**Draft Legislation:** This is a draft item of legislation. This draft has since been made as a Northern Ireland Statutory Rule: Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 No. 156

## **SCHEDULE 4**

Additional conditions applicable to all systems in which laying hens are kept

- **3.**—(1) All buildings shall have light levels sufficient to allow all hens to see one another and be seen clearly, to investigate their surroundings visually and to show normal levels of activity.
- (2) Where there is natural light, light apertures shall be arranged in such a way that light is distributed evenly within the accommodation.
- (3) After the first days of conditioning, the lighting regime shall be such as to prevent health and behavioural problems; and accordingly, it shall follow a 24-hour rhythm and include an adequate uninterrupted period of darkness lasting, by way of indication, about one third of the day.
- (4) A period of twilight of sufficient duration ought to be provided when the light is dimmed so that the hens may settle down without disturbance or injury.