



Privacy Notice: Biomethane Strategy and Policy Framework Consultation

Data Controller Name: Department for the Economy
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Why are you processing my personal information?

In line with the delivery of the Department's [2026 Energy Strategy Action Plan](#), the Department for the Economy, alongside the Department for Agriculture, Environment, and Rural Affairs (DAERA), have developed a draft Biomethane Strategy and Policy Framework. This consultation sets out the draft policy that has been developed, with the aim of collecting information and views from key stakeholders on the proposed policy positions to inform the development of a final Biomethane Strategy and Policy Framework.

Following closure of the consultation, all responses submitted will be analysed and a Departmental response drafted and published. Personal data, such as names and contact details provided on a voluntary basis, will not be routinely published as part of the consultation analysis or Departmental response.

Please note that information provided in response to this consultation, including personal data where applicable, may be subject to disclosure under access to information legislation, including the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, and the Data Protection Act 2018 / UK General Data Protection Regulation. Our lawful basis for collecting and processing your personal data is that of 'public task' in accordance with Article 6(1)(e) of UK GDPR, as supported by Section 8 of the Data Protection Act 2018. This processing supports DfE's development of biomethane policy and wider objectives on emissions reduction, renewable energy and net zero.

What categories of personal data are you processing?

We will collect and process personal data provided in response to the consultation which may include some or all of the following information on respondents:

- name of organisation represented
- name
- postal address
- email address
- telephone number



- views and comments provided in your consultation response, where these identify you or could reasonably be linked to you.

Provision of names and contact details in response to the consultation is entirely voluntary and, if provided, we will not use your personal data to send any marketing information to you.

If you choose to provide your name and contact details, we may contact you during the analysis process in order to clarify or explain certain comments if it appears that doing so would improve our proposals within the policy.

Where do you get my personal data from?

We will obtain any personal data directly from you should you wish to respond to the consultation in either a personal capacity or on behalf of a company or organisation.

Do you share my personal data with anyone else?

We will only share identifiable personal data with another organisation acting as a separate data controller in the limited circumstances described below.

DfE uses Delib as a data processor to help deliver this consultation, as Delib provides and manages the online consultation platform, Citizen Space. We have a contract in place with Delib which means that they will not do anything with your personal information unless we have instructed them accordingly.

We will only use data submitted in response to the consultation to inform the development of the final Biomethane Strategy and Policy Framework. Where relevant to the subject matter, we may share consultation comments with DAERA, the Utility Regulator, or another government department or public body whose policy or regulatory remit is engaged. Before sharing, we will remove direct identifiers, such as names and contact details and assess whether an individual could still reasonably be identified indirectly from information such as their organisation, role, location or the detail of the comments. We will only share information that has been anonymised or otherwise limited to what is necessary for the relevant policy purpose.

Although this is unlikely, if identifiable personal data needs to be shared with another organisation acting as a separate data controller, we will only do so where DfE is satisfied that the sharing is necessary, proportionate and lawful and an appropriate data sharing agreement is in place before the information is shared.

Do you transfer my personal data to other countries?

No, we will not transfer personal data outside the UK.

How long do you keep my personal data?

We will retain consultation responses, including any personal data provided, for five years in line with the Department's Retention and Disposal Schedule.



Will DfE use my personal data to make an automated decision about me or for profiling purposes?

We will not use your personal data for automated decision making or individual profiling purposes.

What rights do I have?

Depending on the circumstances, you may have the following rights under UK data protection law:

- You have the right to obtain confirmation that your data is being processed, and [access to your personal data](#).
- You are entitled to have personal data [rectified if it is inaccurate or incomplete](#).
- You have the right to [restrict or suppress processing](#) of personal data, in specific circumstances.
- You have the right to [object to the processing](#), in specific circumstances.

If these rights are applicable and you wish to exercise them, please e-mail:

DPO@economy-ni.gov.uk

How do I complain if I am not happy?

If you are unhappy with any aspect of this privacy notice, or how your personal information is being processed, please contact the Department's Data Protection Officer at DPO@economy-ni.gov.uk

If you are still not happy, you have the right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). Contact details of the ICO are available at <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>.