

**Environment, Marine and Fisheries  
Group**  
Business Support Team



Department of  
**Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs**

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil  
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department o'

**Fairmin, Environment  
an' Kintra Matthers**

[www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk)

Our reference: DAERA/26-119



Email: 

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13 March 2026

Dear ,

### **Environmental Information Regulations 2004**

With regard to your request for information received by the Department on 7 December 2025 which sought the following information:

*Any correspondence from Mr Colum Eastwood MP or his office to DAERA/NIEA relating to the Atlantic-Hub project and/or the 110 kV connection/extension at Coolkeeragh.*

*Information requested:*

- 1. Receipt and handling — Records of receipt, registration, circulation and triage of any such MP correspondence (mail logs, case entries, SharePoint/Teams items), and identification of the internal owner/handler.*
- 2. Internal deliberations — Internal emails/Teams/notes discussing how to respond; any change to priorities, timelines or resourcing; any draft and final replies.*

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.

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We invest in people Standard

3. *External communications — Communications with Derry City & Strabane District Council, the developer/agents, SONI, or NIE Networks that refer to, respond to, or were prompted by the MP correspondence.*
4. *Decision artefacts — Briefings, minutes, direction notes, risk registers or decision logs recording whether the MP correspondence led to changes in consultation handling, timeline, prioritisation or meetings.*
5. *Meetings/calls — Agendas, attendee lists and notes/minutes of any meeting or call scheduled or brought forward following the MP correspondence.*
6. *Policy/ethics — Any guidance or internal discussion on handling MP interventions in live statutory processes for named commercial applicants.*

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds the information you requested which is attached as **Annex A**.

Some of the information held constitutes personal data of which you are not the data Subject; this information is being withheld under Regulations 12(3) and (13(1) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). In these instances, the Department is required to consider if disclosure would breach the first Data Protection Principle, which states that processing must be lawful, fair and transparent.

The Department has considered this element within the test attached at **Annex B** and has determined that no lawful basis for disclosure under EIR exists. Please bear in mind that any disclosure must be considered in terms of disclosure to the “world at large” and not just to you, the requester. Consequently, third party personal data falling within the scope of this request has been withheld.

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](mailto: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,

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Wilmslow, CHESHIRE, SK9 5AF, who will undertake an independent review of the Department's decision.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted contact information]

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