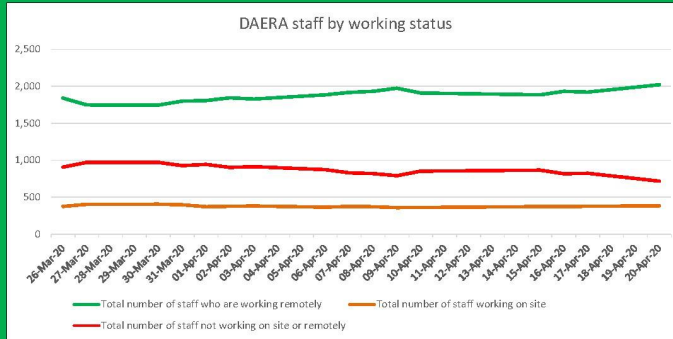


DAERA DOC DASHBOARD

COVID response Version 2.0



22/04/2020

KEY GOLD MESSAGES

- Keep product moving
- Protect animal health
- Protect food hygiene
- Protect our water, land and air
- Support our rural communities
- Respect social distancing
- Keep communicating

- Stay at home
- Protect the NHS
- Save Lives

If you have questions or feedback, please contact the DAERA Doc team at DOC.Operations@daera-ni.gov.uk

20 April 2020 – Overview

Critical impacts on both agri-food and marine sectors; food issues steady

Key risks

DfI, DfE and TEO leading. Ferry/Port companies were signalling financial difficulties with potential disruption to food, feed, seed supply and clinical/hazardous waste. Stenline have confirmed that their NI routes are no longer 'at risk' following a support package agreement on 20/4/20.

Farm Incomes: Agri-food supply chain, farm and horticultural businesses signalling difficulties with range of issues. Milk price down 1.5ppl for one supplier for March milk, beef carcass imbalance issues with reduced demand for high value cuts. Non edible horticulture are unable to bring goods to market during their peak season. Confirmed by HMRC and media reporting that farmers can apply for the UKG self-employed scheme which provides up to £2,500 per month for eligible farmers.

Waste management: Ongoing issues with a range of waste management processes covering councils & the private waste industry. Ongoing monitoring of fly tipping. Lot of media and political attention on reopening of household recycling centres with three open in Mid and East Antrim opening on 20/4/20.

Ongoing actions

- Support to NICS Departments leading on issues relating to hauliers and airports
- Consideration of support for agriculture, non edible horticulture and aquaculture sectors
- Continued engagement with local councils about waste management, particularly Household Waste Recycling Centres

Immediate and tangible threat to life, limb or national security – IMMEDIATE ACTION

Sector or Dept. experiencing significant impact that will not get better without intervention

Sector or Dept. experiencing moderate impacts. Action required to mitigate the worst impacts

Sector or Dept. is functioning within acceptable limits. Minor impact experienced but understood

1

20 April 2020 – Overview

Critical impacts on both agri-food and marine sectors; food issues steady

1 DAERA Our People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff increasingly able to access laptops and remote technology. All DAERA Direct offices remain open plus Dundonald House 	6 Trade & Veterinary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meat plants staffed, red meat throughput is up on March 2019 Overdue TB payments being progressed
2 Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing declines in price impact farm viability: March Milk price down 1.5ppl with one supplier Beef carcass value imbalance Non edible Horticulture unable to sell produce 	7 Forestry, parks, Estate Rural Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public largely complying with stay at home message. Media messaging on 21/4/20
3 Marine & Fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fishing activity down with most boats tied up. Small number of prawn boats continue to fish £1.5m support for eligible vessel fixed costs 	8 Supply chain ferries, ports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support package agreed on 20/4/20 which is targeted at 5 key GB to NI sea crossings. Work ongoing to support other NICS Departments in relation to airports and hauliers.
4 Water, air, habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contingencies in place, reduced water quality monitoring at some locations Air quality: NO2 levels dropping but particulate matter (PM) levels rising. Wildfire issues ongoing. 	9 Stakeholder sentiment & Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industry continue to push for intervention to support expected drop in farm gate prices, especially for milk and red meat
5 Waste management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pressure to open municipal recycling sites - 3 in Mid and East Antrim have opened Fly tipping levels being monitored 		

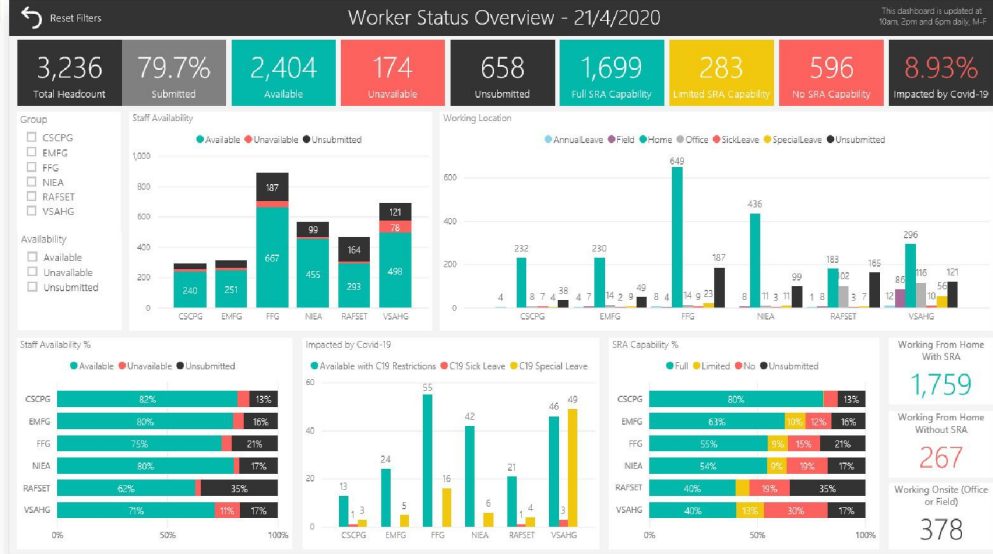
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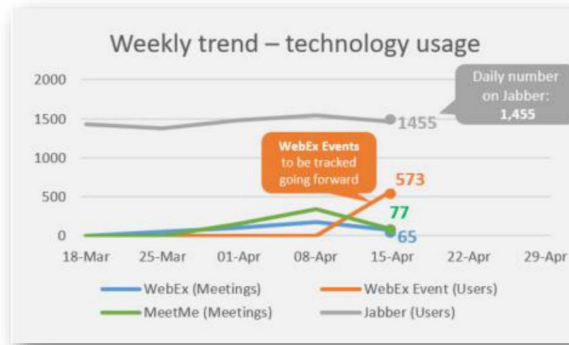
Sector or Dept. is functioning within acceptable limits. Minor impact experienced, but understood

1. DAERA – Our People (updated 21 April, 15:30)



1. DAERA – Our People (updated 15 April – updated weekly)

Embracing New Ways of Working



- 1778 laptop users across the department
- 646 new devices issued since Covid-19 crisis started
- 573 staff attended Senior Management interactive webinar on 15/4/20 using Webex Event - the first of it's kind in NICS.

2. Agriculture (updated 20 April)

Risk that reduced exports leads to oversupply in key commodities and decrease farm viability (particularly lamb, milk, cattle)

Current actions

- Consideration of support to mitigate falling farm gate prices, especially for milk, lamb, beef, non edible horticulture. Media reporting bid for £105m submitted to DoF to cover Agri support

Current actions

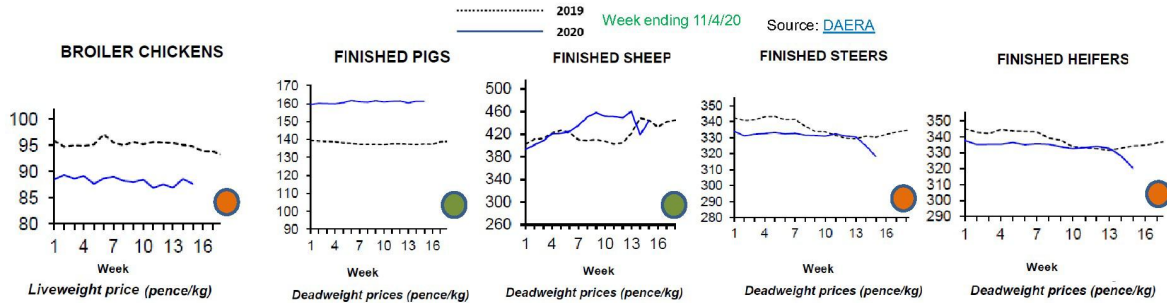
- Consideration of support to mitigate falling farm gate prices, especially for milk, lamb, beef, non edible horticulture. Media reporting bid for £105m submitted to DoF to cover Agri support

Key assumptions

- That farm gate prices will continue to fall in several sectors. Industry continuing to call for urgent market support
- Suggestions from industry that Food service sector will not recover until February 2021

Milk

- Milk price 1.5ppl lower for March with one supplier and further falls expected as peak milk production is reached in the coming 4-6 weeks



2. Agriculture (updated 21 April)

Risk that reduced exports leads to oversupply in key commodities and decrease farm viability (particularly lamb, milk, cattle)

SAF applications received as of 21 April 2020

- Over 10,840 vs 7767 in same period in 2019 with 98 having submitted applications using a new enhanced digital assistance service launched last week.

Feed/Seed/Fertiliser supply

- Some merchants under pressure due to supply demand but this is normal seasonal pressure and not Covid related. Concern about cash flow on farms. Relaxing of restrictions on HGV drivers hours submitted to DfI to cover drivers until May 2020

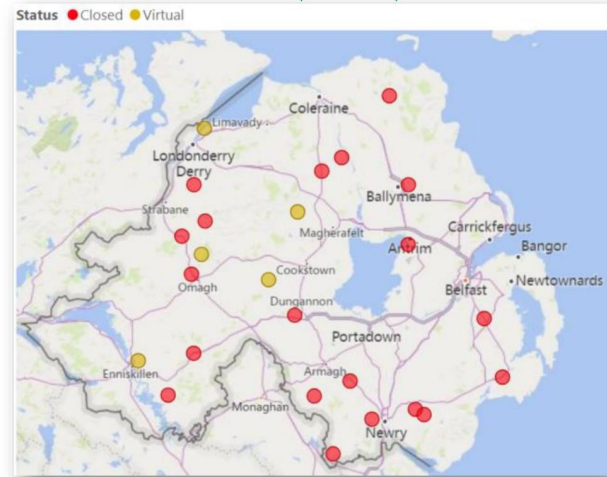
Agri-food absenteeism rates (NIFDA)

- Creeping back up to 9.2% (17/4/20) from average from a peak of 14% with output remaining at 100%.
- Pig processing absenteeism up to 15%

Marts

- Most marts expected to be open "virtually" from w/c 27/4/20. Some additional marts are already acting as collection points for lamb export sales.

NI Mart status (w/c 20/4/20)



3. Marine & Fisheries (updated 20 April)

Risk of major sector impacts as industry responds to lowering demand.

Current actions

- The AERA Committee has considered the SL1 which is part of the statutory process for the making of the subordinate legislation for the financial support scheme for the sea fish catching sector. The SR is being considered by the DSO. Application and procedures are being developed by the Grants Team.
- Work on scoping the need for schemes for the Aquaculture & Inland sectors is ongoing. Submissions and options papers are being finalised.

Next actions and decisions

- Meeting with the fishing industry 24th April to provide an update on scheme progress and hear feedback on the support package.
- Policy, Grants & Inspectorate Teams to meet to review and devise options for the Aquaculture Sector. Submission with Minister on the Inland Fisheries Sector.
- Current stocking density levels in aquaculture are continuing to grow, a working group has been set to look at this and work is ongoing.

Fishing activity

NI Main Fishing Port Activity 21.04.2020 (NI Registered Vessels)

Ardglass	5	All Prawn
Kilkeel	3	All Prawn
Portavogie	1	All Prawn

Intelligence

- Little fishing activity over the past weekend
- Discussion ongoing to potentially open NI's largest prawn processor (approximately 200 employees)

Demand

- Continual low demand from EU Markets, very small amount of local sales. Some sectors have noted a zero demand.

Source: Marine & Fisheries Division

4. Water and wastewater (updated 21 April)

Low & improving absence rates across water industry

Key points

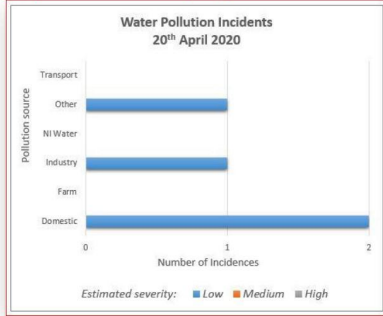
- NI Water is experiencing difficulties in obtaining hygiene, welfare and personal protective equipment products for front line staff.
- NI Water stock of water treatment chemicals NI (Brexit) stockpiles estimated to be 1 years supply

Water Pollution response: 21/4/20

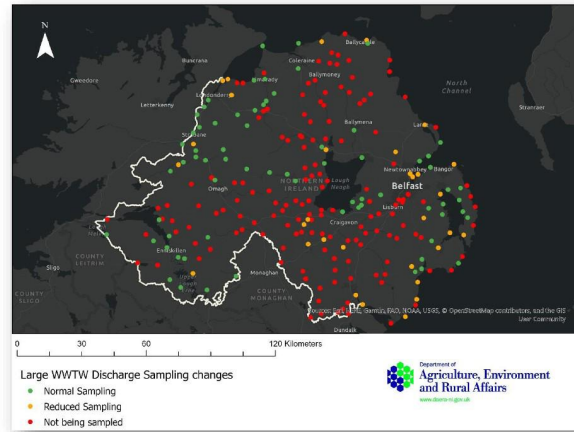
Number of incidents reported in last 24hrs: 4 (4 low severity)

Number of incidents attended in last 24hrs: 4

Water pollution incidents (daily) as of 17.00 on 20/4/20



Waste Water Treatment Works Discharge Point Sampling Status from 30/3/2020



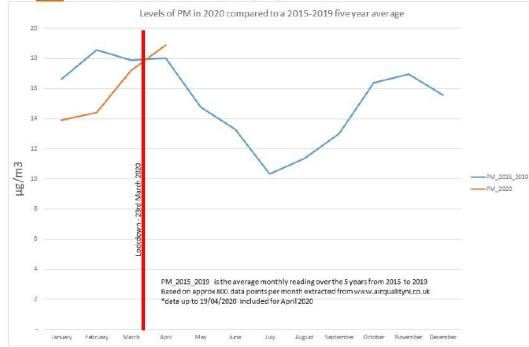
(101 out of 235 being assessed)⁵

Graph being updated to 20.04

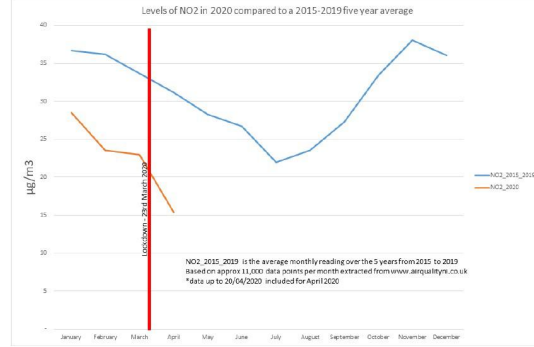
Map being updated to change 'normal' to green

5. Air Quality (as of 20 April)

Complex picture emerging



Particulate matter (PM) consists of fine particles that, once in the air, are harmful to human health. Particulate matter can be classified PM10 or PM2.5 (particles with a diameter of less than 10 and 2.5 micrometers respectively). Smaller particles, such as PM2.5, are more harmful, because as well as acting as a respiratory irritant, they can penetrate deeper into the lungs. The available evidence suggests that long-term exposure to PM2.5 can lead to premature mortality. PM is formed as a by-product of burning fuels, in particular solid fuels. The biggest sources of PM in Northern Ireland are domestic wood and coal burning, industrial combustion, road transport and ammonia.



NO2 can exacerbate symptoms of heart and lung conditions, thereby reducing quality of life for affected individuals. NO2 can also adversely affect plant life and biodiversity in sensitive habitats. The major sources of NO2 are domestic and industrial combustion and road transport. The NO2 emitted by road transport, however, poses more of a problem for local air quality, because it leads to increased concentrations of this pollutant at ground level, sometimes in busy streets.

6. Waste management (updated 21 April)

Collection disruptions reducing, disposal disruptions limited but increasing

Key updates

- Council areas are closely monitoring fly tipping in close collaboration with NIEA crime team. Councils are reporting that the situation is under control to date.

- Mid and East Antrim (MEA) have 3 Household Waste Recycling Centres open as of 21/20/20

- Six new [Regulatory Position Statements](#) supporting the waste industry published on website.

- DAERA has updated its [FAQ](#) on Environmental Compliance

- DC&SC Council reporting a number of recent incidents of fallen animals (calf, lambs & a cow) being dumped

- 92 fly tipping incidents reported up to 09:00 on 21/04/20. This is a reduction on 106 reports in the same period in 2019 and 111 reports in the same period in 2018

Northern Ireland Municipal Waste Services Dashboard Date - 21 April 2020		Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	Ards and North Down Borough Council	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council	Belfast City Council	Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council	Derry City and Strabane District Council	Fermanagh and Omagh District Council	Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council	Mid and East Antrim Borough Council	Mid Ulster District Council	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Residual Waste - Black Bin Collection												
Recyclable Waste - Blue Bin Collection												
Recyclable Waste - Box Collection												
Compostable Waste - Caddy Food Waste Collection												
Compostable Waste - Brown Bin Collection												
Transfer Stations												
Bulky Waste Collections												
Litter & Street Cleansing												
Civic Amenity Sites												
Bring Sites												
RAG and Estimated % - Drivers		100%	100%	76%	78%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
RAG and Estimated % - Operatives		100%	100%	82%	87%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
RAG and Estimated % - Vehicles		100%	100%	100%	94%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Garages / Mechanic Availability		N/A	90%	71%				100%				100%
PPE Availability												
Anti Social Behaviour												
Fly-Tipping												

6

Table to be updated

6. Trade and Veterinary (updated 16 April)

• Key updates

- Three landfills are now capable of taking Animal By-Products (ABP) in the event of rendering not being available. ABP and Tallow storage issues being monitored
- TB herd tests W/C 30 March 2020 vs 2019 down 54%
TB animal tests W/C 30 March 2020 vs 2019 down 52%
- Availability for meat plant inspector staff cover including weekend cover stable. TB surveillance continues in abattoirs
- TB compensation: £1 million worth of payments still to be processed. Key staff continue to receive laptops and payments progressed
- TB Immunisation medical assessments for key staff. Escalated to Gold
- 35 Respirators 100 waterproof coats and 100 waterproof trousers being made available to DoH
- Preliminary testing of PCR kits has gone well. First quality control testing is underway and will be followed later in the week with more QC testing. Then ramping up on testing foreseen. Supply chains for two key reagents have been secured
- Contact details of VEU have been passed to HPA to enable involvement with Covid-19 prevalence study

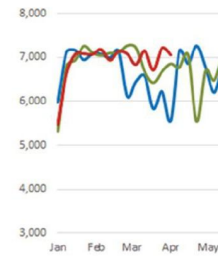
Meat plant throughput March 2020 vs March 2019

Cattle up 10% Sheep up 15% Pigs up 17%

Lamb/Hogget
throughput in Northern
Ireland 2018-2020



Prime cattle throughput
in Northern Ireland
2018-2020



Source: LMC

— 2018 — 2019 — 2020

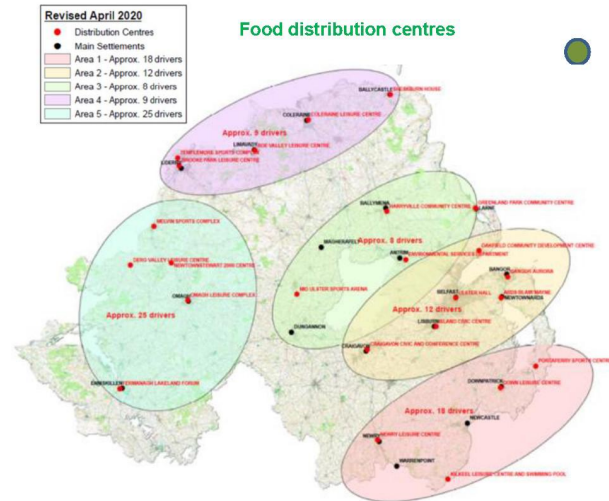
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7. Forestry, Parks, Rural Affairs, Estate (updated 20 April)

Key updates

- Forest Service remains ready to provide assistance to DfC led Food distribution to the vulnerable
- DAERA Direct offices, Dundonald House, Lisburn NIEA remain open with skeleton essential staff
- Ballykelly and Klondyke buildings closed.
- Monitoring of potential congregations at Forest and Country parks will continue.
- Communications may be required to raise public awareness of dangers of burning activities in the countryside
- Advice on the current pedestrian access to Forest and Country Parks might be updated to reflect current interest in enhancing provision for public recreation, whilst maintaining appropriate adherence to 'travelling from home' and 'social distancing' requirements.
- Intelligence to be gathered about each Councils current position re opening or closure of parks and gardens. Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council have decided to reopen their parks to pedestrian access from 21 April and Hillsborough Forest Park is to be reopened to public access

- £ 4.5 m in grants rolled out to Rural Dwellers by Rural Affairs Division



8. Supply chain (inc Ferries/hauliers/ports) (updated 20 April)

Defra update

- DfT/HMT discussing Maritime and Road Haulier Financial Packages: DfT announcement expected end of week/early next.
- Exploring options for regulatory easements on imported food, including on SPS certificates.
- Defra reporting risk of breakdown of food supply chain due to border delays not anticipated to pose threats in the immediate term.

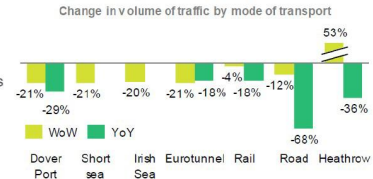
DAERA update

- The NI Executive agreed to a Department for Transport (DfT) support package on 20/4/20 designed to protect continuity of ferry operations between NI and GB. The package will be targeted at the ferry companies operating on the 5 key GB to NI sea crossings. It is to be for two months and is estimated to cost between £10.6-£16.6m.
- DAERA will continue to engage and press for intervention for Hauliers through NI Freight Group to DfT. It is expected that the UKG intervention may not materialise for a matter of weeks even months.

Defra analysis of borders and trade 20/4/20

Trade disruption

- Reduced volume of traffic causing concerns over financial viability of hauliers



Average border delays (last 24 hours)²

- Minimal to no delays across major ports, incl. Calais (~10 mins wait time).
- Low delays (~1-2 hour wait time) on Eurotunnel services.



Defra analysis of food retailer daily data returns represents 70% of NI retail supply

Type	1. Product availability (%)	2. Stock on hand (days)	3. Supplier fulfillment (%)
Ambient	76.8 ↑	11.7 ↑	79.2 (-)
Chilled Produce	86.6 ↑	4.6 ↑	90.8 (-)
Fresh Produce	89.0 ↑	3.1 ↑	92.5 (-)
Frozen	89.5 ↑	14.7 ↑	78.6 ↑
Non-food items	78.3 ↑	32.0 (-)	50.4 (-)

1. Data for HGV for roads and freight for aviation
Sources: COVID-19 Food Supply Dashboard, COVID-19 Freight Supply Dashboard (DfT), APHA Dashboard, RORO trade volume data from Ship AIS website, Sixfold website

9. Stakeholder sentiment & Media (updated 21 April)

Reductions in Twitter traffic around key themes for Defra suggest stakeholder concerns becoming less pronounced

Key sentiments (NI)

- Stakeholders very keen for rapid market support both for primary agriculture and consideration to be given to the amount of money processors have made to comply with social distancing requirements.
- Concern that a one size fits all UK wide dairy support scheme may not suit NI given it's focus on the export markets. Also that closed businesses in NI are being given more support than open businesses and ROI support for open businesses will give them a competitive advantage
- Senior stakeholders are very concerned about the impact of dealing with Covid-19 and the NI Protocol/Brexit concurrently
- Calls to Rural Support have reportedly increased x 5 since Feb 2020
- Industry requesting further changes to TB testing measures which are being considered by officials.
- Perception of increased fly tipping with many HWRCs not open
- ENGOs concerned about financial viability

Media Services

Weekly update on
COVID-19 activity
11 - 17 April 2020

Social Media

- Impressions/reach – the number of times people saw the post
- Engagement – the number of times people interacted with it (liked, shared, commented)
- Views – the number of people who clicked to view

From 11 - 17 April 2020, our posts on social media have reached **151,553** people, with an average **engagement rate of 1.8%** (industry standard for good is 1.0%).

Main DAERA media activity 21/4/20

- Minister interviewed on GMU this 21/4/20 regarding forest parks, recycling and support package for farmers
- Minister on BBC Radio Foyle discussing cemeteries, forest parks etc
- Joint PR issued with NIFRS on 21/4/20 on wildfires
- Ministerial PR to issue 21/4/20 thanking waste workers
- UTV seeking a line on forest parks opening (yet to be finalised with officials)
- Query from IFJ on enforcement of NAP derogation during Covid-19 (with officials for response)
- Query from IFJ asking if DAERA will be using unspent RDP funds to support farmers through COVID-19 (with officials for response)
- Query from farm Week on potential re-opening of marts (with officials for response)
- Response to air quality query from News Letter issued 20/1/20 – currently addressing a follow-up query from News Letter
- Social media messaging ongoing on various issues under the remit of the Dept