



DAERA/24-129

By email only:

Regional Operations
Clare House
303 Airport Road West
Belfast
BT3 9ED

Tel:

Email: Crawfordsburn.CountryPark@daera-ni.gov.uk

05 April 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

Environmental Information Regulations 2004

With regard to your request for information received by the Department on 10 March 2024 which sought the yearly spend within Crawfordsburn Country Park for the financial years 2019 to date on signage, bollards, fencing and CCTV.

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds some of the information you have requested. Please be advised that this information details project and maintenance spend throughout Crawfordsburn Country Park specifically relating to signage, bollards, fencing and CCTV. This information is outlined below (please note values specified are in pounds sterling):

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Signage	800.50	460.00	1556.94	0	0
Bollards	778.50	5721.26	0	0	0
Fencing	10045.76	29818.67	18611.50	25635.5	0
CCTV	412.25	5939.26	24357.9	0	0

Further to your request for financial information above, you also sought answers to separate queries, provided below:

Why it is deemed necessary to give a private parking company a contract to enforce parking restrictions within Crawfordsburn Country Park?

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The site is exceptionally popular with members of the public, especially during the summer period, with several hundred thousand vehicles accessing the site on an annual basis. For some time now there have been ongoing issues with unauthorised, inappropriate and effectively dangerous parking across the park. This has included overnight parking, misuse of disabled parking spaces, and of greater concern has also included multiple occasions where vehicles have parked in a manner which blocks emergency access points, leading to obstruction of emergency services access.

Who made the decision to introduce parking enforcement within the country park?

Park management made this considered decision, for the betterment of site safety.

Why it is necessary for these restrictions to be put in place i.e. the opening times of the park are clear from the sign at the main entrance to the park so what specific circumstances led to the decision to bring in parking enforcement?

This is not a restriction, merely a means of ensuring the long established opening hours are adhered to and there is a regulatory mechanism to promote positive and safe parking behaviour. While staff have endeavoured to manage parking issues, unfortunately given the area of the site, the parking behaviour experienced and the often, aggressive attitude towards staff where parking behaviour has been challenged, in order to improve the safety of the site for the visiting public, park management have engaged the services of a private car park management company to regulate parking matters onsite. This will enable and allow for the potential issue of parking charge notices to any vehicles that park outside of marked parking bays (thereby being inappropriately or indeed potentially unsafely parked) and vehicles that remain on site more than two hours after the established park closure times as outlined in the signage.

Why is it felt necessary to restrict parking access before 9am on the lay-by at the Country Park entrance on the Old Windmill Road in Bangor/Crawfordsburn if indeed that is what the recently erected signs are doing(photos of signage attached)?

The 2 signs along part of Old Windmill Road were incorrectly erected, have since been removed and are being replaced with specific signage relating to parking regulation outside of the designated parking bay provided. Parking in this specific parking area will not be regulated to park opening times, being outside of the main park site and accessible from the Crawfordsburn Road.

Why is it considered unreasonable for cars to park on the lay-by on the Old Windmill Road to access the Country Park before 9am without threat of a penalty?

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As above, these signs have been removed – there will be no regulation of parking within the designated parking bay in this area.

For clarification if cars are parked on the Old Windmill Road outside the lay-by is parking enforcement a matter for PSNI?

Old Windmill Road is not an adopted road and therefore does not fall under the remit of enforcement under the Department for Infrastructure. PSNI does not regulate parking in this area.

I hope that this information is helpful;

If you require any clarification, believe that any part of your request has been overlooked, misunderstood or misinterpreted, please contact me in the first instance to see if it is a matter that can be resolved.

If you are unhappy with the manner in which your request for information has been handled or the decision to release/withhold information, you have the right to request a formal review by the Department.

If you wish to do so, please contact The Review Section either by e-mailing daera.informationmanager@daera-ni.gov.uk or by post at The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Data Protection & Information Management Branch, Floor 2, Jubilee House, 111 Ballykelly Road, Ballykelly, Limavady BT49 9HP, within two months from the date of this letter.

If after such an internal review you are still unhappy with the response, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, CHESHIRE, SK9 5AF, who will undertake an independent review of the Department's decision.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature block]

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