

Public Interest Test – EIR

Reference Number – DAERA/24-101

Requested Information

Information in relation to Minister Muir's meeting with 12th Earl of Shaftesbury, Nicholas Ashley-Cooper, and other Shaftesbury Estate representatives during the week 19th February-24th February 2024

Exemption / Exception under consideration

Exception 12(5)(b) engaged.

Reasons why the public interest would favour disclosure:

- High profile nature of the meeting due to the issues currently affecting Lough Neagh.

Reasons why the public interest would favour withholding:

- Disclosure could adversely affect the course of justice, the ability of a person to receive a fair trial or the ability of a public authority to conduct an inquiry of a criminal or disciplinary nature.
- There are ongoing legal proceedings relating to alleged illegal activity.

Conclusion

Following consideration of the Public Interest Test the Department has decided to withhold the information as the exception outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

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