

**Environment, Marine and Fisheries
Group**
Natural Environment Policy Division
(NEPD)



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

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department o'

**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Our reference: DAERA 25-393

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Natural Environment Policy Division (NEPD)
Environment, Marine and Fisheries Group
Clare House
303 Airport Road West
Belfast
BT3 9ED

19 August 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

Environmental Information Regulations 2004

I refer to your request for information received by the Department on 11 July 2025 that sought the following information:

Please provide all meeting records to date connected with the 'Forever Lough Neagh' initiative, which has been spearheaded by the National Trust (via DAERA funding and in partial collaboration with the department). This includes

- 1) *Minutes of any relevant meetings.*
- 2) *Location(s) of the same.*
- 3) *Attendees at the same.*
- 4) *Any presentation materials circulated at or associated with the meetings.*
- 5) *Any briefing materials provided in relation to the same.*

Following this you received a holding letter on 5 August 2025 to inform you that a response would issue to you as soon as possible.

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.

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE
We invest in people Standard

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds some of the information you requested, however, the Forever Lough Neagh initiative is led by the National Trust. You may therefore wish to seek further information relating to records held by them, in respect of this initiative, by directing your information request to enquiries@nationaltrust.org.uk

The information held which can be disclosed is attached at **Annex A**.

The Department has decided not to disclose some of the information you requested as it considers it exempted under Regulations 12(4)(d), 12(4)(e) and 13. In these instances, the Department is legislatively required to consider the public interest in disclosure. An associated Public Interest Test has been conducted and is attached for your information at **Annex B**.

The Department has considered this element within the test attached at **Annex B** and has determined that no lawful basis for disclosure under EIR exists. Please bear in mind that any disclosure must be considered in terms of disclosure to the “world at large” and not just to you, the requester. Consequently, third party personal data falling within the scope of this request has been withheld.

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,

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