



Northern Ireland Environment Agency  
Gníomhaireacht Comhshaoil Thuaisceart Éireann  
Northern Ireland Environment Agency

## Central Service Team

Our reference: DAERA/26-127

Via [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@whatdotheyknow.com

Jubilee House  
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Limavady  
BT49 4HP

Email: [NIEA.InformationRequests@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:NIEA.InformationRequests@daera-ni.gov.uk)

13 March 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

### Environmental Information Regulation 2004

With regard to your request for information received by the Department on 15 February 2026 that sought the following information regarding the sale, distribution, and usage of the fungicide Benlate (active ingredient: benomyl) in Northern Ireland, specifically in the Newcastle, Castlewellan Banbrige and Downpatrick areas, County Down, for the years 2002 and 2003.

- 1. Records of authorised distributors or suppliers of Benlate in Northern Ireland during 2002–2003.**
- 2. Any available sales or distribution records showing where Benlate was sold or supplied, particularly in the Newcastle / Castlewellan/ Downpatrick area.**
- 3. Any government reports or records indicating regional usage of Benlate by professional users (farmers, agricultural contractors) for 2002–2003.**
- 4. Any licence or registration information relating to the sale and marketing of Benlate in Northern Ireland during this period.**

Under Regulation 12(4)(a) the Department is excepted from the duty to disclose the information on the grounds that the information sought is not held. The Business Area have advised the following:

The active substance Benomyl has been withdrawn in the EU since November 2002 – this information is publicly available on the European Union EUR-Lex website

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along with the Regulation enacting the withdrawal - <https://eurlex.europa.eu/eli/dec/2002/928/oj>.

The publicly accessible UK Pesticides database does not appear to go back that far and has no record of the date Benlate product authorisations were withdrawn or a copy of the related withdrawal notice. These historic records may still be held by the Chemicals Regulation Division of the Health and Safety Executive in GB.

In terms of regional usage, the publicly available Pesticide Usage Surveys for Northern Ireland show minor usage of Benomyl in 2002 on Apples; 2003 on hardy Nursery Stock and ornamental crops. These surveys are available at <https://www.afbini.gov.uk/article/pesticide-usage-monitoring-reports>

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,

**Central Service Team**  
**Northern Ireland Environment Agency**

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