

## Public Interest Test –EIR

Reference Number – DAERA/26-122

### Requested Information

to establish a baseline for aquatic ecology relating to the A5WTC project. I am looking at Section 1 of the project, so wondering if you would have any benthic macroinvertebrates data for the Foyle catchment?

### Exemption / Exception under consideration

Under Regulation 12(4)(c) the Department is exempted from the duty to disclose the information on the grounds that the request is formulated in too general a manner.

### Reasons why the public interest would favour disclosure:

- DAERA NIEA is committed to conducting its business in an open and transparent manner.
- NIEA agrees to share ecological information and data with the public and stakeholders.

### Reasons why the public interest would favour withholding:

- Request, as is, too general. Compiling all related invertebrate data for the Foyle catchment for all time would be voluminous and time consuming. As the request references A5WTC project, a more specific request for waterbodies potentially impacted may be more relevant.

### Conclusion

Following consideration of the Public Interest Test the Department has decided not to disclose information until a request is submitted with the following information:

1. The year(s) or date range of the data being requested.
2. The specificity of data required, i.e., BMWP scores, family level data, or RICT invertebrate WFD classification.
3. The geographic extent of the request, identified to waterbody level. NOTE: The wider Foyle catchment includes many unconnected waterbodies and significant portions of the catchment are located within the Republic of Ireland (EPA), which fall outside NIEA's remit.

██████████  
██████████  
Freshwater Monitoring and Assessment Team

Commented [GM1]: █████, added clarifying statement!

Commented [DA(CSaRA2)]: You now need to carry out a balancing exercise to decide whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption / exception outweighs the public interest in disclosure. If it does not, the information must be released.