



Department of  
**Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs**

[www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk)

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Your reference:

Our reference: STOF-0051-2020

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Dear Mr Woodrow,

### **Undertaking Ecological Work During Covid-19 Restrictions**

Thank you for your correspondence to Dr McMahon regarding the undertaking of ecological work during this period of Covid-19 restrictions. As Director of Natural Environment Division, I have been asked to respond to your enquiry.

Government restrictions do not require all businesses and professionals to cease operating during this period but to heed the legislation and guidelines and put in place the necessary precautions and working arrangements as required.

[www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/coronavirus-workplace-safety-guidance-and-priority-sector-list](http://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/coronavirus-workplace-safety-guidance-and-priority-sector-list)

More recently, the Department for Economy has provided more detail on priority sectors in Northern Ireland, which includes;

*Scientific research and development; and Professional services to satisfy legislative and statutory consultee requirements, in the areas of health and safety, land use planning and reserve replenishment:*

- *Surveyors (Land, Air Quality, Noise and Ecological)*
- *Geotechnical Engineers*
- *Blasting Engineers and explosive suppliers*

[www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/sites/default/files/Priority-Sectors-List\\_0.pdf](http://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/sites/default/files/Priority-Sectors-List_0.pdf)

Ecological and environmental professionals should therefore be assured that their field work in relation to the above can continue, where it can be carried out in line with public health guidelines [www.gov.uk/guidance/social-distancing-in-the-workplace-during-coronavirus-covid-19-sector-guidance#outdoor-businesses](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/social-distancing-in-the-workplace-during-coronavirus-covid-19-sector-guidance#outdoor-businesses)

I trust you find this clarification helpful. We continue to value the work and professionalism of your members and thank CIEEM for engaging on their behalf.

Yours sincerely,

**HELEN ANDERSON**  
**Director of Natural Environment Division**