

**Northern Ireland Environment Agency**  
Regulation and Enforcement Division



Department of  
**Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs**

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil  
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department of

**Fairmin, Environment  
an' Kintra Matthers**

[www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk)

Our reference: **DAERA/25-378**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Water Management Unit  
17 Antrim Road  
Tonagh  
Lisburn  
BT28 3AL

Email: [WMU.FOI@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:WMU.FOI@daera-ni.gov.uk)

12 August 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

### **Environmental Information Regulations 2004**

With regard to your request for information received by the Department on 22 July 2025 which sought the following information:

*All correspondence received by Minister for Environment, Andrew Muir, in relation to Blue-Green Algae on Lough Erne, between July 1, 2024 and July 1, 2025.*

*Information should include;*

- 1 - Emails or letters sent to Mr. Muir in relation this issue.*
- 2 - Incident reports*
- 3 - Any other relevant information relevant to B/G algae on Lough Erne.*

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds the information you requested. However, the Department has decided not to disclose some of the information for the following reason:

If you are deaf or have a hearing difficulty you can contact the Department via the Next Generation Text Relay Service by dialling 18001 + telephone number.

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Some of the information held constitutes personal data of which you are not the data subject. In these instances, the Department is required to consider if disclosure would breach the first Data Protection Principle which states that processing must be lawful, fair, and transparent.

The Department has considered this element and has determined that no lawful basis for disclosure under EIR exists, bearing in mind that any such disclosure must be considered in terms of disclosure to the “world at large”, and not just you the requester. Consequently, the personal data falling within the scope of this request has been withheld. Therefore, the Department is engaging Regulations 12(3) and 13(1) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Correspondence received by Minister Muir in relation to blue green algae on Lough Erne is attached as **Annex A**. All confirmed reports of blue green algae on Lough Erne received between 1 July 2024 and 1 July 2025 are attached as **Annex B**. Blue green algae species present in samples collected by NIEA from Lough Erne between 1 July 2024 and 1 July 2025 are attached as **Annex C**.

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](mailto: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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