

FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH



EDWIN POOTS MLA
Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

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Dear *Edwin,*

AMENDMENT OF THE HEALTH PROTECTION (CORONAVIRUS, RESTRICTIONS) REGULATIONS (NI) 2020

Thank you for your memo of 17 May seeking an amendment to the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 to allow private angling estates to operate. Please accept my apologies for the delay in replying.

Private fisheries are not required to be closed as they are not listed in Schedule 2 Part 2 of the Regulations. The fact that a business or service is not expressly listed in Part 3 does not mean it is required to close. Leaving the home and travelling to go fishing is now covered by the outdoor activity amendments. Therefore an amendment to allow private angling estates to open and trade is not necessary.

However, currently the Regulations do not permit the sale or hiring out of equipment, and operators of such businesses should be advised or reminded of this restriction.

In allowing anglers access to their waters, both public sector and private angling bodies should signpost the public health advice about social distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene and environmental hygiene. This is advisory, not part of the Regulations.

Yours sincerely

PD

Robin Swann MLA
Minister of Health