

Public Interest Test – EIR

Reference Number – DAERA/26-65

Requested Information

Summary of Request - All evidence, analysis, modelling, correspondence, and impact assessments that informed the design of both the Beef Carbon Reduction Scheme and the Suckler Cow Scheme, including how key thresholds were set, what assumptions were used, whether alternative metrics or breed specific impacts were considered, and any internal discussions of risks or unintended consequences, along with copies of any Equality Impact or rural proofing assessments for both schemes.

Exemption / Exception under consideration

Exception 12 (4) (b)

Reasons why the public interest would favour disclosure:

- Regulation 12(2) requires DAERA to apply a presumption in favour of disclosure and DAERA is committed to conducting its business in a manner that is as open and transparent as possible.
- There is wide public interest in matters concerning the environment.
- If disclosure of the information would promote public understanding and provide confidence that the Department upholds high standards of integrity, in ensuring justice and fair treatment for all, in securing the best use of public resources.

Reasons why the public interest would favour withholding:

- The Department has considered the request; however, we have identified that there is a significant volume of information that may fall within its scope. Initial searches indicate an excess of 4,000 records. The volume of the records that would need to be reviewed and retrieved is such that fulfilling the request would place an unreasonable burden on the Department.

Conclusion

Accordingly, it is considered to be in the public interest to uphold the exception to disclosure in this instance.


Agricultural Policy Division