

ISLE OF MAN GOVERNMENT

Department of Environment, Food & Agriculture Department Plan 2023

QUARTERLY UPDATE (November 2023 - January 2024)



Our Island Plan:

Building A Secure,
Vibrant And Sustainable
Future For Our Island

Foreword

The purpose of this quarterly report (November 2023 – January 2024) is to provide an update on progress made to date on the actions contained within the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture's Department Plan 2023:

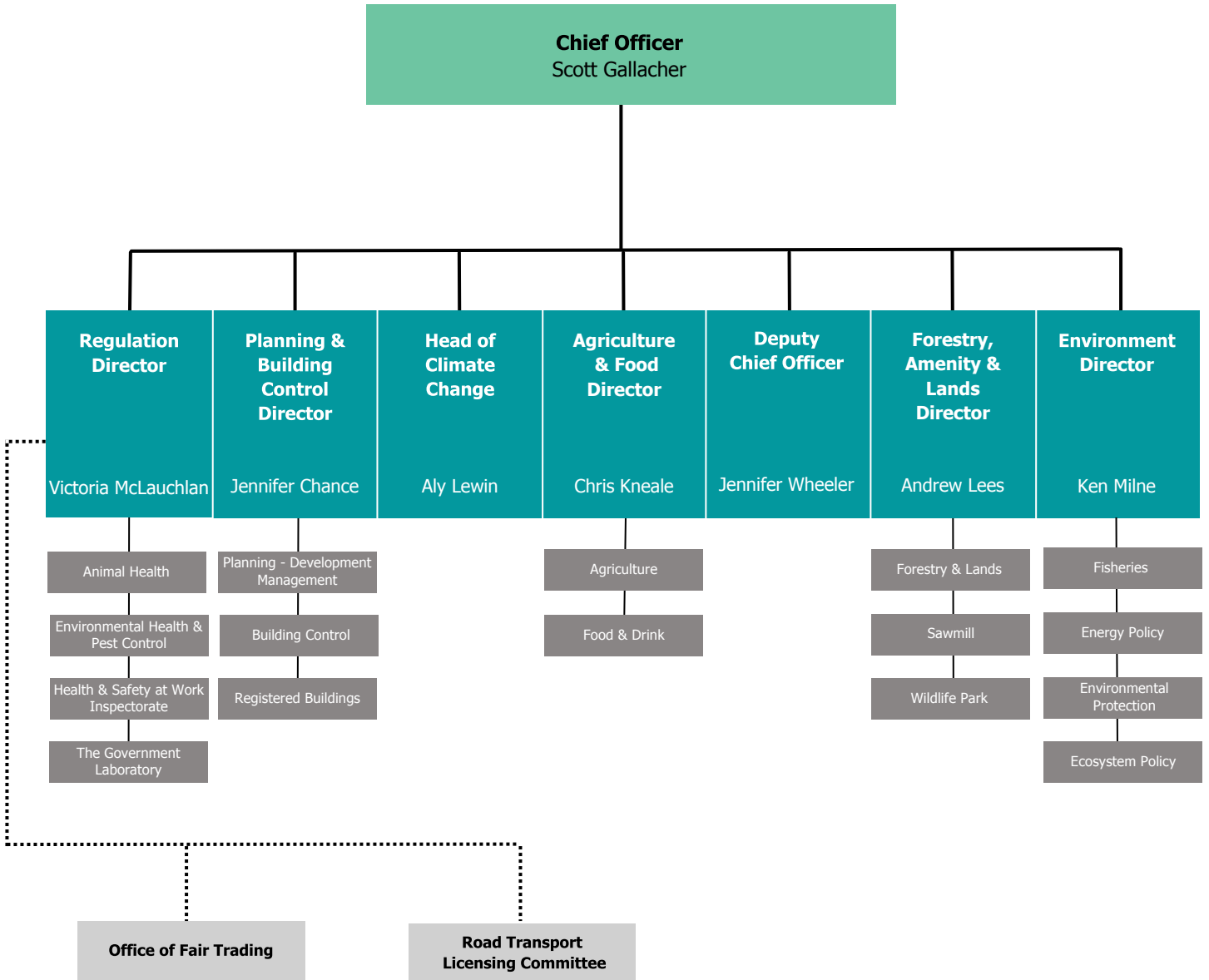
https://www.gov.im/media/1380318/defa-department-plan-2023_compressed.pdf

The Plan contains a number of actions for the Department, including those derived from the Island Plan and the Climate Change Action Plan.

This is the first quarterly update for the Department. To ensure we continue to keep everyone updated, the Department will produce a report on progress each quarter.



Our Structure



Island Plan Delivery

The following table sets out the actions assigned to the Department through the Island Plan. The timescale for delivery is included and progress against delivery of these actions is reported, see Islandplan.im

Building Great Communities			
Strategic Programme	Milestones	Completion Date	RAG Status as of 31/01/24
Cost of Living Strategic Response	Encourage and facilitate energy reduction and efficiencies.	Nov-22	Blue
Built Environment Reform Programme	Improve the planning process: Develop faster and more proportionate planning processes.	Sep-24	Green
	Improve the planning process: Provide a modern and responsive service.	Oct-24	Green
	Improve the planning process: Proactively respond to Climate Change.	Mar-24	Green

An environment we can be proud of			
Strategic Programme	Milestones	Completion Date	RAG Status as of 31/01/24
Climate Change Action Plan	Climate Change Annual Report to Tynwald July.	Jul-23	Blue
Implement Waste Strategy	Environmental Waste Standards: Report on international standards in relation to environmental waste, ensuring that there is no intentional discharge of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) into waters, including bays.	Dec-25	Green
Energy Strategy	Develop a Plan for Energy Security for our Island with support from the Climate Change Transformation Board.	Jul-23	Blue
	There are opportunities for the Island to use its abundant offshore wind resources to produce green hydrogen to use locally as part of a closed loop carbon neutral economy and/or to export to key demand centres in the UK, EU and beyond. Develop policies that will enable the opportunities to be explored for the Island. This will be determined through the Energy Strategy.	Aug-24	Green
Environment Strategy	Review areas considered as bathing areas based on use not designation.	Apr-23	Blue
	Updated Environmental Protection Policies together with associated legislation re-drafted for debate.	Apr-24	Amber
	Undertake and complete a trial for year round bathing water quality testing.	Jun-23	Blue
	Undertake and complete a trial for year round air quality monitoring (2 year trial).	Oct-25	Green
	Environmental considerations are embedded across Government decisions and infrastructure supporting a natural and built environment which respects and protects our rich culture, biodiversity and sense of place.	Ongoing	Green
UNESCO Biosphere Re-accreditation	Prepare for UNESCO Biosphere Periodic Review.	Sep-25	Green
	Submit for UNESCO Biosphere Periodic Review.	Sep-26	Green
Agricultural Strategy	Publish a Plan for the Future of Agriculture.	Apr-24	Green
Food Security Strategy	Develop and publish a Plan for Food Security.	Apr-24	Green

RAG Status Key	
Blue	Completed
Green	On time/budget Expertise & resources available No international or political exposure
Amber	Significant delays against critical milestones Lack of expertise or resources Some international or political exposure
Red	Serious delays against critical milestones Unacceptable lack of expertise or shortage of resources Serious international or political exposure

Department Objectives

Objective	Completion Date	RAG Status as of 31/01/24
Forestry, Amenity & Lands		
Review the benefits and costs associated with the Curragh's Wildlife Park, developing a long-term strategy.	Sep-24	Green
Support and enable our community and visitors to access, and maximise the benefits from the use of our lands and natural amenities to support leisure, health and wellbeing and increase the visitor economy whilst preserving or enhancing bio-diversity.	Jan-24	Green
Agree a sustainable future model for Sulby Claddagh.	Apr-24	Green
Develop a long-term strategy for the Island's glens and plantations that supports the current visitor strategy.	Jul-25	Green
Develop Forest Management Plans.	Jul-26	Green
Work with visit Isle of Man to enable the growth of the visitor proposition; maximising the use of our community spaces and increasing the available visitor accommodation.	Jan-26	Green
Work with the Department for Enterprise to explore the opportunities to support the development of a motorhome network.	TBA	Green
Corporate Services		
Contribute to the development of a Regulatory Authority on the Isle of Man.	Dec-22	Blue
Work with the Cabinet Office to understand the opportunities available to develop a sustainable living policy.	Oct-23	Blue
Develop and enhance the Department's Enforcement Policy.	Jun-24	Green
Identify the specialist roles and skills shortage within the Department and work with Department for Enterprise and Department of Education, Sport and Culture to consider how these skills are developed on-island.	Jul-24	Green
Support the development of a Sustainable Living Policy.	Jul-24	Green
Work to understand the implications of the UK's new Border Target Operating Model and Single Trade Window on Manx businesses and DEFA as Competent Authority for Sanitary and Phytosanitary matters.	Oct-24	Green
Work with Isle of Man Meat Company Board of Directors, as shareholders, to secure a financially sustainable and well governed Meat Plant.	Jul-25	Green
Review and report to Tynwald on all DEFA and OFT retained EU legislation as required by Section 11 of the EUTA 2019.	Dec-25	Green
Work with the Cabinet Office to understand the Isle of Man's commitments to trade partners required by new UK Free Trade Agreements.	Ongoing	Green
Regulation		
Provide guidance on conforming to current Manx regulations and EU standards, through the Government Laboratory.	Apr-23	Blue
Update health and safety legislation to align with best practice elsewhere namely the Health and Safety at Work Order 2023 and Management regulations.	Mar-24	Green
Update the Bovine Identification and Traceability System to provide a reliable and functional system that will fulfil our legal obligations, ensure food safety and enable trade to continue.	Mar-24	Red
Work with local business to ensure they comply with new veterinary medicine regulations to enable them to continue to trade in Veterinary medicines.	Dec-24	Green
To introduce a food hygiene ratings scheme for food premises on the Island.	Dec-24	Red
Undertake risk assessments and water testing on private supplies in commercial premises and produce a private drinking water report.	Dec-24	Green
Review the need for Manx legislation on composting materials.	Jul-25	Green
Agriculture & Food		
Continue to deliver the Food Matters Strategy to support the local Food and Drink industry with promotion and support, whilst developing the next strategy.	Jun-25	Green

Department Objectives

Objective	Completion Date	RAG Status as of 31/01/24
Environment		
Develop a long-term management plan for the queen scallop fishery in collaboration with the Isle of Man Scallop Management Board.	Dec-24	Green
Review the species listed in the non-native legislation.	Mar-25	Green
Develop a sea fisheries strategy providing a long-term fisheries management framework to ensure sustainable fisheries and diversification for the sector.	Apr-24	Green
Develop and deliver a new scheme to provide the benefits of the net zero transition into Island homes, replacing existing energy efficiency support schemes and launching in 2024.	2024	Green
Take forward actions within the 2023 energy strategy and prepare for the next iteration of the annual strategy in summer 2024.	Aug-24	Green
Explore options for supporting the industry to diversify into "quota fisheries" following UK Government decision to allocate additional quota to the Isle of Man, and ensure that activity is sustainably managed and compliant.	Dec-24	Green
Deliver the biodiversity strategy and when appropriate use Area of Special Scientific Interest to protect sensitive areas.	Dec-25	Green
Continue to deliver the single use plastic reduction plans.	Dec-25	Green
Establish recreational fisheries management boards.	TBA	Green
Planning & Building Control		
Review and develop our policy and secondary legislation on registered buildings, ensuring the right balance between protecting heritage and enabling economic progress.	Jan-24	Red
Provide a modern and responsive planning and building control service.	Oct-24	Green
Develop a plan for implementing the planning obligations within the Climate Change Act.	Mar-24	Green
Bring forward proposals to further improve Building Regulations (such as standards for new builds) by setting the standards to match the new Future Homes Standard being implemented in the UK.	Apr-24	Amber
Develop faster and more proportionate planning processes.	Sep-24	Green



Climate Change Action Plan

The actions set out in the Climate Change Action Plan, are supported or led by the Department to reduce emissions and increase sequestration. Updates for these actions are reported in the annual climate change progress report and a five-yearly emissions report as required by the Climate Change Act 2021.

The latest annual climate change progress report can be found here:
<https://www.netzero.im/media/wnkpuakf/progress-report-v4.pdf>

Department Key Performance Indicators

Key Purpose	Key Performance Indicator	RAG Status as of 31/01/24
To create attractive and sustainable 'places' and an economy achieving long term growth, whilst improving the quality of life in the Isle of Man	Maintain Approval Rates	Green
	Increase the speed of determination of simple applications	Green
	Increase the speed of determination of complex applications	Green
To sensitively manage and encourage recreational and commercial activity across the estate for the benefit of our community, our economy and our visitors	Increase the availability of data regarding the number of visitors to the Department plantations and glens	Green
To develop a reliable, sustainable and self-reliant Manx food chain	Increase sector GDP	Green
	Increase Manx food with a provenance label	Green
To embed climate change action to transition to our net zero future	Reduce the Carbon used in the generation of our electricity	Green
To enable all Isle of Man residents and visitors to enjoy safe home, work and social environments: free from the risk of illness, disease, injury and nuisance	Time to respond to RIDDOR reports - assess, respond and allocate (where necessary)	Green
	Time to respond to urgent/immediate incidents (deaths/life changing injuries) and imminently dangerous work (immediate threats to life)	Green
To work to ensure that that our food is safe, our community is free from agents that will affect our health and to reduce pollutant discharge into our water, land or air	Increase the level of monitoring of our water	Green
	Increase the level of monitoring of our air quality (number of air quality tests undertaken)	Green
	Increase the level of monitoring of our air quality (number of air quality test locations)	Green
To build on the high quality of life enjoyed by our community, ensuring the efficient and responsible use of land, environmental and other physical resources, and infrastructure	Increase the number of events held on Departmental land	Green
To provide educational and nature-based amenities for our community and visitors	To increase the accessibility to education sessions	Green
To monitor and protect tree health and seek to maintain the woodland environment and character of the countryside	Increase the number of tree surveys undertaken	Green
To safeguard animal health and welfare for the benefit of animals, people, the environment and the economy	Improve response times for animal welfare complaints	Green
To work to ensure that the valuable biodiversity resources are properly managed and effectively conserved for future generations	Increase the number of Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs)	Amber
	Increase the area of land in the Nature Recovery Network	Green
	Increase percentage of land and sea under protection	Amber
To provide analytical support to government, key agencies, businesses and the general public through the government analyst laboratory	Improve turnaround time for lab samples	Green
	Reduce the failure rate for Proficiency Testing (number of proficiency tests completed)	Amber
	Reduce the failure rate for Proficiency Testing (number of proficiency tests failures)	Amber
	Reduce the failure rate for Proficiency Testing (percentage failure of proficiency tests)	Amber
To operate an efficient sawmill that plays both an integral part to our forestry management plan, and offers a quality Manx product for our community	Increase the volume of timber processed	Green
	Improve the throughput and efficiencies of the Sawmill	Green
Our vision for the Island's energy future is one in which our net zero ambition supports the economic strategy, taking advantage of the latest low carbon technologies, and optimising our own abundant natural resources, making us more independent and prosperous	Increase the number of Energy Efficiency Scheme grants	Green
	Increase the value of Energy Efficiency Scheme grants	Green
	Increase the volume of on-Island electricity generation, publicly owned	Amber
Working together for a sustainable future	Increase number of UNESCO Biosphere partners	Green

Department Legislative Five Year Programme

Legislation Title	Purpose	Division	RAG Status as of 31/01/24
Energy Act 2023	To provide measures that will provide additional guarantees of security of gas supply to Island consumers, in light of the ongoing volatility in global energy markets.	Environment Directorate	Blue
Animal Welfare Act 2023	To overhaul of our principal law relating to animal welfare. It will ensure owners and keepers have a duty of care to their companion and kept animals, and animal needs are met. This enabling legislation is aimed at keeping pace with a fast-evolving landscape on animal welfare law in the UK.	Regulation Directorate	Blue
Estate Agents Bill	To replace the Estate Agents Act 1975 and the unenforced Estate Agents Act 1999 to provide a modern consumer protection framework around the sale and lease of property.	OFT - Trading Standards	Green
Agricultural Marketing Bill	To review and update the provisions of the Agricultural Marketing Act 1934.	Agriculture & Food Directorate	Green
Town and Country Planning (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill	To clarify what constitutes development, simplify Conservation Area approvals and improve provision for Registered Buildings.	Planning & Building Control Directorate	Green

Legislation delivered in 2023/24

- Energy Act 2023
- Sea Fisheries (Requirements) (Inland Vessel Monitoring System) Regulations 2023
- Sea Fisheries (Licensing) (Fees) Regulations
- Pig Premium (Amendment) Scheme 2023
- Town and Country Planning (Application and Appeal Fees) Order 2023
- Building Control (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations 2023
- Endangered Species Order 2023
- European Union and Trade Act 2019 (Amendments) (DEFA) (Plant Health) Regulations 2023
- Official Controls (Plant Health) (Frequency of Checks) Regulations 2023
- European Union and Trade Act 2019 (Amendments) (DEFA) (Animal Health) Regulations 2023
- Energy Act (Appointed Day) Order 2023
- Animal Health (Miscellaneous Amendments) Order 2023
- Ayres National Nature Reserve (Departmental Land) (Amendment) Byelaws 2023
- Architects (Amendment) Regulations 2023
- Weights and Measures (Testing Fees) Regulations 2023
- Chapman's (Licence) and Moneylenders (Registration) Order 2023
- Estate Agents (Amendment) Rules 2023
- Road Transport (Fees) Order 2023
- Animal Welfare Act 2023
- African Swine Fever (Importation Controls) Order 2023
- Sea Fisheries (Requirements) (Registration of Fish Buyers and Sellers) Regulations 2023
- Wild Animals (Restriction on Importation Etc) Act 1980 (A) Order 2023
- Energy Efficiency (Amendment) Scheme 2023
- Gas Safety (Installation, Use and Management) (Application) Order 2023
- European Union and Trade Act 2019 (Amendments) (DEFA) (Food & Feed) Regulations 2023
- Inland Fisheries (Amendment) Regulations 2023
- Sea Fisheries (Restrictions) (ICCAT) Regulations 2023
- Veterinary Surgery (Artificial Insemination) Order 2023
- Artificial Insemination (Amendment) Regulations 2023
- European Union and Trade Act 2019 (Amendments) (DEFA) (Miscellaneous) Regulations 2023
- Building (Amendment) Regulations 2023



Isle of Man
Government

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