

ANNEX B

Public Interest Test – EIR

Reference Number – DAERA/24-221

Requested Information

Information relating to intensive livestock farms inspections since 1st January 2019.

Exemption / Exception under consideration

Regulation 12(4)(b) – Manifestly unreasonable

Reasons why the public interest would favour disclosure:

- Everyone has the right to access environmental information.
- Disclosure of the information would provide confidence that the regulators decision making processes have been carried out fairly and without fear or favour.
- Disclosure of the information would provide confidence that reporting and notifications between regulator and operator have been appropriate.

Reasons why the public interest would favour withholding:

- This element of the request covers all regulatory action taken by the Department since 2019 for all current environmental permits granted to livestock farms. This would entail a significant review of a large volume of data to identify its relevance to the request creating a considerable diversion of the Departments resources.
- Dealing with this request would create unreasonable costs and would be argued this is not an effective use of public money.
- The Department is currently dealing with the added pressures of Covid 19 restrictions.
- The Department is currently dealing with the additional pressures of new UK-EU changes.
- To comply with this request would have an adverse effect on the Department's ability to perform its core functions by such a diversion of resources for a prolonged period.

Conclusion

Following consideration of the Public Interest Test the Department has decided that it would not be in the Public Interest to release the information. The cost of compliance in terms of resources, and the risk to public health, would be too great.

**Industrial Pollution and Radiochemical Inspectorate
NIEA**