

**Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Regulation and Enforcement Division**



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

Your reference: FOI
Our reference: DAERA 26/28

Waste Permitting Team
Lisburn NIEA
17 Antrim Road
Lisburn
BT28 3AL

Tel: 02890569596

Email: daera.informationmanager@daera-ni.gov.uk

21st April 2026

Dear [REDACTED],

Environmental Information Regulations 2004

Apologies for the delay in responding. With regard to your *request for information received by the Department on the 18th January 2026* which sought the following information:

Since February, please share any copies of any correspondence from DAERA and Environment Agency surrounding the ReGen waste plant in Newry and the smell plaguing Warrenpoint.

This could include letters or emails to and from ReGen themselves, or Warrenpoint Harbour Authority or Newry Mourne and Down council.

These could be letters to and from the Minister or officials.

Also if the Minister met with ReGen or Warrenpoint Harbour Authority since taking up office please would you provide copies of minutes of this meeting.

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.

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE
We invest in people Standard

After careful consideration, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) is refusing your request under Regulation 12(4)(b) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, on the grounds that it is **manifestly unreasonable**.

Reason for Refusal

- Your request is extremely broad, seeking information across multiple categories and timelines.
- Compiling, reviewing, and redacting all responsive records would require a disproportionate amount of staff time and resources, diverting NIEA from its core regulatory and compliance duties.
- The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) guidance and case law (*Dransfield v ICO & Devon CC*) support refusal where the burden is excessive or the request is vexatious.

Public Interest Test

NIEA has considered the public interest in disclosing environmental information. While transparency is important, in this case the burden imposed by your request outweighs the public interest in disclosure. Please see appendix A for the public interest test.

Advice and Assistance

If you wish to receive specific information, NIEA is happy to assist you in narrowing the scope of your request. Please contact us to discuss how your request might be refined to focus on particular areas.

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 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,

Waste Permitting Team

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.

APPENDIX A

Public Interest Test – Environmental Information Regulations

Reference Number – DAERA/26-28

Requested Information:

Since February, please share any copies of any correspondence from DAERA and Environment Agency surrounding the ReGen waste plant in Newry and the smell plaguing Warrenpoint.

This could include letters or emails to and from ReGen themselves, or Warrenpoint Harbour Authority or Newry Mourne and Down council.

These could be letters to and from the Minister or officials.

Also if the Minister met with ReGen or Warrenpoint Harbour Authority since taking up office please would you provide copies of minutes of this meeting.

Exemption / Exceptions under consideration

Regulation 12(4)(b) – Manifestly Unreasonable

Reasons why the public interest would favour disclosure:

- Everyone has the right to access environmental information.

Disclosure of the information would provide confidence that the regulators decision making processes have been carried out fairly and without fear or favour.

Reasons why the public interest would favour withholding:

- Complying with the volume of information requested would apply an unjustified level of disruption to staff already working in difficult circumstances due to already busy workloads.

Conclusion

Following consideration of the Public Interest Test, the Department has decided that it would not be in the public interest to fulfil the request made by the requestor. The Department considers this to be manifestly unreasonable based on the burden of dealing with the request and consequent diversion of resources in dealing with this query. Advice has been provided to refine the request.

Waste Permitting