



Our Reference: DAERA/24-221

Via email

[\[REDACTED\]@mail.com](mailto: [REDACTED]@mail.com)

Industrial Pollution and Radiochemical Inspectorate  
17 Antrim Road,  
Tonagh,  
Lisburn,  
BT28 3AL  
Tel: 028 9056 9289

Email: [IPRI@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:IPRI@daera-ni.gov.uk)

4th June 2024

Dear [REDACTED],

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

I refer to your email received by the Department on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024 requesting information relating to intensive livestock farm inspections:

1. Since January 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 to the present day\*\*, broken down by year, the number of inspections carried out at permitted intensive livestock installations\* in Northern Ireland by DAERA NI or entities acting on its behalf.

\* Regulated /permit holding installations holding 40,000 birds or 750 sows or 2000 production pigs

2. Details of the farms inspected (including name, address, type ege pig or poultry), the dates of inspection, and details of any non-compliances / breaches of permits recorded at individual farms.

3, Where possible, please supply descriptions of non-compliances / breaches found by inspectors, in addition to the overall permit conditions found to have been breached. For example, if a farm was found to have breached permit conditions relating to "emissions -air" or "monitoring and records" please stipulate this and then provide details of what inspectors found.

4, In relation to all the above breaches / non-compliances, please provide details of the enforcement action taken in relation to each breach / non-compliance, eg "advice and guidance", "warning", "prosecution" etc

5, Please provide the above information in spreadsheet format.

*Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.*

I can advise the Department has completed its search and confirm it holds some of the information requested. However some of the information has been withheld for the following reasons:

- It is considered Personal Data of which you are not the data subject. Regulation 12(3) 13(1) provides an exception from disclosure. A Lawfulness, Fairness and Transparency Test has been conducted and is attached as Annex A.
- The specific request for ‘enforcement action taken’ since 2019 for all current environmental permits granted to livestock farms is considered manifestly unreasonable. Regulation 12(4)(b) provides an exception from disclosure. A Public Interest Test has been conducted and has concluded the public interest is better served by not releasing this information. A copy of the Public Interest Test is attached as Annex B.

With regard to the final point of your request, a total of 1057 inspections were carried out on PPC regulated farms since 2019, with relevant compliance assessment reports completed.

Number of Records potentially within the scope of the request.	Time taken to review and extract relevant information.	Minutes to Hours	Total Cost @ £25 per hour
1195	1195 x 10 minutes per record = 11,950 minutes	11,950 Mins / 60 = 199.17 Hrs	199.17 Hrs x 25 = £4,979.17

Your particular request for ‘any regulatory action’ is considered to be too vague / general. The Department has determined that to comply with your request would cost approximately £4,979.17 and is therefore manifestly unreasonable. The Department carries out a large number of, what could be considered “regulatory actions”. If you could clarify what you consider to be regulatory action or identify any specific farm or type of regulatory action, such as farm inspections and the associated actions to be completed by operators, this would help refine the request to one which the Department may be able to comply with.

The information which the Department can disclose in relation to this request is attached as **Annex C**. Also, attached (**Annex D**) is a copy of the NIEA-IPRI QA Procedure QA004 ‘PPC Site Compliance Assessment Reports (Inspection and Correspondence), Compliance Summary and Risk Assessment (uncontrolled copy). This procedure defines the assessment of compliance with PPC Permit conditions throughout the year as well as summarising compliance and assessing risk at the end of the compliance cycle. Individual site inspection compliance assessment reports set out the actions required to address the non-compliances identified and details are available on request. Please see below a web link to information on the Department’s regulation of intensive poultry and pig farms:

[Intensive Livestock Installations | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs \(daera-ni.gov.uk\)](https://daera-ni.gov.uk)

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.

*Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.*

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.



If you are unhappy with the manner in which your request for information has been handled or the decision you have the right to request a formal review by the Department. If you wish to do so, please write to The Review Section, The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Information Management Branch, Room 507, Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road, Ballymiscaw, BELFAST, BT4 3SB, 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.

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

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

**Industrial Pollution and Radiochemical Inspectorate  
NIEA**

*Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.*

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.

