

[Terms of Reference for the Project]

- 1 To review the environmental legislation that applies to agricultural businesses in England and make recommendations to simplify, consolidate and modernise the law.
- 2 The review will focus on those areas of legislation which have the most significant impact on the farming or land management activities of farm businesses.
- 3 The review may also consider:
 - (1) whether there are legislative barriers to the effective enforcement of the law;
 - (2) the extent to which the existing legal framework adopts a rules-based prescriptive approach to environmental regulation, in contrast to a principles or outcome-based approach, and the relative merits of each approach.
- 4 In carrying out the review, the Commission will not consider the simplification, consolidation or modernisation of the
 - (1) Water Resources (Control of Pollution) (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) (England) Regulations 2010;
 - (2) Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations 2015; or
 - (3) Reduction and Prevention of Agricultural Diffuse Pollution (England) Regulations 2018;
- 5 The review will not make any recommendations to lower environmental standards.
- 6 The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will update the Commission on the progress and scope of its work on the farm regulation legislative programme. In the light of any such updates, the Commission and the Department may agree that other specific regulations are outside the scope of the project.

[Note – paragraph 5 above added under slip rule on 14 May 2026]