

Annex A

Public Interest Test – EIR

Reference Number – DAERA/25-547

Requested Information

1. *[part 2] overall cost of those actions.*
2. *Available breakdown of costs incurred.*
3. *Has this cost been paid for by the public purse, or has it been recouped from the landowner?*

Exemption / Exception under consideration

The Department has decided not to disclose the information in relation to this request as it considers Environmental Information Regulation 12 (5) (b) to be engaged. A public authority may refuse to disclose information to the extent that its disclosure would adversely affect the course of justice, in this case a judicial proceedings.

Reasons why the public interest would favour disclosure:

- The Department's default position is to disclose information held unless an absolute exemption applies.
- Openness and transparency in the delivery of the Department's operations regarding its investigations and any subsequent follow up actions.
- The Public need to have confidence in the Department to carry out its duty to spend public money appropriately.

Reasons why the public interest would favour withholding:

- Providing the information sought to the world at large would adversely affect the course of justice, in this case ongoing judicial proceedings.

Conclusion

Following consideration of the Public Interest Test the Department has decided that on balance, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information due to the request falling within Regulation 12 (5) (b), as providing the information sought to the world at large would adversely affect the course of justice, in this case a judicial proceedings.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]