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STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

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**2007 No. 421**

The Environmental Impact Assessment  
(Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

PART 3

Consent

**Scoping opinions**

**10.**—(1) After receiving a screening decision that a project is a significant project, but before applying for consent, the applicant may ask the Department to provide its opinion on what information should be provided in the environmental statement (“a scoping opinion”).

(2) If the applicant requests a scoping opinion, the Department must consult the applicant and such of the consultation bodies as it thinks fit before providing its opinion.

(3) If the Department considers that it does not have sufficient information to provide a scoping opinion, it may ask the applicant to supply any additional information it requires within 28 days of the date on which it received the request for the scoping opinion.

(4) Subject to paragraph (5), the Department shall provide the applicant with the scoping opinion within 35 days of—

- (a) the date it received the request for a scoping opinion; or
- (b) where applicable, the date it received the additional information requested under paragraph (3).
- (c) the date of such an extension as may be agreed between the Department and the applicant under paragraph (5).

whichever is later.

(5) The Department may agree, in writing, with an applicant such extension as is reasonable in the circumstances of the period of 35 days within which it shall provide the applicant with a scoping decision under paragraph (4).