

## **Bathing water results are worth making a splash about – Poots**

Environment Minister Edwin Poots has welcomed news that more than half of our bathing waters are officially excellent – but he warned bathers and sun seekers not to use it as an excuse to flock to our beaches and flout Covid-19 measures.

---

## **Minister sets out scale of contact tracing operation**

Testing and contact tracing will play a central role in unlocking the Coronavirus lockdown in Northern Ireland, Health Minister Robin Swann has emphasised.

---

## **Economy Minister announces re-opening plan for hotels and other tourist accommodation**

Economy Minister Diane Dodds today announced plans to allow hotels and other tourist accommodation to re-open from 20 July.

---

## **DAERA seeks views on future Further Education support and charging at CAFRE**

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) has today launched a consultation document seeking the views of the public on how

we support and fund Further Education at CAFRE.

---

## **Natural Assets Research & Innovation Platform and Agenda in Support of UK Business & Policy – Pledge Form**

The Valuing Nature Programme has worked with business over the last 2 years, funded by the Natural Environment Research Council, to develop a Natural Assets Research and Innovation Agenda in Support of Business and Policy. This has involved:

Based on this work, the Valuing Nature Programme has submitted a Case to NERC, within the context of the NERC [Call for Ideas for potential Strategic Priorities Fund \(SPF\) programmes](#), for an investment of £100m+ in a new ***Natural Assets Research & Innovation Platform and Agenda in Support of UK Business & Policy***.

The idea is now under consideration by NERC, who may work it up to a potential bid to the SPF and/or consider other possible funding modes.

At this stage, we are seeking further support from the business community (and other organisations) through the following pledge form. Please sign this pledge form and help us by promoting signature by relevant business and other contacts in your network. [You can view the list of signatories here](#).

Thank you.

**Guy Duke, Business Champion**  
**Peter Young, Chair Business Interest Group**