

**MCI/Development Management**  
Water Regulation and Enforcement  
Division



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

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil  
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department of

**Fairmin, Environment  
an' Kintra Matthers**

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

Our reference: DAERA/26-145

██████████

By email: ██████████

Water Catchment Unit  
Northern Ireland Environment Agency  
17 Antrim Road  
Tonagh  
Lisburn  
BT28 3AL

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

16 March 2026

Dear ██████████,

### **Environmental Information Regulations 2004**

I refer to your request for information received by the Department on 27 February 2026 that sought the following information:

- 1) Copies of all correspondence and attachments, sent to/from WMU NIEA, regarding the issue of misrepresented soil sample analysis, from March 2025 onwards.
- 2) Copies of all correspondence and attachments, sent to/from WMU NIEA, regarding any issue (other than the soil samples issue) relating to misrepresentation of information submitted as part of agricultural planning applications, from March 2025 onwards.

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds some of the information you requested.

The information held which can be disclosed is below / attached at **Annex A**.

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

The Department has decided not to disclose some of the information you requested as it considers EIR 12(5b) to be engaged. 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 B**.

Some of the information held constitutes personal data of which you are not the data subject. 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) 12(3) 13(1) 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, Wilmslow, CHESHIRE SK9 5AF, who will undertake an independent review of the Department’s decision.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

[Redacted contact information]

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