

Water Management Unit
Resource Efficiency Division



Our reference: **DAERA/24-155**

[REDACTED] Via email

[REDACTED]

River Basin District South & East
Water Management Unit
17 Antrim Road
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Co. Antrim
BT28 3AL

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11 April 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

Environmental Information Regulations 2004

I refer to your request for information received by the Department on 14 March 2024, and clarified on the 28 March 2024, that sought the following information:

All available records and reports pertaining to pollution or environmental issues on Bannanstown Road since January 2023 to 14 March 2024.

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds the information you requested. The Department has decided not to disclose some of the information you requested as it considers Regulations 12(3) and 13(1) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 to be engaged.

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 within the test attached at **Annex A** 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.

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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.



A summary of the Pollution Incident Management System (PIMS) Bannanstown Road search summary is provided as a spreadsheet in **Table A**.

Table A: Surface & Groundwater pollution incidents on the Bannanstown Road, Castlewellan

Date	Incident Number	Incident Title	Severity
22/03/2023	WR 6/23/0058	Overflow from silage effluent tank, Bannanstown Road, Castlewellan	LOW
07/11/2023	WR 6/23/0161	Farm pollution, Bannanstown Road, Castlewellan	LOW
22/02/2024	WR 6/24/0023	Cattle poaching & slurry, farm behind *REDACTED* Bannanstown Road, Castlewellan	LOW

Redacted PDF downloads from PIMS, of the initial investigation reports, of which there are three, are attached at **Annex B**.

All three of the incidents listed in Table A confirmed traces of pollution. These were graded as low severity due to the localised impact on environmental receptors.

Incident WR 6/23/0058 was traced to an overflowing collection tank. Instruction was given to empty the tank and an advisory letter issued as this incident was caught early with minimal impact to receptors.

Incident WR 6/23/0161 was reported as sewage fungus contaminated effluent ponding in a neighbouring agricultural field. A shore pipe was noted which led back to a silage clamp being used as a midden that had no effluent collection facilities. A cross-compliance breach was applied for this offence.

Incident WR 6/24/0023 was caused by poaching and slurry run-off from a cattle feeding station flowing into a field drain. As this was a repeat offence, a cross-compliance breach was applied.

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.

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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]

[Redacted name]

[Redacted contact information]

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