



Our reference: DAERA/25-325

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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Department of Agriculture, Environment and  
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07 July 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

### **Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR)**

Thank you for your correspondence received by the Department on 13th June 2025 requesting the following information:

**Details of all legal and illegal dumping sites within the Lough Neagh catchment. Specifically, please provide:**

- 1. The number of official and unofficial dump sites in the lough's catchment**
- 2. A breakdown of 1) for each council area within the lough's catchment.**

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**3. Details of any surveys that have been undertaken in terms of the hazards, pathways and risks emanating from these sites as regards public health and environmental impacts.**

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds most of the information you requested.

However, under certain conditions, the Department has the right to refuse to respond to a request for information. In this instance the Department considers Regulation 12(4)(b) as engaged and has therefore determined this request to be manifestly unreasonable. It is the Departments view that to comply with this request would create an unreasonable burden on resources and an unjustified spend of public money.

In relation to request 1 alone, a brief scoping exercise identified 5,491 records that potentially hold elements of information that might fall within the scope of your request, in relation to unofficial dump sites within the lough's catchment. The estimated time and cost of reviewing, identifying relevant information has been calculated to be approximately £22,875.

An explanation of how the estimated cost was calculated for your request is provided in the table below. It should be noted; this is only a synopsis of the information held by the Department potentially falling within one element of part 1 only of the scope of your request. It is worth noting this is a conservative estimate of the total cost to facilitate your request.

Estimated number of records falling within scope of your request.	At an average of 10 minutes per record to review. (Minutes)	Total estimated cost. (Minutes to Hours X £25)
5,491	54,910	<b>£22,875</b>

To conduct this complex piece of work would be too burdensome on the Department as it would require diversion of significant resource which would disrupt the department's ability to perform its core functions.

The Department has a duty to provide advice and assistance to enable you to refine your request to reduce the cost and burden on resources of compliance. I would suggest that if you wish to refine your request that you particularise what specific information you are seeking.

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Please note that this correspondence is not an application of any exception or refusal to disclose information. Once the requested further particulars are received the Department will consider and revert to you within the statutory period.

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 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.

If you have any queries about this letter please feel free to contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

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