Business/Committees/Agriculture-and-Rural-Development/Minutes-of-Evidence-Hansard/>

Yours sincerely

Stella McArdle

Stella McArdle
Clerk, Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development