

Kevin Hegarty
Director of Green Growth & Climate Action
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
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Climate Change Committee
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12 May 2021

Dear Kevin,

I write to inform you of a change in our reporting practice.

Each year, the greenhouse gas emissions inventory for Northern Ireland is published in the first half of June. The timing of publication is typically extremely close to our annual UK-wide Progress Report to the UK Parliament, which must be laid in the UK Parliament by the end of June.

This year, the deadline to finalise our UK-wide Progress Report is 2 June. Unfortunately, this is before the Northern Irish emissions data are expected to be published. We will not, therefore, be able to include these data in the UK Progress Report unless it is possible to have pre-release access.

Due to our concerns over quality assurance and Committee oversight, we have also concluded that, for future years, we will not include the Northern Irish emissions statistics in the UK Progress Report, unless they can be received with sufficient time for analysis. We would require earlier publication and/or pre-release access to the data for inclusion, such that we receive it no later than the third week of May.

We would be happy to have further discussions on possible solutions to this challenge with your officials.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Stark".

Chris Stark
Chief Executive of the Climate Change Committee