

ANNEX A

Public Interest Test – EIR

Reference Number – DAERA/24-215

Requested Information being withheld.

The requester has sought correspondence with the DAERA Minister and/or the Permanent Secretary (in the absence of a minister) relating to the cessation of trout stocking at Movanager Fish Farm.

Exemption / Exception under consideration

Regulation 12(4)(e), the exception for internal communications

Reasons why the public interest would favour disclosure:

- Regulation 12(2) requires DAERA to apply a presumption in favour of disclosure.
- DAERA is committed to conducting its business in a manner that is as open and transparent as possible.
- DAERA is dedicated to improving public awareness and comprehension of environmental issues.

Reasons why the public interest would favour withholding:

- Some correspondence requested includes internal communications. These are intended to discuss the merits of proposals and the implications of decisions.
- DAERA requires a safe space to develop ideas, debate live issues and reach decisions away from external interference and distraction.
- The requested information is not publicly available, and we must prioritise maintaining privacy and protecting the internal decision-making processes.

Conclusion

The Department has decided that, on balance, some of the information requested should not be disclosed.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]