Complying with the biodiversity duty

Public authorities who operate in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in England. This is the strengthened 'biodiversity duty' that the Environment Act 2021 introduces.

This means that, as a public authority, you must:

- Consider what you can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity
- Agree policies and specific objectives based on your consideration
- Act to deliver your policies and achieve your objectives.

Who must comply with the biodiversity duty

You must meet the biodiversity duty if you are a public authority, such as a:

- Government department or public body
- Local authority or local planning authority
- Statutory undertaker – a business that has public authority duties for their land and delivers something of a public importance

When to meet your biodiversity duty

You must complete your first consideration of what action to take for biodiversity by 1st January 2024. You must agree your policies and objectives as soon as possible after this.

Educate, advise and raise awareness

You can help the public understand biodiversity and why it's important to conserve and enhance it. This can encourage land managers, businesses and the general public to take action to benefit biodiversity too.

Review Internal Policies and Processes

All public authorities have internal policies and processes for staff and facilities that could affect biodiversity.

Changes to internal polices and processes that can affect biodiversity are another way you can meet your duty.

Reporting your biodiversity policies and actions

Some public authorities need to publish a biodiversity report.

Local authorities (excluding parish councils) and local planning authorities must write and publish a biodiversity report. Other public authorities must fulfil their duty but do not need to publish a report.

[Complying with Biodiversity Duty from the Government Website](#)

The above are extracts from the document on the government website, the link is above.