

Jane Corderoy
Director of Climate Change Policy Division
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)
Clare House, 303 Airport Road West
Belfast
BT3 9ED

2 June 2025

Dear Ms. Corderoy,

The Climate Change Committee has been asked to provide advice on the Northern Ireland Just Transition Commission draft Regulations, in line with the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022.

The Committee welcomes this development and is supportive of the Northern Ireland Executive setting up the Just Transition Commission as per Section 37 of the Act.

We have reviewed the draft Regulations. We note that the Just Transition Commission should help realise the benefits of the Net Zero transition and enable strong collaboration between government and industry, with meaningful engagement with affected workers and local communities. Having a tightly defined scope and role for the Commission will help ensure it is focussed and effective.

With this in mind, below are some suggestions which could be reflected in the Regulations, in supporting documentation, or in the implementation of the Commission:

- Make clear that the Commission's goal is to support government in delivering Net Zero in line with the Just Transition principle, and should not lead to the risk of delivery being unnecessarily delayed.
- Focus the Commission's advice on a limited number of economic sectors, whichever are the most relevant to decarbonising the Northern Irish economy in a just way.
- Limit the core Commission membership to around 10 members. Establish that members act as independent experts (not solely representatives of different industries or social groups). This will avoid conflicts of interest, and ensure the Commission is an effective advice-making body.
- Ensure the Commission or the Chair has an established role to make formal recommendations to government.

I would be delighted to discuss this further and wish the Commission every success.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Piers Forster
Interim Chair, Climate Change Committee