

DAERA/26-34: Public Interest Test (PIT)

Assessment of EIR request from requester - Kathleen McBride

Lough Neagh Fisherman's Co-operative Society Limited

Subject of public interest test

Data sought on Lough Neagh Catch by Fish species from 2021 to 2026.

Exceptions being considered

The Department has decided not to disclose the requested information as it falls under Regulation 12(4)(d) - Material in the course of completion, unfinished documents, or incomplete data.

Reasons for Disclosure:

- i. Regulation 12(4) requires DAERA to apply a presumption in favour of disclosure.
- ii. DAERA is committed to conducting its business in a manner that is as open and transparent as possible.
- iii. DAERA is dedicated to improving public awareness and comprehension of environmental issues.

Reasons against Disclosure:

- i. Ensuring that information released is accurate, complete, and reliable.
- ii. Ensuring that decisions and interpretations based on environmental data are properly informed by validated datasets.
- iii. Avoiding the dissemination of potentially misleading or unverified data during an ongoing review process.
- iv. The Department requires safe space for officials and technical teams to complete verification work without external pressure that could compromise accuracy.

Conclusion:

In considering the Public Interest Test in relation to the use of Regulation 12(4)(d), it is considered that the balance is against the release of this information.



DAERA Inland Fisheries