

(1) Any correspondence between the Scottish and UK Governments, or any notes of meetings between the two, regarding the UK Government's proposals for a ban on peat-based compost (which was announced in 2021).

If required, the scope of this request can be narrowed to the period from 1 January 2021 to the present date. Please let me know if you require any further clarification.

Results:

From: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>
Sent: 12 November 2021 14:41
To: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>; [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>; Turton C (Cate) <Cate.Turton@gov.scot>; [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Hort peat consultation - Scotland paragraph request

Hi [Redacted],

[Out of scope]

We completely understand why you're not joining us for the consultation - we are working at quite the pace currently and still aiming for publication in 2021. We shall of course keep you up to date with progress.

Thank you also for the paragraph below which we have incorporated into the consultation document.

Any questions, please do let me know, and have a great weekend.

Many thanks,

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]@gov.scot <[Redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 05 November 2021 16:26

To: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>; [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>

Cc: [Redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>; [Redacted]@gov.scot; Cate.Turton@gov.scot

Subject: RE: Hort peat consultation - Scotland paragraph request

Hi [Redacted], [Redacted]

[Out of scope]

At the same time, we have been progressing business as usual, and I'm conscious of your request for an update on your invitation to join a consultation with England and Wales on horticultural peat.

At present, Scottish Ministers are not minded to join such a consultation. [Out of scope]. With Ministers, we are still developing our approach to implementing this manifesto commitment in Scotland, and in time it may be concluded that a joint consultation is a desirable option, but I'm also conscious that this may not fit your own timetable for launching your consultation.

Nevertheless, I think it's important that we continue the useful and positive discussions we've been having as we develop our respective approaches to these matters, and look forward to the next meeting at a suitable time.

I'm also conscious, [Redacted], that you asked for a summary of our relevant policy positions for your consultation documents, and we would offer the following which will hopefully suit your needs.

The Scottish Government is committed to taking forward work to develop and consult on a ban on the sale of peat related gardening products, the first step in our commitment to phase out the use of peat in horticulture. It is one of the actions we are undertaking to protect Scotland's 2.3 million hectares of peatland together with our ambition to restore at least 250,000 hectares of degraded peatland by 2030. The Scottish Government fundamentally recognises peatland restoration and conservation as a pivotal nature-based solution to mitigating and adapting to the twin crises of climate change and loss of biodiversity. They are a key component of Scotland's green recovery and just transition to net zero by 2045. Current Scottish Planning Policy sets a high bar of protection, limiting commercial extraction significantly, and this is set to be strengthened further by our forthcoming National Planning Framework 4, through which we intend to cease Scottish Government support for all applications for planning permission for new commercial peat extraction for horticultural purposes or for extensions to existing sites. Whilst this will significantly and increasingly limit extraction over time, we recognise that ending the use of peat in horticulture is vital in order to lower demand for peat and to guard against imports, thereby supporting our efforts to protect peatlands, not just in Scotland but globally.

Best regards
[Redacted]

[Redacted] | [Redacted] Peatlands and Land Quality

Natural Resources Division | Directorate for Environment & Forestry | Scottish Government

Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

Tel: [Redacted] | Mob: [Redacted] | E-mail: [Redacted]@gov.scot

W: www.gov.scot | Twitter: [@GreenerScotland](https://twitter.com/GreenerScotland)

From: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>

Sent: 03 November 2021 16:49

To: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>; [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>

Subject: FW: Hort peat consultation - Scotland paragraph request

Importance: High

Hi [Redacted],

[Out of scope]

The horticultural peat consultation has been a long time in the making and is very close to going to write-round. We're anxious to have a clear picture of what your ministers want to do on this issue from a Scottish perspective. If it would help to try to build anything into conversations that our minister or our SoS could have with the Scottish Government's ministers at CoP, to get a response then I am happy to try to do this. Either way, we want to agree what we put into this consultation given the clear position of a common sense, common approach on this and so if you could get back to us this week with the position or a commitment to giving us something, that would be hugely appreciated.

Thanks.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted] Peatlands, Soil and Evidence

Access, Landscape, Peatland and Soils Division

Natural Environment, Trees & Landscapes Directorate

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Telephone: [Redacted] | Mobile: [Redacted] | Email: [Redacted]@defra.gov.uk

Address: 045 Hornbeam House, Electra Way, Crewe CW1 5GJ | 1st Floor NE, Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF.

From: [Redacted]

Sent: 28 October 2021 14:25

To: [Redacted]@gov.scot

Cc: [Redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>

Subject: Hort peat consultation - Scotland paragraph request

Importance: High

Hi [Redacted] (and team),

I hope you're well.

I appreciate we're still waiting on a decision on whether you may be able to join our consultation. In the meantime, we are continuing to draft our consultation document and would like to cover the Devolved Administrations' policy stances in the document. Please could you let me know if you are able to draft a brief paragraph for use in the consultation document on the Scottish Government's background/currently policy stance around peat use in horticulture? We are asking each of the DAs to draft their paragraphs as we feel you are better placed than we are to detail this information, of course.

In terms of deadline, I know it will take time to draft and clear the paragraph, if you agree, but would it be possible to have it by 12th November? We can be somewhat flexible around this date. Please do give me a call/email if you have any questions.

Many thanks,

[Redacted]

[Redacted] | [Redacted] | Soils and Peatlands | Access, Landscapes, Peatlands and Soils | Natural Environment, Trees & Landscapes Directorate | Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs | Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street, SW1P 4DF | [Redacted]@defra.gov.uk | Direct Line: [Redacted] | [Redacted] |

You can follow the Soils Team on Twitter: [@Defrasoils](https://twitter.com/Defrasoils)

[Out of scope]

From: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>

Sent: 25 October 2021 15:18

To: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Question re target timescales

Hi [Redacted],

I hope you're well.

Have there been any updates, please?

Many thanks,

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]@gov.scot <[Redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 29 September 2021 08:35

To: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>

Cc: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Question re target timescales

Hi [Redacted],

No worries – it was a rough ballpark I was after so that's fine.

Many thanks,
[Redacted]

From: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>
Sent: 29 September 2021 08:31
To: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Question re target timescales

Hi [Redacted],

Apologies, I'm afraid I'm unable to give a specific date at this time as there are aspects of the process that we're currently undergoing that we haven't been given an end time for yet. We are still aiming to publish the consultation in 2021.

Many thanks,

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]@gov.scot <[Redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 28 September 2021 16:36
To: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>
Cc: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Question re target timescales

Hello [Redacted],

We're very close to sending up our submission now – can you advise as to when you plan to go consultation so that I can insert that into the sub? I realise it has been late September/Early October previously.

Many thanks,

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 27 September 2021 11:00

To: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>

Cc: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>; [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Question re target timescales

Many thanks [Redacted], that's good to know.

[Out of scope]

Kind regards,
[Redacted]

From: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>

Sent: 27 September 2021 10:29

To: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Question re target timescales

Hi [Redacted],

Many thanks for the update.

[Out of scope]

[Out of scope]

Thanks again,

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]@gov.scot <[Redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 24 September 2021 12:00

To: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Question re target timescales

Hi [Redacted],

There were just a couple of points to iron out with our legal team but it should go up very soon. [Out of scope]

[Out of scope]

Many thanks,
[Redacted]

From: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>

Sent: 20 September 2021 15:11

To: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Question re target timescales

Hi [Redacted],

I hope you're well.

Apologies for my chasing, but I don't suppose there has been any update on your submission, please?

Many thanks,

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]

Sent: 06 September 2021 12:49

To: [Redacted]@gov.scot
Cc: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>; [Redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Question re target timescales

Hi [Redacted],

That's great, many thanks for your update, it's much appreciated.

Best wishes,

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]@gov.scot <[Redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 03 September 2021 10:44
To: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>
Cc: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>; [Redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Question re target timescales

Hello [Redacted],

Things are progressing well here and we are in the final stages of submission checks and approvals. Our intention is that it will be put to the Minister next week. We anticipate a fairly swift turnaround and will be in touch when we have a decision.

The reallocation of responsibilities hasn't affected Ms McAllan's responsibility for peatlands. I hope your meeting with Minister Pow next week goes well.

Many thanks,
[Redacted]

From: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>
Sent: 01 September 2021 14:02
To: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>; [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Question re target timescales

Hi [Redacted],

I hope you're well and had a good break.

We were wondering if there has been any news about your submission, please. Appreciate this must be a particularly busy week for you with your new Ministers; we wondered if Minister Slater's new responsibilities re. nature recovery might potentially mean a delay to a decision on the submission?

Any update would be greatly appreciated as we have a meeting next week with Minister Pow and she's keen to know how we're progressing with the consultation and Scotland's potential involvement.

Many thanks,

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]@gov.scot <[Redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 23 August 2021 10:56

To: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>

Cc: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>; [Redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Question re target timescales

Hi [Redacted],

Thanks – much appreciated and really helpful.

Hope you had a lovely break.

Kind regards,
[Redacted]

From: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>

Sent: 23 August 2021 10:48

To: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>; [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Question re target timescales

Hi [Redacted],

Apologies for the delay, I was on annual leave – I can see you are too, so I'm copying in [Redacted]. I hope this has not delayed your submission.

- The target date we currently have, published in our England Peat Action Plan, is for a ban on the sale of peat and peat containing products in the amateur sector by the end of this Parliament (2024).
- The 2030 date for professionals is the voluntary target, set in 2011, to end the use of peat and peat containing products.
- We are using the consultation to help us set a deadline for the professional sector to ban (and to inform on the 'end of this Parliament' deadline for the amateur sector).
- We are also using the consultation to help us determine how best to proceed re. consideration of different timescales around plants sold in peat and bagged growing media, exemptions etc.

Any further questions, please do let me know. Again, please feel free to give me a call whenever.

Many thanks,

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 19 August 2021 09:02

To: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>

Subject: Question re target timescales

Hi [Redacted],

Another quick query re the consultation measures, specifically the sales ban, so that I can get it right for our submission to the minister. Please can you confirm target dates for:

- Peat sales ban for retail market (growing media)
- Sales ban for retail plants within peat-based growing media
- Peat sales ban for professionals
- Peat sales ban deadline for exemptions

I had thought 2024 was your target date for retail and 2030 for professionals. Is that right? From speaking to the HTA, they have concerns about feasibility of banning plants sold within peat within a tight timescale and I wondered whether you propose a longer timescale for plants sold in peat than for bagged peat?

Thanks,
[Redacted]

[Out of scope]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 18 August 2021 12:18
To: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>
Cc: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Hort Peat Consultation

Many thanks [Redacted] – we'll come back to you as needed.

[Out of scope]

Meantime, enjoy your break!

Best wishes
[Redacted]

From: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>
Sent: 18 August 2021 11:35
To: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Hort Peat Consultation

Hi [Redacted],

Just wanted to drop a note to say you are welcome to give me a call/drop me an email at any time today if there's anything I can do to support you with your submission. I'm on annual leave tomorrow and Friday, but back in on Monday.

Best,

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]@gov.scot <[Redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 18 August 2021 11:33
To: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>
Cc: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>; [Redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Hort Peat Consultation

Thanks for the update [Redacted] – we'll reflect that in our submission.

Best

[Redacted]

[Redacted] | [Redacted] Peatlands and Land Quality
Natural Resources Division | Directorate for Environment & Forestry | Scottish Government
Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ
Tel: [Redacted] | Mob: [Redacted] | E-mail: [Redacted]@gov.scot
W: www.gov.scot | Twitter: [@GreenerScotland](https://twitter.com/GreenerScotland)

From: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>

Sent: 12 August 2021 15:52

To: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>

Subject: Hort Peat Consultation

[Redacted]

Apologies for the tardiness of this email – now managed to speak with SOS office – they have no view on whether any letter regarding collaboration from your minister should go to Rebecca Pow or the SOS; for my part I would prefer it be addressed to Rebecca Pow and copied to George Eustice – but I guess your minister may have their own view!!

Speak soon.

[Redacted]

[Redacted] Peatland Protection, Mapping and Biodiversity in the Overseas Territories | Access, Landscapes, Peatland & Soil | Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs | 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF

[Redacted]@Defra.gov.uk | Mob: [Redacted] | Landline: [Redacted] | Extension: [Redacted]

[Out of scope]

10 August 2021 - bilateral – [Redacted], [Redacted], [Redacted]

Agenda:

- Updates from Defra/Scot Gov

- [Out of scope]
- Opportunities for Scotland focus within a UK-wide approach. Biggest risk is not meeting the same outcome at the same point to avoid different rules within UK - IMA issues. Don't need to have a joint legislative approach but can - all DAs have the opportunity to influence how the legislation can be developed.

- Discussion re. long/short lists of consultation measures
 - Discussed short list - increasing teeth from reporting (naming and shaming is partly the drive) through point of sale measures (levy, not a tax - too small for treasury) and labelling to sales ban. May have combination to fill any gap while phase in a full ban, for example. Consultation and call for evidence to tease out technical - what is peat, potted plants etc..
 - Amateur / professional. DEFRA wants to move away from this label - **business to consumer (retail), business to business (commercial growing)**. [Redacted]
 - None of these measures will directly impact extraction - planning tightening (NPF4) but last licences to 2051 in Scotland. [Redacted]
 - [Out of scope]
 - [Out of scope]

- [Dependent on update/decision from Scot Gov] How we might potentially work together i.e. impact assessment/consultation questions contribution, regular catch ups, timelines etc.
 - Economic Impact Assessment. Wales feel DEFRA IA likely to be sufficient for their purposes. DEFRA using UK-level HTA data. We may want to review, but unlikely we'll have Scotland-specific data. Profits data likely to be missing. 3-for-2 loss leading on peat free at the moment.
 - Likely exchange of letters, Ministerial conversation may be needed but perhaps unlikely: Rebecca Pow, but SoS (Mr Eustice) may wish to be sighted.

- Next steps
 - 3-nation meeting including Wales.

From: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>

Sent: 02 August 2021 16:07

To: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: The England and Wales Horticultural Peat Consultation

Hi [Redacted],

A proposed draft agenda for our call next week – please let me know if you have anything to add to it, of course.

Agenda:

- Updates from Defra/Scot Gov
- Discussion re. long/short lists of consultation measures
- [Dependent on update/decision from Scot Gov] How we might potentially work together i.e. impact assessment/consultation questions contribution, regular catch ups, timelines etc.
- Next steps

Many thanks,

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]

Sent: 02 August 2021 12:38

To: [Redacted]@gov.scot

Cc: [Redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>; [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: The England and Wales Horticultural Peat Consultation

Hi [Redacted] and team,

[Redacted]. We are currently still drafting our consultation Impact Assessment and so can't share that yet, but we will look to as soon as we can.

Any questions for us in the meantime, please do drop myself/[Redacted] an email or a call.

Many thanks,

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]@gov.scot <[Redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 23 July 2021 17:09

To: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>

Cc: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>; [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>; [Redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted]@gov.scot; [Redacted]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: The England and Wales Horticultural Peat Consultation

Hi [Redacted]

Many thanks for your message and your invitation to join a wider consultation on measures to end the use of peat and peat containing products. Apologies for the delay replying – we have been giving this some thought.

We are certainly interested in principle and would like to explore this further with you to understand your consultation and its likely scope and content in more detail. That will allow us then to advise and seek a view on this from our Minister.

I am on leave for the next fortnight, but please do engage with my team in copy in the meantime on any further detail you can provide at this point, or indeed we can pick it up again at the next meeting we have scheduled on 10 August.

Best regards
[Redacted]

[Redacted] | [Redacted] Peatlands and Land Quality

Natural Resources Division | Directorate for Environment & Forestry | Scottish Government

Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ

Tel: [Redacted] | Mob: [Redacted] | E-mail: [Redacted]

W: www.gov.scot | Twitter: [@GreenerScotland](https://twitter.com/GreenerScotland)

From: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>

Sent: 16 July 2021 13:29

To: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>; [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>

Subject: The England and Wales Horticultural Peat Consultation

Hi [Redacted]

[Out of scope]

We have had confirmation this week that the Welsh Government will be joining our consultation on measures to end the use of peat and peat containing products in England and, now, Wales.

Following our recent catch up, we understand that you may not be as well-placed currently to join our consultation [Out of scope]. However, we would still like to formally extend the invitation for you to join our consultation.

This would be a key opportunity for us to gather a range of stakeholders' views on the three measures we are consulting on (a ban on the sale of peat in both the amateur and professional sectors; mandatory reporting on the volume of peat sold for all sellers of peat and peat containing products; and introducing point of sale measures for bagged growing media), as well as additional information that industries would like to share with us in the call for evidence section of the consultation.

We understand that, should you agree to participate, this may require an extension of our timeline, potentially some additional questions specific to Scotland's stakeholders etc. I'd be happy to arrange a meeting for us to discuss the logistics of how this could work.

It is perhaps useful to point out that joining the consultation would not commit you to taking the same legislative path or timetable, but it would be a useful pooling of effort.

I understand that you may wish to consult with your minister on this question; if it would be helpful I would be happy to see if our minister would be prepared to reach out formally inviting collaboration?

If it is a non-starter then please do let me know so that we can develop our plans accordingly.

[Redacted]

[Redacted], Mapping and Biodiversity in the Overseas Territories | Access, Landscapes, Peatland & Soil | Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs | 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF

[Redacted] | Mob:[Redacted] | Landline: [Redacted] | Extension: [Redacted]

[Out of scope]

Note of Meeting - Defra and Scottish Gov catch up re. hort peat consultation
9 July 2021 at 10:00

DEFRA	SG
[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]
	[Redacted]

Defra's timeline for consultation and Regulations

- Defra are hoping to launch consultation 2nd week of September. The consultation will also include the Welsh Government (so this timetable may slip a few weeks). They are hoping to publish consultation analysis by end of 2021 and begin discussions regulations with the Parliamentary in January 2022
- George Eustice MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Lesley Griffiths MS, Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales are meeting to discuss and agree joint approach within the one consultation.
- [Out of scope]
- [Out of scope]
- [Out of scope]
- [Redacted]

Content of consultation

- Consultation not yet in a position to share
- [Redacted] is producing a submission for George Eustice, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and will ask what his thinking is around Aligning Consultation with SG
- Defra seem confident that SG will be able to align with consultation by adding which nation the question relates to.
- Defra are currently looking at a 'social' research to bring forward the questions for the consultation

- There will be 3 strands to the consultation not just a ban on peat produce or extraction
- The consultation will also have a 'call for evidence'

Impact Assessments, including Strategic Environmental Assessment

- Defra have done an Impact Assessment which uses 2020 data to look at the Economic aspects of the consultation and would be happy for our Economists to discuss. DEFRA are looking at updating the figures and modelling for policy assessment
- No requirement for a SEA in England but DEFRA will have a look at this
- World Trade Organisation alignment

Communications with other DAs

- See item 1

[Out of scope]

[Out of scope]

Our agenda items:

- Defra's timeline for consultation and Regulations

[Redacted]: Launching consultation 2nd week September - moving parts likely to be joint with Wales who are in a similar place (TBC) - DEFRA don't see it as a problem, small changes to impact assessment, no major extraction in Wales. Consultation responses in and sorted by end of year, and engaging parliamentary council in January 2022. [Out of scope]

[Out of scope]

[Out of scope]

[Redacted]

- Content of consultation

Content not yet there - challenge is social science expertise to turn their questions into language suitable for consultation. Exploring how buy in that expertise. Extraction implicit - getting wider. Impact assessment not quite ready. Will be wide, will need to narrow. Consulting on three measures PLUS call for evidence on other uses of peat re unintended consequences. DEFRA - what about whisky?
- Impact Assessments, including Strategic Environmental Assessment

Policy impact assessment - costs and benefits. UK data being used but England data not extracted. Sort of UK wide therefore, England consumes 80% of peat. Could we use some of your data? Join economists together - **need to speak to RESAS**. Assumptions being made which may need to change e.g. rate of changes. SEA? Don't normally do one - we may need to in Scotland as our regulations go a bit further.
- Communications with other DAs

See above.
- [Out of scope]
- [Out of scope]

From: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>
Sent: 23 June 2021 09:17
To: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Peat Consultation

Hi [Redacted],

We're still currently drafting our consultation and so I'm afraid we can't share at this time. We'll be able to discuss during our next catch up on 9th July, of course.

Best,

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]@gov.scot <[Redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 23 June 2021 09:12

To: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@defra.gov.uk>

Subject: Peat Consultation

Morning [Redacted]

I was wondering if you were a position to share your draft consultation questions?

Regards

[Redacted]

[Redacted]



Peatlands & Land Quality Team

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[Out of scope]

20 May 2021 - bilateral – [Redacted], [Redacted], [Redacted], [Redacted]

[Our agenda items:](#)

- [Out of scope]
- Horticultural peat and sales ban
 - This UK parliament, by 2024.
 - [Out of scope]
 - Not just ban but point of sale levy and mandatory reporting.
 - Just kicked off economic impact assessment, consultation launch date end August - quite quick 15 weeks. Alignment best (nuances per nation) and look at outcomes jointly to identify focus of any legislation. Ministers. Need to speak to Wales and NI (NI protocol).
 - [Redacted]
 - Bagged peat only or potted peat also? Consultation wording - ban peat, but need vagueness to allow meaningful consultation, and say will explore absolute deadlines for a amateur sector. Online sales of peat briquettes to be banned also. Can control what is in a pot but not what a plant may be grown initially in before transferring to peat. De minimis likely to be important - where do we set it. Import - regulatory offence bringing it in as well as selling. Export of peat / import of plants - Ireland ban may have changed.
 - Inspections at border - plant passports from EU. Compliance will need to be explored in consultation.
 - Consultation will focus on information gaps and legal uncertainties and economic analysis.
 - Sector: HTA has published response to an announcement - they say can meet eradication in amateurs 25-28 and prof 28-30. They have met with Rebecca Pow. Has landed pretty well - engagement continuing.
 - [Out of scope]

Horticultural Peat meeting with Defra, 20th April 2021

England Peat Action Plan

- England Peat Strategy is now being repackaged as England Peat Action Plan and will be part of a wider Nature-related document with other action plans.
- The document will move from being context oriented to being action oriented eg about consulting on legislative measures for preferred options.
- Sales ban will be when, not if!
- Document likely to be released in May (17th May is likely date) – this is not public knowledge. Hoping for consultation this summer.

- [Redacted]

[Out of scope]

Potential action on sales ban

- Defra have noted manifesto pledges incl SNP pledge to ban sales of peat related to gardening.
- If commonality with England Peat Action Plan on peat sales ban, possibility to run in tandem so it can go through Westminster for all. This could save Scotland a year in the process to implementation.
- Agreed to meet mid-May to discuss way forward.

[Out of scope]