

Dear Jackie

The committee of the Roe Angling Association have read the draft order in council and have a few grave concerns.

Page 20 section 8

Acquisition of development of waters for angling.

The association would have reservations regarding FCILC if they intended taking over fishing rights on the river Roe. Our association has been leasing fishing on the river since 1949. We have improved it greatly over the years and policed it at great cost to our members. We supply 26 day tickets to visitors per day so that we might attract visitors to our river. We have 250 members from outside our borough thus giving access to a very large area.

Page 24 section 14

Reinstatement of polluted waters

We would not have any objections to this unless it would obstruct us in any manner from claiming compensation for loss of fishing during a pollution incident.

Page 27 section 20

This section makes several changes to Private River Watchers. It allows for extra paperwork for River Watchers but makes no reference to photographic id nor any form of payment for their services either on the river or for attending court dates. This has always been a problem for watchers and can have an adverse effect on taking cases.

Could you please pass on our serious concerns regarding these points and possibly forward us any clarification you can on these concerns asap.

This Association has in the past spent over £100,000 in grant money on improving habitat on this river and over £50,000 of club funds in keeping draft nets of it. This draft order seems about eight years out of date as it makes no reference to the cessation of netting on the Lough. We in Londonderry area used to lead the way on angling and now we turn in a very poor third place after the FCB and now the Republic on addressing netting. Is this an oversight or are we left the embarrassment of the UK and Ireland. When Governments talk of The Island of Ireland surely we must have a level playing field on this issue.

We look forward to the Departments reply to our concerns and hopefully they will address them as they will concern most anglers in this area.

Yours sincerely  
Kenneth Dougherty  
Roe Angling Association