

**Freshwater Data Insights**  
Water Regulation and Enforcement  
Division



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](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk)

Our reference: **DAERA/26-115**

██████████

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3 April 2026

Dear ██████████,

### **Environmental Information Regulations 2004**

I refer to your request for information received by the Department on 2 February that sought the following information:

All Water Framework Directive compliance assessments for developments in Carlingford Lough catchment (Upper Dromore Road area):

1. WFD Article 4 "no deterioration" assessments for planning applications
2. Screening decisions determining whether WFD assessment was required
3. River Basin Management Plan compliance evaluations
4. Cumulative impact assessments for industrial development corridor
5. Water quality monitoring data for watercourses flowing from Upper Dromore Road to Carlingford Lough (2019-present)
6. Ecological status assessments of affected water bodies

I must apologise for the delay in responding which occurred as a result of our efforts to identify the document requested.

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds some of the information you requested.

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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For requests 1 – 4 & 6; The Department has considered your request and, under Regulation 12(4)(a) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, the Department is excepted from the duty to disclose the information on the grounds that, the information sought is not held.

The assessments requested would be undertaken and submitted by the planning applicant or agents working on their behalf. Applications would be assessed by Council Planners. NIEA may be requested by Council Planners to respond as a consultee. Council determinations on applicants' assessments would only be available through contacting the Council planning office.

For requests 5-6, I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds some of the information you requested which is below and attached as Annex A.

#### 5. Water quality monitoring data for watercourses flowing from Upper Dromore Road to Carlingford Lough (2019-present)

The Department has established that the development site at 76 Upper Dromore Road drains to Carlingford Lough via the Clonallan Stream. This watercourse has an estimated catchment area of 2.5 km<sup>2</sup>. A figure showing the catchment drainage area of the stream and location of the site of interest is attached as Annex A Catchment Map

#### 6. Ecological status assessments of affected water bodies

Under the Water Framework Directive (WFD), as implemented through the Water Environment (WFD) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017, NIEA monitors only rivers with catchments greater than 10 km<sup>2</sup> and lakes over 0.5 km<sup>2</sup>. The small coastal watercourse draining the Upper Dromore Road area falls below these thresholds and is not designated as a WFD waterbody. Accordingly, NIEA holds no ecological monitoring data and ecological condition, or status has not been assessed.

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,

**Water Information Request Team**  
**DAERA**

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