



Our reference: **DAERA/26-110**

[Redacted]

Marine & Fisheries Division

Clare House
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Sydenham Intake
Belfast BT3 9ED

Tel: 0300 200 7860

Email: anglingcorrespondence@daera-ni.gov.uk

09 March 2026

Dear [Redacted],

Environmental Information Regulations 2004

I refer to your request for information received by the Department on 13 February 2026 in which you sought the following information.

As the fishery owner of Lough Neagh, I request DEARA supply the following data which I believe is held centrally within Inland Fisheries. I understand that not all scale fish species catches are to be recorded but I require what information is currently held for each of the years listed. Please note this is a request for retrospective figures which were previously collated and not including 2025 nor 2026 seasons.

Species	2024 season catch in Kgs	2023 season catch in Kgs	2022 season catch in Kgs	2021 season catch in Kgs
Trout				
Pollan				
Perch				
Bream				
Roach				
Pike				

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As set out in the Department's previous response (reference DAERA/26-34), the dataset for 2021–2025 (including years 2021–2024 requested here) remains subject to an active review by DAERA Inland Fisheries. Due to concerns raised by the Lough Neagh Fisherman's Co-operative regarding data accuracy, DAERA is undertaking a thorough review to verify consistency with records maintained by Registered Fish Dealers prior to finalisation. This review is ongoing and includes verification and quality assurance checks as part of a broader process to confirm both the accuracy of the data and the strength of the underlying data collection methods.

As these processes remain incomplete, the information constitutes incomplete data and therefore engages Regulation 12(4)(d). In these instances, the Department is legislatively required to consider the public interest in disclosure. An associated Public Interest Test has been conducted and is attached for your information at **Annex A**. DAERA Inland Fisheries will provide updates upon completion of this review. Until such time, the Department remains unable to disclose the requested dataset.

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. 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 title]

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