

GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION HIGHLIGHTS

June 2021

A brief summary of current government consultations of potential interest to RSN members. This is not intended as an exhaustive list of all relevant consultations.

Consistency in household and business recycling in England – Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

Government want to know what you think of their plans to increase the consistency in materials collected for recycling from households, businesses and other organisations in England. They state: “Increasing consistency in recycling will reduce confusion in the materials that can be collected for recycling at kerbside. This will help to make sure that less waste goes to landfill and more is recycled.

“We want to know what you think about:

- materials to be collected as part of the dry recyclable waste streams
- provisions for food and garden waste collections
- possible exemptions from the requirements set out in the consultation
- topics to be included in statutory guidance for local authorities
- transition timelines for local authorities and businesses”

This consultation closes on 4 July 2021.

[Consistency in household and business recycling in England - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consistency-in-household-and-business-recycling-in-england)

Street manager and permit scheme changes – Department for Transport

The proposals include:

- introducing a new type of flexi permit that would cover a number of standard and minor works in a certain area for a period of time
- allowing phases within a permit so that up-to-date information on traffic management can be sent to Street Manager and then published
- including notifications about Section 58 and Section 58A/Schedule 3A road restrictions in Street Manager
- requiring works start and stop notices to be sent within 2 hours at weekends; and requiring highway authorities to submit start and stop notices for their works so that up-to-date information can be provided via Street Manager to road users
- 3 changes relating to street works inspections:
 - amending the way an inspection unit is calculated
 - using performance to calculate the number of sample inspections carried out each year so that poor performers are inspected more frequently
 - consolidation of the fee that needs to be paid for re-inspections of reinstatements that have failed a previous inspection

This consultation closes on 23 July 2021.

[Street manager and permit scheme changes - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/street-manager-and-permit-scheme-changes)

Direct Payments to farmers: lump sum exit scheme and delinked payments – Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

Government want to know what you think about the proposed lump sum exit scheme for farmers and their proposed approach to delinked payments.

They are seeking views on a set of questions including:

- the eligibility criteria and aspects of how we should calculate the value of the lump sum
- the reference period to be used to determine eligibility for, and calculate the value of, delinked payments

This consultation closes on 11 August 2021.

[Direct Payments to farmers: lump sum exit scheme and delinked payments - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Technical consultation on consequential changes to permitted development rights – Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

The government reformed the Use Classes Order from 1 September 2020 to establish new uses classes. These changes include the creation of a new broad Commercial, Business and Service (E) use class which includes shops, banks, restaurants and offices etc and provides for greater flexibility for high streets and town centres. Existing permitted development rights that make reference to the former use classes continue to apply until 31 July 2021.

This technical consultation sets out detail of the proposed consequential changes to existing permitted development rights that make reference to the former use classes and invites comments.

This consultation closes on 3 June 2021.

[Technical consultation on consequential changes to permitted development rights - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Changes to permitted development rights for electronic communications infrastructure: technical consultation – Department of Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

This consultation seeks views on proposed planning reforms that will allow the deployment of telecoms equipment to be quicker whilst ensuring that there are appropriate environmental protections and safeguards in place. Proposals consulted on include:

- enabling the deployment of radio equipment housing up to specified limits and allowing greater flexibility for installing equipment cabinets in existing compounds to support 5G deployment and incentivise the use of existing sites for site sharing.
- strengthening existing masts by permitting alteration or replacement and increases in width and height up to specified limits to enable sites to be upgraded for 5G and for mast sharing.
- enabling the deployment of building-based masts up to specified limits, including masts located nearer to highways, to support deployment of 5G and extend mobile coverage, subject to prior approval and specified limits.
- enabling higher new masts to deliver better mobile coverage and mast sharing, subject to specified limits.

This consultation closes on 14 June 2021.

[Changes to permitted development rights for electronic communications infrastructure: technical consultation - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Role of biomass in achieving net zero: call for evidence – Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

This call for evidence seeks to inform the development of the upcoming biomass strategy, looking at evidence on how sustainable biomass should be sourced and used to best support the government's net zero target.

This consultation closes on 15 June 2021.

[Role of biomass in achieving net zero: call for evidence - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Improving broadband for Very Hard to Reach premises – Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

Through this call for evidence, the Department of Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) wants to hear views and experiences of consumers' broadband connectivity in rural and remote areas of the UK. In addition, DCMS would also like to receive information on both the known benefits of broadband services and the current barriers to deployment and take-up.

Additional evidence, either from the UK or abroad, on technology availability, maturity, capabilities and costs, from suppliers and vendors is also welcomed.

The evidence gathered will enable DCMS to assess the options available for delivering improved connectivity to areas where the costs of delivering better digital infrastructure have so far proven to be a barrier to deployment.

This consultation closes on 11 June 2021.

[Improving broadband for Very Hard to Reach premises - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/improving-broadband-for-very-hard-to-reach-premises)

Local authority remote meetings: call for evidence – Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

This call for evidence seeks to understand the experience of local authorities in the whole of the UK regarding remote meetings. This includes authorities in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

Scottish authorities were able to meet remotely prior to the pandemic, and this call for evidence seeks to understand their experience of remote meetings since these arrangements came into force.

This consultation closes on 17 June 2021.

[Local authority remote meetings: call for evidence - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-authority-remote-meetings-call-for-evidence)

Waste prevention programme for England 2021 – Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

Government wants to know what you think about their plans for preventing waste, set out in the revised waste prevention programme for England.

Views are sought on whether government have set out a strong case for action across the sectors identified, and on the measures outlined.

This consultation closes on 10 June 2021.

[Waste prevention programme for England 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/waste-prevention-programme-for-england-2021)