

ANNEX 1

Public Interest Test

Northern Ireland Environment Agency

Reference Number – DAERA/26-147

Requested Information

Digital copies of all correspondence and documentation issued by either the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), or the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) to Shared Environmental Services (SES) in 2025, relating to transboundary environmental issues concerning the landspreading of poultry litter in the Republic of Ireland.

In particular and not limited to a digital copy of any correspondence, including associated annexes or attachments, issued by NIEA to SES regarding delays in transboundary consultation and landspreading of poultry litter in the Republic of Ireland, where it is noted as per the Minister Muir's statement on Monday 16 February 2026 in the NI Assembly that SES were told to proceed (by NIEA) in absence of advice from the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).

Nature of Material: Correspondence (letters and emails) between NIES and SES.

Annexes A - AG

Exceptions under consideration

EIR Regulation 13 - Personal Information

Reasons why the public interest would favour disclosure:

- Public interest in transparency in the work of the Department.
- DAERA's policy to be as open and transparent as possible in relation to its functions and activities.
- Public interest in improving understanding of the process by which a decision was reached and having access to information on which decisions were made to enhance accountability.

Reasons why the public interest would favour withholding:

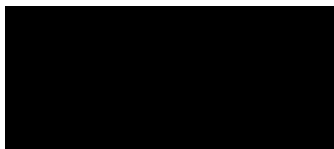
Regulation 13 - Personal Information not of the requester

Aspects of the information contains personal information that is not of the requester including names, email addresses, and telephone numbers.

Conclusion

Following consideration of the Public Interest Test, the Department has decided that, on balance, the public interest in disclosure outweighs the public interest maintaining the exception engaged, which has been mitigated for through redaction of the personal information.

I am satisfied that the public interest is best served by disclosing this information.



Natural Environment Division, NIEA

19/3/26