

**Marine and Fisheries Division**  
Sea Fisheries Inspectorate



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 26-87

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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Sea Fisheries Inspectorate  
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[SeaFisheries.BusinessSupport@DAERA-ni.gov.uk](mailto:SeaFisheries.BusinessSupport@DAERA-ni.gov.uk)

4 March 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

### **Environmental Information Regulations 2004**

With regard to your request for information received by the Department on 4 February 2026 which sought the following information:

*Aggregated information sought regarding the number of suspected breaches, number of checks on fishing vessels, and the number of fishing vessels checked (Requests, 1, 2a, 2b, 3a, and 3b).*

*Detailed information sought on individual breaches that resulted in formal enforcement action of any kind (Request 4a).*

*Additional detailed information sought for any breaches related to sea fisheries regulations that resulted in a prosecution (Request 4b).*

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

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** (Requests 1, 2a, 2b, 3a and 3b) and **Annex B** (Requests 4a and 4b)

Please note that that an extra column has been added to the table at 2b noted as 'ambiguous data' for mixed activity. A trip is classified as ambiguous when neither inside nor outside pings exceed 50%, indicating mixed-area activity.

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 and has determined that no lawful basis for disclosure under EIR exists, bearing in mind that any disclosure must be considered in terms of disclosure to the "world at large" and not just you, the requester. Consequently, third party personal data falling within the scope of this request has been withheld under Section 13(1) of the EIR – Personal Data. A Lawful & Fairness test has been conducted and is attached at **Annex C**.

I also wish to advise you that any information held for current ongoing enforcement investigations within the scope of your request has been withheld under Regulation 12(5)(b) of the EIR. Under this exception the Department is required to consider the public interest in disclosure. The Public Interest Test is provided at **Annex D** for your information.

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.

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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]

Sea Fisheries [Redacted title]

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