



Office for  
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Protection

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Minister Muir  
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Belfast  
BT3 9ED

21 October 2024

**By email only**

Dear Minister Muir,

**MISSED STATUTORY DEADLINE FOR PUBLISHING NORTHERN IRELAND'S ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN – INVESTIGATION REPORT**

Further to my letter of 3 October, acknowledging the laying and publication of an EIP for Northern Ireland, please find enclosed a copy of our Investigation Report in conclusion of this matter.

As you will know, our interest in the EIP does not end here. The adoption of the EIP marks the start of our role in scrutinising and monitoring progress toward achieving the commitments it sets out, and its effectiveness for significantly improving the natural environment of Northern Ireland. Given this, we now look forward to seeing the monitoring and evaluation framework that will necessarily sit alongside the EIP.

With the EIP now in place, it is vital that it be supported by ambitious implementation plans and strategies that provide the detail for how protection and improvement of the environment will be realised in practice. This includes the Nutrients Action Programme, River Basin Management Plans, Nature Recovery Strategy, and Farming with Nature scheme. We also await the carbon budgets and Climate Action Plan, which will help to complete the picture of environmental governance for Northern Ireland.

We look forward to further constructive engagement with you and your officials as this work progresses.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Prosser'.

Natalie Prosser  
Chief Executive Officer of the Office for Environmental Protection



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