

Veterinary Service Animal Health Group
Information Communications Branch



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

Our reference: DAERA/26-9

[REDACTED]

Via email:

[REDACTED]

whatdotheyknow.com

VSAHG Information Communications Branch
1st Floor
Jubilee House
111 Ballykelly Road
Limavady
BT49 9HP

Email: vsinfocommsbranch@daera-ni.gov.uk

04 February 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your email received by the Department on 07 January 2026 which you sought the information in bold below. I can advise that the Department has completed its search and confirm it holds some of the information you requested

For the period 1 January 2010 to present, relating to the Mid Ulster council area, break results down into postcode or DEA:

1. Whether DAERA holds records of unusual or elevated disease patterns in animals (including livestock, companion animals, or wildlife), including:

**cancer,
leukaemia or lymphoma,
congenital abnormalities,
reproductive disorders or infertility,
unexplained mortality.**

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In respect of Part 1 of your request DAERA can provide some of the requested information. Please see below.

Leukaemia or lymphoma - As part of DAERA's annual Enzootic bovine leucosis (EBL) surveillance to maintain NI's EBL free status, tumours which are suspected may be caused by the EBL virus are examined at routine meat inspection. These findings of tumours are recorded. These tumours are tested for EBL at Agri-Food and biosciences Institute, Belfast. Other tumours are not recorded as part of this survey. All tumour samples were negative for EBL.

Year	Samples submitted
2016	47
2017	24
2018	18
2019	13
2020	26
2021	42
2022	57
2023	38
2024	19
2025	7

Congenital abnormalities – No information held.

Reproductive disorders or infertility - Data from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025 regarding sheep and goat abortions is attached at **Annex B**. The Department has decided not to disclose some of the information as it is being withheld under the following exemption of the Freedom of Information Act: Section 40(2) – Third party 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 A** and has determined that no lawful basis for disclosure under FOI 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.

Unexplained mortality- No information held.

2. Whether any veterinary surveillance reports, alerts, or internal briefings have identified abnormal animal health patterns in this area.

3. Whether DAERA has undertaken or commissioned any testing of animals or animal products (e.g. tissue, milk, blood) in the area for environmental contaminants

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(including heavy metals, radionuclides, or persistent pollutants), and if so, the nature and dates of such testing.

4. Whether DAERA has communicated with the Public Health Agency (PHA) or other public bodies regarding animal health as a potential indicator of environmental contamination in Mid Ulster

In respect of Parts 2, 3 and 4 of your request, this information is not held.

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 way 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,

Veterinary Service Animal Health Group

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