Q31. Has the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 been considered?

Yes - the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 has been considered in the development of the policy. A Rural Needs Impact assessment was also completed. The carbon emissions from working from home versus commuting to the office can vary significantly depending on several factors. We have taken this into consideration. The requirement of staff to attend the workplace at least 40% of their contractual working hours per week ensures a consistent approach across departments. By continuing to facilitate hybrid working we have been able to reduce the size of the NICS Office Estate enabling more efficient use of resources. As well as being able to reduce the size of the NICS Estate through hybrid working, the recently published NICS Office Estate Strategy LINK commits to a review of the carbon standards of all buildings and aims to deliver a 'leaner, greener and modern estate'.